

The **PLANETS** Mars The Bringer of War

28–30 August 2024 PROGRAMME

> Sibelius Museum Piispankatu 17 Biskopsgatan 17 Turku | Åbo Finland

Wednesday, 28 August

SIGNING IN
OPENING CEREMONY
PANEL SESSION: Rebuilding Beyond Ruins – Navigating Post-War Recovery and Environmental Resilience
LUNCH BREAK
PERFORMATIVE SESSION: Mars Frequencies – Musical frequencies of Earth and Mars and its moons
COFFEE
AGORA: Susanna Hast & Noora Kotilainen:Martial sounds and silences €
EVENING RECEPTION: Mars – War Gods and masculinity in Luostarin Välikatu

Thursday, 29 August

10:15-11:45	PANEL SESSION: A De/Colonial Present
11:45–13:15	LUNCH BREAK
13:15–14:45	AGORA: Koen De Feyter: The God of War, Palestine and Emancipatory Human Rights <i>Pre-recorded talk & live Q&A via Zoom</i>
14:45-15:15	COFFEE
15:15-16:15	PANEL SESSION: Friday evenings at six o'clock – Public art, Memory and the Finnish Civil War
16:15-17:30	XR-INSTALLATION: Friday evenings at six o'clock <i>at Kurjenkaivonkenttä / Tranebrunnsplan</i>
18:00-20:00	PERFORMATIVE SESSION: Antimilitarism and academic activism

Friday, 30 August

10:15-11:45	WORKSHOPS:
	Mapping Futures
	Dystopic futures: what can be found from imaginaries of the undesirable?
11:45-13:15	LUNCH BREAK
13:15-14:45	PERFORMATIVE SESSION: To other worlds, to the stars of Mars – The stretches of Finnish fiction from Earth to Mars at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries
14:45-15:15	COFFEE
15:15-16:45	AGORA: Thella Johnson: When Peace Comes 🔂
17:00-19:00	CLOSING RECEPTION: Sampo Lassila Narinkka



Program takes place in Sibelius Museum, Piispankatu 17 / Biskopsgatan 17, unless stated otherwise.

Open for public throughout the event:



XR-INSTALLATION:

Friday evenings at six o'clock at Kurjenkaivonkenttä / Tranebrunnsplan



EXHIBITION: Mars – War Gods and masculinity *in Luostarin Välikatu*

🔁 Free entry

We reserve the right to changes. Please follow **www.aboagora.fi** and our social media channels for updates on any possible changes.

What is ABOAGORA?

ABOAGORA wants to question and deconstruct the juxtapositions between arts and sciences. We aim to establish new kinds of connections and to develop experimental models for academic and artistic expression. By combining various art forms with multidisciplinary scholarly discourse, ABOAGORA acts as a catalyst for meaningful dialogue and ideas at the intersection of the humanities, arts, and sciences.

ABOAGORA is an open code marketplace: it provides a forum for academics, artists and the public that is based on openness and an open-minded crossing of borders. The name 'ABOAGORA' refers to both Turku (in Latin, *Aboa*) and a meeting place or marketplace (in Greek, *agora*). The idea of ABOAGORA is to create a shared space for the arts and the scholarly world for thinking and debate. ABOAGORA encourages new research and new art as well as new kinds of encounters between the two.

ABOAGORA was first launched in 2011 as a joint effort by the Turku Music Festival, the University of Turku, the Donner Institute, and Åbo Akademi University. ABOAGORA now runs an annual three-day main event and a research retreat in August as well as additional Avant ABOAGORA events prior to the main event.

Why ABOAGORA?

The gap between arts and sciences is a product of history, not an inherent quality. In the early modern period, scientific and artistic activities were not isolated from one another, but during the past two centuries, the separation between them has become stark.

Today, it is especially important to also rethink the role of research in terms of artistic expression and, at the same time, to consider cross-disciplinary approaches to artistic activities. Contemporary research often emphasises the need for cooperation between academic disciplines in addressing current societal challenges. The idea of ABOAGORA is based on a conviction that comprehensive problem-solving requires not only interdisciplinary collaboration but also acknowledgment of artistic approaches in more concrete and imaginative ways.

Significant innovations often take place at the interface of different disciplines. New ideas emerge from unexpected encounters. For this reason, scientific or artistic innovations cannot be easily predicted. The purpose of ABOAGORA is to encourage these kinds of encounters and to promote scholarly dialogue that takes into account artistic forms of expression.

ABOAGORA is organised by the University of Turku, Åbo Akademi University, the Arts Academy of the Turku University of Applied Sciences, Åbo Akademi University Foundation, and Turku University Foundation.

Past events

ABOAGORA 2023	The Five Rings: Void
ABOAGORA 2022	The Five Rings: Wind
ABOAGORA 2021	The Five Rings: Fire
ABOAGORA 2020	The Five Rings: Water
ABOAGORA 2019	The Five Rings: Earth
ABOAGORA 2018	The Threads of Fate: Burden/Skuld
ABOAGORA 2017	The Threads of Fate: Becoming/Verðandi
ABOAGORA 2016	The Threads of Fate: Fate/Urðr
ABOAGORA 2015	Precious Moments, Extreme Events
ABOAGORA 2014	Chaos and Cosmos
ABOAGORA 2013	The Human Machine
ABOAGORA 2012	The Power of the Sacred and the Secular
ABOAGORA 2011	Rethinking Enlightenment







ABOAGORA 2024-2030: The Planets

In 2024, ABOAGORA kicks off a new thematic series. The *Planets*. The theme is based on the orchestral suite of the same name by the composer Gustav Holst (1874-1934), composed between 1914 and 1917. Each of the composition's seven movements famously represents a planet in our solar system, bringing forth various ideas, myths and dreams connected to the celestial bodies and the astrological characters associated with them. The suite was musically very innovative for its time, and more than a century later this work of art still continues to capture modern audiences. It has inspired an endless stream of adaptations and influenced numerous musical and other works of art

Each year, a different movement of the suite - and thus a different planet – serves as the theme for ABOAGORA, functioning as an inspiration and setting the stage for exploring challenging current questions with the help of scientific and artistic creativity. The parts of the suite and the annual themes for the upcoming seven ABOAGORA events are: Mars, the Bringer of War (2024); Venus, the Bringer of Peace (2025); Mercury, the Winged Messenger (2026); Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity (2027); Saturn, the Bringer of Old Age (2028); Uranus, the Magician (2029); and Neptune, the Mystic (2030).

The opening year of the thematic series, 2024, is also an important year for Holst, as it marks the 150th anniversary of the composer's birth and the 90th anniversary of his death.

The Planets: Mars

The first movement of the *Planets* suite is *Mars, the Bringer of War*. The movement is familiar to many through popular culture, having famously inspired, for example, composer John Williams in his *Star Wars* movie soundtrack. The piece eerily captures the relentless destruction and onward march of the madness of war, culminating in gut-wrenching, hopeless dissonances. Although the premiere of the work was in 1918, and connections are easily drawn to the First World War, Holst had in fact composed the movement already before the war broke out in 1914. Unfortunately, not much seems to have changed on our Planet Earth in 110 years. The need to understand and process war and its repercussions is urgent in 2024.

ABOAGORA 2024 takes on the theme of war from a broad cultural and scientific perspective. The presentations, panels and workshops explore human rights, the trauma of war, post-war recovery, war memorials and ethical issues in the study of war, armed conflicts and nature, and dystopias and alternative futures. On the final day of the event, we are also reminded of peace: all wars eventually come to an end. The program also engages with the planet Mars, exploring astronomical features, musical frequencies, and literary imaginations.



BOAGORA 2023. Photo: Pekko Vasantola.

10:15–11:00 OPENING CEREMONY

Opening remarks

Riitta Pyykkö, Professor Emerita

Video greeting

Chris Cope, president, Holst Society

War Gods and masculinity - introduction to an exhibition

Nana Blomqvist, project manager Paul Krispijn, artist



Artist **Paul Krispijn** and project manager **Nana Blomqvist** present and discuss the exhibition *Mars – War Gods and masculinity* and its background. The exhibition explores the connection between patriarchal cultural values, (patriarchal) masculinity, and war.



11:15-12:45

PANEL SESSION: Rebuilding Beyond Ruins

Navigating Post-War Recovery and Environmental Resilience

Timo Vuorisalo, PhD, Senior Lecturer of Environmental Science, University of Turku

Emma Hakala, leading researcher at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs / Researcher at BIOS Research Unit

Ruslan Gunko, PhD in Environmental Science, Novia University of Applied Sciences & Åbo Akademi University







ABOAGORA 2024

There is no lack of armed conflict or military tension in today's world. However, all conflicts will eventually cease. This panel discussion focuses on the resilience of human communities and post-war recovery. The panel will focus on resilience and recovery from the historical, humanitarian, and environmental viewpoints.



14:15-15:45 PERFORMATIVE SESSION: Mars Frequencies

Musical frequencies of Earth and Mars and its moons

Tuuli Lempa, piano & live electronics Karstein Djupdal, Lumatone, composition Janne Holopainen, PhD, astronomer, visualisations Rubina Kotak, PhD, astronomer & researcher, University of Turku, Department of Physics and Astronomy



I Presentation: Mars put into context in our solar system and its place in our galaxy

PhD Rubina Kotak

II Visualised concert Mars Frequencies

for piano, microtonal keyboard and electronic sound-scape

The concert *Mars frequencies* provides an artistic impression of Mars. The music has a microtonal approach: the frequencies are derived from the orbital periods of Earth, Mars and its two moons. The longer Mars-day is symbolised by a stretched scale in which each scale step is a bit larger than the scale steps used on the grand piano. The piano will represent the Earth in this performance.



Find more information and performer bios online via the OR-codes.

16:15-17:45 AGORA: Martial sounds and silences 🕣

Read more from the following page \rightarrow

Susanna Hast, author, researcher, singer Noora Kotilainen, senior research fellow, University of Helsinki

18:00-19:00 **EVENING RECEPTION: Mars – War Gods and masculinity** in Luostarin Välikatu

Paul Krispijn's & Nana Blomqvist's exhibition explores the connection between patriarchal cultural values, (patriarchal) masculinity, and war. We raise a glass together for the opening of the outdoor exhibition Mars - War Gods and masculinity at Luostarin Välikatu.



The exhibition has free admission and is open to the public until 13 October 2024.

wednesday 28 august 16:15-17:45 AGORA: Martial sounds and silences

Susanna Hast, author, researcher, singer Noora Kotilainen, senior research fellow, University of Helsinki

Martial sounds and silences is an assemblage performance of thinking and sound circling on martial violence. The piece explores some of its authors' new as well as previous works of war-like sounds, sounds neighbouring war, and sounds produced by martial bodies. The soundscape is fragmented with glitches, inaudibility, and hierarchies of voice. Presented is, for example, a piece on gun pornography, sounds of deportation, and sonic walks in a militarised space.

Dr Susanna Hast is a writer, researcher and songwriter. She has the title of Associate Professor in artistic research at Uniarts Helsinki. Susanna



has studied war experience, military training, capoeira, trauma, and subtle resistance to violence. She published the novel *Body of Evidence* (*Ruumis/huoneet*, S&S) in 2022 and has released two music albums.

Noora Kotilainen (D.Soc.Sci) is a historian and social scientist. Her focus is on international politics, media and visuality. She has published on crises, wars, violence, suffering, humanitarianism, militarism, migration, and photography. She works as a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Helsinki and heads the project "Language of military power within the Finnish democracy", which is funded by the Kone Foundation.

Find more information and performer bios online via the QR-codes.

10:15-11:45 PANEL SESSION: A De/Colonial Present

ABOAGORA Retreat participants:

Husam Abusalem, doctoral research fellow, Department of Culture, Religion and Social Studies, University of South-Eastern Norway

Bwalya Chibwe, doctoral researcher, Department of Thematic Studies, Environmental Change, Linköping University

Khalid Dader, PhD Fellow, Faculty of Management and Business, Regional Studies, Tampere University

Anaïs Duong-Pedica, doctoral researcher, gender studies, Åbo Akademi

Maipelo Gabang, doctoral researcher, Department of Dance, Stockholm University of Arts

Jerkko Holmi, doctoral researcher, Department of Contemporary History, University of Turku

Siiri Paananen, doctoral researcher, Faculty of Art and Design, University of Lapland

Nia Sullivan, doctoral researcher, gender studies, Åbo Akademi & MadEnCounters Project, University of Helsinki

Daria Tarkhova, doctoral researcher, Department of Geosciences and Geography, University of Helsinki



For the seventh consecutive year, ABOAGORA hosts a research retreat for doctoral researchers and MA arts students, this year on the island of Seili in the Turku archipelago on 25–27 August. This year the participants, led by curator and researcher **Taru Elfving**, reflect together on how the living legacies of colonial histories play a role in the conflicts raging today.

In this panel session, the retreat participants together with Professor **Anna Törnroos-Remes** will discuss their academic and artistic work, colonialism and decolonisation, as well as their findings at the retreat on Seili Island.



13:15–14:45 AGORA: The God of War, Palestine and Emancipatory Human Rights ⊕

Read more from the following spread \rightarrow

Koen De Feyter, Professor of Public International Law, University of Antwerp Professor De Feyter gives their talk at Aboagora remotely.

15:15–16:15 PANEL SESSION: Friday evenings at six o'clock – Public art, Memory and the Finnish Civil War

Love Antell, artist Anne Heimo, Professor, University of Turku Silja Laine, PhD, Docent, University of Turku



Public art plays an important role in how wars are remembered. While statues, memorials and other public forms of remembrance can help to remember, they can also be a means of silencing and forgetting. Artist **Love Antell**, folklorist **Anne Heimo** and cultural historian **Silja Laine** discuss the aesthetic, cultural and ethical issues of public art and memories of the Finnish Civil War. While the civil



war was a political event, the remembering of it has also affected public art and public space. How can historians, scholars and artists navigate these sensitive issues?

16:15-17:30

INSTALLATION: Friday evenings at six o'clock

at Kurjenkaivonkenttä / Tranebrunnsplan

Friday evenings at six o'clock is a virtual monument by the artist Love Antell, in dialogue with the physical monument *535* by **Ismo Kajander**, erected in 1994. The piece poses questions about how digital works can constitute a new generation of public monuments and simultaneously provides a new kind of relationship to the memorial site of the specific events that occurred at Sirkkala during the Finnish Civil War in 1918.

The piece is viewed using a smartphone and headphones, and is available for viewing at any time. The production of *Friday evenings at six o'clock* has been supported by the Swedish-Finnish Cultural Foundation.



18:00–20:00 PERFORMATIVE SESSION: Antimilitarism and academic activism

Syksy Räsänen, cosmologist Kolmas Tila – Third Space



The session consists of two parts: first, invited by the theatre group Third Space, researcher **Syksy Räsänen** talks about their own activism and scientific work, addressing both the possible conflicts arising from and the intersections between these two worlds, followed by a presentation and an excerpt by Third Space from the upcoming production *Valkoinen tähti* ('White Star'). The talk by Räsänen is in English. The excerpt by Third Space will be performed in Finnish.



THURSDAY 29 AUGUST 13:15–14:45

AGORA: The God of War, Palestine and Emancipatory Human Rights

Koen De Feyter, Professor of Public International Law, University of Antwerp

The talk will discuss the lasting appeal of war as a means to settle disputes. In the Gaza conflict, both parties appeal to a God of War to justify the violence used.

The International Court of Justice has found serious, enduring breaches of international law committed by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and has called for an end to the occupation. The impact on the ground of the ICJ advisory opinion remains lim-



ited. Human rights too are part and parcel of international law. They are intended as instruments to protect human dignity, but do not always provide protection in practice.

Is an emancipatory revision of human rights possible and what would it entail? How do Palestinian youth in the Westbank answer this question today?

Koen De Feyter is Professor of Public International Law and Spokesperson of the Research Group on Law and Development at the University of Antwerp, where he is the Dean of the Law Faculty starting 1 September 2024. Among other things, he heads the Steering Committee of the global Law and Development Research Network (LDRn) and served as a member of the UN's Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development (2021-2023).

He initiated the Global Campus of Human Rights' Summer School on *Cinema, Human Rights and Advocacy* and contributed a piece on Music Censorship to the *Routledge Companion to Music and Human Rights* (2022).

10:15–11:45 WORKSHOPS

Please note that the workshops have limited capacity and require signing up in advance. If you did not sign up for a workshop when registering for the event, please enquire on possible available spots at the info desk.

Mapping Futures

Helena Hildur W., visual artist



Mars is depicted as a potent bringer of violence and destruction. Many among us have also experienced the actual pains and traumas of migration, displacement, escape from unbearable circumstances... Still, there will always be futures beyond warfare. The Mapping Futures workshop invites participants to reflect, share experiences, and co-create on this theme. We'll use mapmaking as a working format, along with movement and listening.



Dystopic futures: what can be found in the imaginaries of the undesirable?

Riikka Armanto, doctoral researcher, Finland Futures Research Centre Osku Haapasaari, project specialist, Finland Futures Research Centre



We welcome you to dip with us into undesirable futures! With this compact futures workshop session, we want to explore how thinking about disasters and horrors affects us. What kinds of embodied feelings, perspectives, or ideas can dystopic imaginaries produce? The workshop is organised as a participatory collective where the participants shape how future discussions flow. The session ends with acquiring a sense of what emerged from thinking about these futures and centring ourselves back to the present.



13:15-14:45 PERFORMATIVE SESSION: To other worlds, to the stars of Mars

The stretches of Finnish fiction from Earth to Mars at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries

Jasmine Westerlund, PhD, literary arts educator and author Jenni Turunlahti, author, literary arts educator



The red planet has inspired and interested artists through the ages. What kinds of descriptions and interpretations of Mars can be found in Finnish literary history? In which works of fiction and in what contexts is the planet Mars referred to? Based on the "Atlas of Finnish Literature 1870– 1940" project's database, working group members Jasmine Westerlund (PhD) and Jenni Turunlahti (BSc) present a compilation and interpretations of mentions of Mars in Finnish fiction of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



15:15–16:45 AGORA: When Peace Comes 원

Thella Johnson on her novel *Peace* and how to live after war Read more from the following spread → *Thella Johnson, journalist, author, musician* Find more information and performer bios online via the QR-codes.

17:00-19:00 **CLOSING RECEPTION: Sampo Lassila Narinkka**



To close ABOAGORA 2024, we will toast all the epiphanies that were had during the three-day event as well as new collaborations brewing, accompanied by Sampo Lassila Narinkka's acoustic "suomiklezmer": a unique and thought-provoking twist on Balkan folk music and klezmer, blended with a hint of Scandinavian contemporary chamber music and jazz.

Sampo Lassila Narinkka

Sampo Lassila, double bass, compositions Aleksi Trygg, viola pomposa Markku Lepistö, accordion Janne Tuomi, percussion, regular visitor



FRIDAY 30 AUGUST

15:15-16:45

AGORA: When Peace Comes

Thella Johnson on her novel Peace and how to live after war

Thella Johnson, journalist, author, musician

The end of the war did things to people.

The street once again exercised its power over pedestrians. But the houses were no longer the same when you passed them. Some houses weren't at all: instead, empty craters gaped in the earth where some Tupolev had dropped its annihilating load. Soon people would start moving into the town in droves. But right now, these empty craters. Fragments of lost structures and information. It was a void that needed filling.



(from *Peace* by Thella Johnson, translation by Nichola Smalley)

In her AGORA talk, Thella Johnson, author of the 2023 novel *Peace*, discusses the voids to be filled after a war. What do we do when peace finally comes? How do we live? And can we ever imagine a world where war exists only in past tense?

Thella Johnson (b. 1979) is an award-winning journalist and author. She is also known as a musician. Johnson, who is from Stockholm, has a Swedish father and a Finnish mother, and she continues to have a strong connection to Finland and the Finnish language. She worked in Finland as a correspondent between 2014 and 2017.

ABOAGORA Curatorial Committee 2024

Astrid Huopalainen, Assistant Professor, Department of Management Studies and the Department of Art and Media, Aalto University

Pirita Juppi, Principal Lecturer, Arts Academy, Turku University of Applied Sciences

Johannes Juva, Cultural Manager, Sibelius Museum

Kimi Kärki, Lecturer, Cultural Study of Music, Sibelius Academy, Uniarts Helsinki

Silja Laine, Senior Research Fellow, Cultural History, University of Turku

Maarit Leskelä-Kärki, Senior Lecturer, Cultural History & Vice Director of SELMA (Centre for the Study of Storytelling, Experientiality and Memory), University of Turku

Sofia Sjö, Research Librarian, The Donner Institute for Research in Religion and Culture, Åbo Akademi University Foundation

Anna Törnroos-Remes, Associate Professor (tenuretrack), The Sea, Environmental and Marine Biology, Åbo Akademi University

ABOAGORA Advisory Board

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Ruth Illman, Director, The Donner Institute for Research in Religion and Culture, Åbo Akademi University Foundation

Joanna Kurth, Museum Director, City of Kokkola

Seppo Parkkinen, Playwright and Dramatist, Multiarts Group Kolmas tila – Tredje Rummet - Third Space

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Ilari Sääksjärvi, Professor, Head of the Biodiversity Unit, University of Turku

Timo Tanskanen, Dean, Arts Academy at Turku University of Applied Sciences

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THANK YOU

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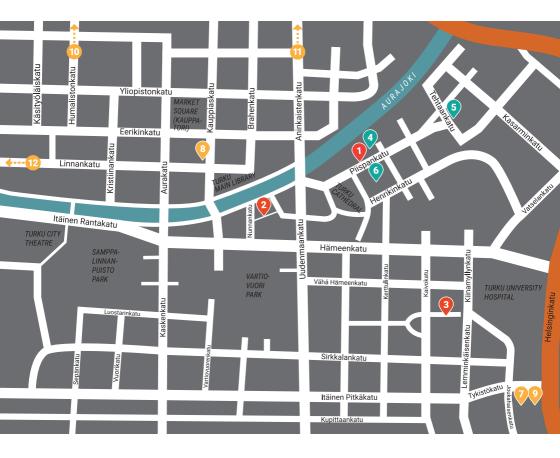




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ABOAGORA venues

- 1. Sibelius Museum, Piispankatu 17
- 2. Luostarin välikatu
- 3. Kurjenkaivonkenttä / Tranebrunnsplan

Suggested lunch restaurants

- 4. Grädda, Piispankatu 15
- 5. Fabbe's Cafe, Tehtaankatu 6
- 6. Lilla Neapolitan, Piispankatu 14

Accommodation & travel

- 7. Original Sokos Hotel Kupittaa, Joukahaisenkatu 6
- 8. Omena Hotel Turku Kauppiaskatu, Kauppiaskatu 4
- 9. Kupittaa railway station, Joukahaisenkatu 6
- 10. Main railway station
- 11. Main bus station, Läntinen pitkäkatu 7
- 12. Ferry terminal Linnansatama, Ensimmäinen linja 6

The PLANETS

- 2024: Mars
- 2025: Venus
- 2026: Mercury
- 2027: Jupiter
- 2028: Saturn
- 2029: Uranus
- 2030: Neptune

SAVE THE DATE

ABOAGORA

27–29 August 2025 Venus, the Bringer of Peace

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