

THE FIVE RINGS 地水火風空 FIRE

18-20 August 2021



Symposium Programme ONLINE & Sibelius Museum Piispankatu 17 / Biskopsgatan 17 Turku/Åbo, Finland

Wednesday, 18 August 2021

10:30-11:15	Coffee & Registration 👚
11:15-11:30	Opening Remarks by Rector and President Vesa Taatila (Turku University of Applied Sciences)
11:30-12:30	AGORA Rosa Liksom: Homo Sapiens on the Earth ►II
12:30-14:00	Lunch break 🏚
14:00-15:00	PERFORMATIVE SESSION "Sun, the Electric Fire of all Life" – The Sun and Fire in the Culture of Esotericism
15:15-16:15	PERFORMATIVE SESSION Sparking Trams, Silenced Rails – A Journey through European Tramscapes
19:00-21:00	AGORA Astrid Swan & Hanna Meretoja: D/other

Thursday, 19 August 2021

10:00-11:00	PERFORMATIVE SESSION The Use of Fire	
11:00-12:30	Lunch break 👚	
12:30-13:45	PERFORMATIVE SESSION Burning Questions	
14:00-15:00	PERFORMATIVE SESSION A Burning Heart – A Broken Heart	
15:00-15:30	Coffee ♠	
15:30-16:30	AGORA Jules Rochielle Sievert: Finding Fire – A Radical Pedagogy that Combines Legal Education, Design and Law ▶II	
18:00-20:30	THEATRE Copenhagen	

▶ ■ PRE-RECORDED + Live Q&A

♠ On-site only, not streamed

Location: Sibelius Museum, Piispankatu 17 / Biskopsgatan 17, Turku/Åbo. Changes in the programme are possible. We reserve the right to changes. Please follow **www.aboagora.fi.**

Friday, 20 August 2021

10:00-11:00	AGORA David Bowman: Fire Thinking, Fire Beings, and the End of the World as We Know It ►II
11:00-12:30	Lunch break 🏫
12:30-13:45	PERFORMATIVE SESSION Photo Exhibition "Love Crossing Boundaries" & Panel Discussion "The Fire of Love and Hate" (Luostarin Välikatu, outdoors)
14:00-15:00	PERFORMATIVE SESSION The Conflagration of Turku, 1827 – Histories of Emotion and Destruction
15:15-16:00	PERFORMATIVE SESSION On Fire
16:00-16:45	Coffee ♠
16:45-17:15	CONCERT E-Musikgruppe Lux Ohr: Feuer
17:30-19:00	Closing Reception (Pehr Kalm Revival) 🏫
	Fire Performance by Pino Kollektiivi Closing Remarks by Joanna Kurth (The Museum Center of Turku)
19:00-19:45	THEATRE Third Space / Kolmas Tila: <i>Prologi</i> – An independent preface to the production <i>The Romantic Mind</i> (Turku Cathedral. Tickets sold separately.)







Antonia Ringbom: To Notch up a broken heart

What is ABOAGORA?

THE AIM OF ABOAGORA is to question and deconstruct the juxta-positions between the arts and sciences, to establish new kinds of dialogical connections and to develop experimental models for academic and artistic expression. ABOAGORA promotes dialogue between the arts, humanities and sciences by bringing scholarly debates together with the arts and also by combining artistic expression with scholarly events.

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 an open forum for thinking and debate and to challenge and break boundaries between the arts and the scholarly world. ABOAGORA aims at encouraging new research and new art as well as new kinds of encounters between the two.

ABOAGORA is a marketplace of open codes: it provides a common forum for academics, artists and the public. This forum is based on openness and open-minded crossing over of different levels.





Why ABOAGORA?

THE GAP BETWEEN THE ARTS AND SCIENCES is a product of history, not an inherent given. In the early modern period scientific and artistic activities were not quarantined from each other, but during the past two centuries, the separation between the two has been very stark.

Today it is especially important also to 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 current social challenges to involve cooperation between academic fields. The idea of ABOAGORA is based on a conviction that comprehensive problem-solving requires not only interdisciplinary elaboration but also acknowledgment of artistic approaches in more concrete and imaginative ways.

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

In 2020 and 2021, the COVID-19 crisis drastically limited our possibilities to congregate in person, leaving many people yearning for interaction and making innovative approaches to communication vital. Thus, ABOAGORA has adopted a hybrid form. The event will be livestreamed, and discussions will take place both on-site and online to ensure everyone's safe participation.

The Symposium is organised by the University of Turku, Åbo Akademi University, the Arts Academy of Turku University of Applied Sciences and the Donner Institute for Research in Religious and Cultural History, which is attached to the Åbo Akademi University Foundation.

ABOAGORA 2021 FIRE

ABOAGORA 2019-2023

The Five Rings

IN 2019, to further solidify the ABOAGORA concept, to enhance long-term planning and to deepen the project's critical investigations into the intersections of arts and sciences, ABOAGORA launched a five-year thematic plan under the title *The Five Rings*.

The title refers to the book *The Book of Five Rings*, written by Miyamoto Musashi (宮本 武蔵, c. 1584–1645) in 1645. Musashi was a Japanese swordsman, philosopher, writer, and rōnin — a samurai without a master. He became renowned through stories of his masterful double-bladed swordsmanship and undefeated record of his 61 duels. Many consider him the greatest swordsman that ever lived. Near the end of his life, Musashi retreated to live as a hermit in a cave, where he meditated and wrote a manual of kenjutsu, Japanese swordsmanship, and martial arts. This practical book extends towards a philosophy of life, aiming at simplicity and no-nonsense. Throughout the years, it has also been read by people rethinking ways to lead or do business.

The Book of Five Rings (五輪書, Go Rin no Sho) is divided into five books, each examining a different element of battle, just as there are different physical elements in life in Eastern religions. The five ABOAGORA symposia in 2019–2023 will delve into these elements: earth, water, fire, wind, and the void. In 2021, the theme of ABOAGORA is "Fire".

The Five Rings Fire

FIRE, if uncontrolled, can rapidly cause massive destruction and devastation. On the other hand, even disastrous wildfires can leave behind better conditions for new life and, when carefully harnessed, fire provides warmth, power, and a useful instrument for numerous purposes. The control of fire radically changed the course of human evolution hundreds of thousands of years ago, but to this day we have not been able to master it completely. Fire has a dual nature in a figurative sense as well. In terms of personality traits and emotions, it can be equated with inspiration, zeal, and fervor, but also rage and fanaticism.

ABOAGORA 2021 brings together viewpoints from social sciences, cultural studies, natural sciences, literature, music, and visual and performance arts to explore fire as both a literal and a metaphorical element.







WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST, 11:30-12:30

Rosa Liksom

Homo Sapiens on the Earth



IN MY TALK, I will discuss necessary changes in the priorities of an author's work at this great turning point on earth. I will reflect on the responsibility of the writer in the current situation, where Earth is being shaken by climate change and the sixth wave of extinction. How to rewrite the human being and its place in nature among other species? How can we find a living connection with the layers of our existence that human-centred modernism has lost during the last centuries?

I am a writer and an artist. My first collection of short stories was published in 1985. In addition to short stories, I have written novels and plays. My works also include comic books, short films, documentaries and all kinds of visual arts. My books have been translated into 25 languages. I am an anthropologist by training. I was born in Finnish Lapland and lived in Christiania, Denmark, for a long time and studied in the Soviet Union. My novel *Compartment No. 6*, whose events take place on a Trans-Siberian train, was awarded the Finlandia Prize in 2011. I was awarded the Swedish Academy's Nordic Prize in 2020.

WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST, 19:00-21:00

Astrid Swan & Hanna Meretoja

D/other

Performance and Discussion

ASTRID SWAN'S performance consists of music and a discussion. The concert begins as a solo performance of new music from Swan's upcoming album *D/other* and songs from her previous album *From the Bed and*

Beyond about cancer. The new songs weave together themes of sleep, dream and dying, positioning them in the relationships between mothers and children.

The second half of the evening is a dialogue between Swan and Hanna Meretoja around a fire. Campfires have long been places where stories are told. Traditionally they have a beginning, a middle and an end, but cancer is unruly and doesn't easily follow these narrative rules. The experience of cancer is often characterised by a continued positioning in in-the-middle, in permanent uncertainty. Swan and Meretoja read excerpts from Swan's literary memoir (*Viimeinen kirjani: kirjoituksia elämästä, 2019*) and Meretoja's fiction novel (to be published in 2022) and discuss what life with acute insecurity caused by an illness is like and how it relates to mothering as well as being a researcher and an artist. Instead of complete narratives, they present fragments, exploring different cultural narrative models, their possibilities and limitations.

Astrid Swan is a songwriter/performer, author and a researcher. Her seventh solo album D/other will be released in autumn 2021. In 2018 Swan won the prestigious Teosto award with her album From the Bed and Beyond (2017). In 2019 she published a Finnish-language memoir Viimeinen kirjani: kirjoituksia elämästä (Nemo), which approaches the role of a daughter, a mother, an artist and an ill person in the contexts of generational (dis)connections and culture at large. It also examines the processes of remembering and writing. Swan is also a researcher, Astrid Joutseno. Her PhD research



examines life writing, mothering and experience in mommy blogs, illness blogs and memoirs.

Hanna Meretoja is Professor of Comparative Literature and Director of SELMA: Centre for the Study of Storytelling, Experientiality and Memory at the University of Turku. Her research is mainly in the fields of narrative studies and cultural memory studies. Her monographs include *The Ethics*



of Storytelling: Narrative Hermeneutics, History, and the Possible (2018, Oxford University Press) and The Narrative Turn in Fiction and Theory (2014, Palgrave Macmillan). Her first novel, published by WSOY, will appear in spring 2022. It deals with the experience of illness and is set in the archipelago on the Night of Ancient Lights.

The session is organised together with SELMA, the Centre for the Study of Storytelling, Experientiality and Memory. The research centre is based at the School of History, Culture and Arts Studies at the University of Turku. It promotes interdisciplinary research and organises seminars, symposia and other events on both theoretical and topical social issues. SELMA aims at crossing the borders between research and artistic creativity by creating dialogue, promoting social engagement and fostering international collaboration between scholars, artists and other people outside academia.



THURSDAY 19 AUGUST, 15:30-16:30

Jules Rochielle Sievert

Finding Fire: A Radical Pedagogy that Combines Legal Education, Design and Law

EIGHT YEARS AGO, I decided to apply my creative skills to the field of law and legal advocacy. As a socially engaged artist, I decided that to create systemic change in society, I needed to work more closely with legal advocates and policymakers. With this goal in mind, I joined and co-designed a programme called NuLawLab, which is located at Northeastern University School of Law in Boston, Massachusetts.

Our work and research allow us to build cross-disciplinary teams and community-based partnerships, drawing upon the talents of artists and designers to identify and cultivate new approaches to transform legal education, the legal profession and the delivery of legal services. Our goal is to use this type of pedagogy to co-create meaningful solutions that have the possibility of transforming the lives of the communities we partner with and work within.

An example of this type of project can be found in Stable Ground. Stable Ground addresses the complicated relationship between chronic housing insecurity, its psychologically traumatic impact, and municipal housing policy through participatory community-based art and cultural programmes structured to inform the work of the City of Boston's Office of Housing Stability.

The second phase of Stable Ground was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our engagements with resident artists continued, allowing them to respond locally to the housing crisis brought about by the pandemic. With in-person arts and culture programming suspended, we re-directed the remaining funds towards a new eviction response collaboration in East Boston.

This effort has resulted in a rich collaboration among the NuLawLab, the City of Boston Artist-in-Residence programme and Office of Housing Stability, Maverick Landing Community Services, City Life Vida Urbana, Eastie Mutual Aid, Tufts University/School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Suffolk University Legal Innovation & Technology Lab, Ropes & Gray, and Runcible Studios to introduce "housing stability stations" throughout Boston neighbourhoods.



Jules Rochielle Sievert is an artist, a legal educator, a community arts educator and a social justice advocate. Currently, Sievert is the Creative Director at NuLawLab at Northeastern University School of Law, transforming law and the way people interact with the law through creative and cultural approaches.

FRIDAY 20 AUGUST, 10:00-11:00

David Bowman

Fire Thinking, Fire Beings, and the End of the World as We Know It

WE ARE 'FIRE BEINGS' inhabiting a 'fire planet'. The great irony is that, despite our mastery of fire that gives us mastery over the Earth, we are mostly ignorant of our deep physiological, psychological and material entwinement with fire. In this talk, I will illustrate how the Earth system is shaped by fire, how we have evolved to become a unique fire species. I will explain that our use of fire, particularly combustion of fossil fuels and deforestation, is now triggering a massive global upheaval widely known as the Anthropocene, but which can equally be called the 'Pyrocene'. I will argue that a key step in navigating a pathway out of the ongoing global environmental crisis is to re-imagine our relationship with fire. This demands through more holistic thinking, research practices and adaptation pathways all predicated on the realisation we are shaping the world with fire, and reciprocally, fire will shape our world.

Professor **David Bowman** is widely acknowledged as one of the world's leading fire scientists. He holds a research chair in Pyrogeography and Fire Science in the School of Natural Sciences, and is the Director of the transdisciplinary Fire Centre, at the University of Tasmania, at Hobart, Australia. Through



numerous collaborative large research programmes, he is developing the transdisciplinary field of pyrogeography that provides a synthetic understanding of landscape burning that unites human, physical and biological dimensions of fire from the geological past into the future and spans local to global geographic scales.



WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST, 14:00-15:00

"Sun, the Electric Fire of all Life" - The Sun and Fire in the Culture of Esotericism

Introduction: Maarit Leskelä-Kärki (Senior Lecturer, Cultural History & Vice Director of SELMA: Centre for the Study of Storytelling, Experientiality and Memory, University of Turku) Panel Discussion: Marja Lahelma (chair), Nina Kokkinen, Tiina Mahlamäki, Susanna Välimäki & Jasmine Westerlund

Guitar: Patrik Kleemola Eurythmy: Pirkko Tolmunen

IN THIS SESSION, members of the "Seekers of the New" research project, which has mapped the cultural history of Finnish esotericism, will join forces with artists and writers. In recent years, more attention has been paid to the important role that esotericism has played particularly in the history of art and culture since the nineteenth century. The session investigates this connection by focusing on the central esoteric notion of the sun and the theme of fire that is closely connected to it. The significance of these themes in esoteric spirituality will be explored in a multidisciplinary and multi-artistic manner through music, literature and the visual arts, as well as through research connected to these topics. The programme includes music, recitation, a visual presentation and a panel discussion. The session will conclude with an introduction to eurythmy — a performance that makes music and speech visible in artistic form, developed by Rudolf Steiner, Marie Steiner and dance student Lory Maier-Smits.



Patrik Kleemola is a classical guitarist and a specialist in both old and contemporary repertoires, from renaissance guitarism to experimental virtuosity. He is well-known for his timbre-oriented and affective interpretations as well as for his own guitar arrangements. Kleemola is the founder and artistic director of Turku Guitar Festival, and he works as a Lecturer in Guitar at Turku Conservatory and Music Institute.

Heikki Tuuli





Nina Kokkinen is a post-doctoral researcher working in the fields of art history and the study of religion. She has specialised in discourses relating to esotericism and alternative spirituality, particularly in modern art. In addition to her doctoral dissertation (*Totuudenetsijät*, 2019) she has curated art exhibitions and edited books and thematic issues on the history of esotericism and its relation to art especially in Finland.



Marja Lahelma is a Helsinki-based art historian. Her main area of expertise is Finnish and Nordic art from the late 19th century onwards. She received her PhD in 2014 and holds the title of Docent in Art History at the University of Helsinki. Lahelma has published works on Symbolist art, questions of the self and subjectivity and the intersections of art, science and esotericism.



Docent **Tiina Mahlamäki** is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Turku. Her main research interests are religion and literature, gender and religion, esotericism, and creative writing. In her recent studies, she has concentrated on esotericism, especially the ideas of Emanuel Swedenborg and themes associated with Rudolf Steiner's Anthroposophical Society. Her biography of the author and anthroposophist Kersti Bergroth was published in 2017. She has edited books and thematic issues on the history of esotericism.



Pirkko Tolmunen is a nurse, midwife, eurythmist, eurythmy therapist and a doctoral student of Caring Science at Åbo Akademi University. Tolmunen's subject of study is the importance of touch in the carework of elderly people. Tolmunen is interested in human beings and how they exist in the world.



Susanna Välimäki is a musicologist and an Associate Professor of Art Research at the University of Helsinki. Her current research project deals with Finnish women composers born in the 19th and early 20th century. Besides academic activities, Välimäki works as a music critic and produces radio and television programmes for the Finnish Broadcasting Company.



Jasmine Westerlund is a literary artist and a researcher. As a researcher, she is primarily interested in feminist literary scholarship. She received her PhD in Finnish Literature in 2013 with a thesis on artist novels written by women. She has also produced articles on the themes of womanhood and being an artist and on the connections between illness, religion and gender.

WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST, 15:15-16:15

Sparking Trams, Silenced Rails: A Journey through European Tramscapes

Jason Finch, Aleksandra Ianchenko, Silja Laine & Tonio Weicker

THE SESSION will lead the audience on a journey into the landscapes of European urban transport. Trams have been an essential part of material and cultural landscapes of many European towns and cities in the past. Often, the old trams are still present somewhere, alongside plans for future trams and tramscapes. While they have been an essential mode of public transport in some cities, in others they have had a more supporting role among other vehicles. From early on, trams have been icons of modernity and urban mobility, depicted in films and literature and other urban imagery. They have raised powerful positive and negative emotions. They have been longed for, missed, admired, contested and waited for. For some, they are a symbol of nostalgia and the past, for others they are a symbol of more sustainable future transport.

How people have lived and experienced tram rides has often been overrun by engineering-oriented discourses, urban competitiveness and branding or questions of sustainability that leave out the cultural and experimental side. Public transport, however, also offers intense sensory and affective experiences, that stay in our memories for decades. This session will present sights and sounds from the tramways past and present of London, Turku, and Tallinn, explore how Berlin trams travel the world up to Ust-Kamenogorsk in Kazakhstan, plus give a taste of tramways that never were.



Jason Finch is Associate Professor, English Language and Literature, at Åbo Akademi University. A co-founder and currently President of the Association for Literary Urban Studies (ALUS), he works on modern urban literatures, including representations of housing and transport mobilities, and on theories of space, place and writing. From 2019–22 he is one of four Pls on the HERA-funded four-country project "Public Transport as Public Space in European Cities:

Narrating, Experiencing, Contesting" (PUTSPACE). He is the author of *Deep Locational Criticism: Imaginative Place in Literary Research and Teaching* (2016) and co-editor of seven books, the latest *Literatures of Urban Possibility* (Palgrave, 2021).



Aleksandra lanchenko is an artist and a junior researcher on project PUTSPACE. Currently she is doing a joint PhD at Tallinn University (Estonia) and Åbo Akademi University (Finland) focusing on atmospheres on/of public transport and how they can be understood through artistic practice. Previously she obtained MA degrees in Art Management at Russian State University for the Humanities in Moscow, spending

an exchange year at Humboldt University in Berlin, and in Fine Arts at the Technical University in Irkutsk, Russia.

Silja Laine holds a PhD in Cultural History and the title of Docent in Urban Cultural History at the University of Turku. She divides her time with the PUTSPACE project (Åbo Akademi University) where she focuses on



the history and memory of urban mobility in Turku and the Academy of Finland-funded project "SEAHER - Living with the Baltic Sea in a Changing Climate: Environmental Heritage and the Circulation of Knowledge" (Åbo Akademi University). In the latter, she focuses on the cultural history of seasons and writing.

Tonio Weicker is a postdoctoral researcher at the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig, Germany. His research focuses on social inequalities caused by urban transport modernisation policies in Central and Eastern European countries. Recent publications include: "Marshrutka (In)formality in Southern Russian Cities and Its Role in Contentious Transport Policies", *Geoforum*, 2020; (with Cholpon Turdalieva,) "Encountering the Multi-



ple Semiotics of Marshrutka Surfaces: What Can Marshrutka Decorations and Advertisements Tell Us about Its Everyday Actors?" *Mobilities*, 2019; "Carried by Migrants: Frictions of Migration and Mobility Patterns in the Conflicting Assemblage of the Russian Private Transport Sector", *Central Asian Affairs*, 2019.

THURSDAY 19 AUGUST, 10:00-11:00

The Use of Fire

Cornelius Colliander, Kristina Mediucha & Johan Werkelin

AN ENGINEER meets with two potters to discuss their views on fire. What do they have in common and what differs in their approach and understanding of this phenomenon? The potters make use of the heat of the fire to transform the clay into ceramics, and they use the flames of the fire to improve the appearance of their products. The engineer uses the energy released by the fire to heat our buildings or to make objects move and supplies our society with electricity. Do they know about the flip sides of fire and its connection to climate change? How do they justify their use of fire in this aspect?

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Cornelius Colliander

In my work as a potter I have always tried to stay as near to the original process as possible: I use local materials, fire my work in wood-fired kilns and try to avoid the use of chemically purified raw materials as much as possible. This "old fashioned" way of producing pottery is not a goal in itself but a conscious way of letting the natural process influence the results. The "impure" materials and the partly uncontrollable

process of firing with wood leave their marks on the pots and give them an unmistakable presence and beauty. For me the way I work is also a continuous reflection on our relation to nature.



Kristina Mediucha

I came to the University of Turku in 2004 as an exchange student in history from Klaipėda University, Lithuania. I got my MA and became seriously interested in ceramics, and now I am a potter in the Luostarinmäki museum. My main interest in ceramics is mastering the craft process from start to finish, especially the tactile side of the craft. Therefore, the stages of working with raw clay are very interesting to me. Observing the journey the piece

goes through – from being just a lump of clay to becoming a functional coffee mug – makes one realise how much skill and knowledge is required, and how all of this is reflected in the final piece.



Johan Werkelin

I came to Åbo Akademi University as an exchange student from Linköping University in 1998. My post-graduate studies in chemical engineering ended in 2002 and six years later I defended my PhD thesis about the chemistry of ash from wood-derived fuels for large-scale energy production. My scientific interest has always been to find sustainable ways of using natural resources for the best of humankind and the environment. My

academic interest today is foremost within teaching and supervision. The generations coming have a great responsibility in shifting our industry and societies towards a renewable and sustainable way of operation.

THURSDAY 19 AUGUST, 12:30-13:45

Burning Questions

Taru Elfving, Riikka Armanto, Sachin Kochrekar, Ulla Kommonen, Kirsikka Paakkinen, Camila Rosa Ribeiro, Laura Saari, Jenni Vauhkonen & Yoshimasa Yamada

ABOAGORA HOSTED a Pre-symposium research retreat for Doctoral Candidates in the arts, humanities and sciences and MA Art Students at the Archipelago Centre Korpoström in the Turku archipelago on 16–17 August. The participants, led by curator and researcher Taru Elfving, gather around burning questions concerning the world on fire today and reflect on the impact of global warming on the Archipelago Sea Biosphere area, its marine ecosystem and cultural contexts. Through the prism offered by the site itself, a plurality of perspectives and multisensory approaches, they discuss a range of ecological and societal phenomena, such as heat waves, migrations, photosynthesis, metabolism, combustion and composting. The group also reflects on what fuels our journeys, research and conversations. How to draw together diverse knowledge, skills and wisdom needed to feed the flame of sustainable transformations? What kinds of narratives for alternative futures might arise out of the ashes of past fires? What might be the fires needed as signposts and beacons for a safe route?



Taru Elfving

I am a curator and researcher of contemporary art, focused on nurturing transdisciplinary and site-sensitive enquiries at the intersections of ecological, feminist and decolonial thought. As Director of CAA Contemporary Art Archipelago, I have examined ecological transformations in the Turku Archipelago region for over a decade and currently lead the research platform Spectres in Change on the island of Seili in collaboration with the Archipelago Research Institute of Turku University (contemporaryartarchipelago.org). I have a PhD from

Visual Cultures, Goldsmiths University of London (2009), and I supervise doctoral students at the University of the Arts Helsinki.

Riikka Armanto

I am an ecologist and Doctoral Candidate in Futures Studies at the University of Turku, wanting to embrace proactive creation of hoped-for futures. I study how farmers' climate-wise agency and futures consciousness can be strengthened and how participatory future workshops support proactivity. Even though the intriguing nature of alternative yet-not-existing futures stole my heart and made me jump from experimental ecology to qualitative research with farmers,

I still feel very warmly about invertebrate interactions and biodiversity in agricultural ecosystems. I wish to find my own proactive path by binding embodiment, creativity and intuition to academic work.

Sachin Kochrekar

I am a PhD student in the Department of Chemistry, University of Turku. My dissertation focuses on the development of a catalyst for the electrochemical reduction of carbon dioxide. My research concerns the utilisation of carbon dioxide, its effective recycling to value-added products and thus closing the carbon cycle. In 2021, I won the first-ever Millennium Pitching Contest for doctoral candidates with the title "Fuel from Carbon Dioxide".





Ulla Kommonen

I am a Doctoral Candidate in English at the University of Turku. The working title of my dissertation is *Dialogues between Soil and Soul*, and my aim is to study how deep time, soil and

old trees are represented in literature written in English. My research will explore communication between non-human and human in poems, plays and novels. With a background in horticulture and literature, I am interested in finding common ground and new narratives, combining humanities and natural sciences.

Kirsikka Paakkinen

I am a Finnish director and screenwriter based in Rovaniemi. I graduated in MFA in Film from HDK-Valand, Gothenburg in June 2021. In my graduation film, When the Mill Hill Trees Spoke to Me, I return to my childhood village and investigate the relationship between humans and nature



through a personal perspective. The unfathomable, elusive moments of the experience of beauty or the sublime in nature are an inspiration for me.



Camila Rosa Ribeiro

I am a performance-pedagogy artist and researcher from Porto Alegre (Brazil), based in Tampere. The research and performance I do draw on autobiographical memories, which are rich entry points to the entanglements of temporality and non-white subjectivity. The work unfolds from the body as a site of possibility: a medium to challenge/re-imagine as-

sumptions of culture and belonging. I structure performances, strategies and processes to decolonise knowledge and pedagogy, exploring the intersections between aesthetics and political and unconscious knowledge. I focus on relationality and participation, exploring our ability to sensibly perceive others, blurring borders between the individual and groups, private and collective.



Laura Maria Saari

I am a maritime archaeologist specialising in South America. My research draws upon architecture, ecology and the arts to reconstruct past lifeways in dynamic forest and wetland environments along the Paraná Basin, which involved the mitigation of risks including hydrological change, wildfire and drought. Interweaving repositories of knowledge on land and water use, interspecies relations and modes of orientation and communication, my work seeks to contribute towards

tion is achieved through cellular communication. The Notch signalling

In this presentation, the scientific project is portraited through the eyes and mind of an animation artist. The audience will follow the discussion between the artist and the scientist on the project and their collaboration and witness the premiere of the animation To Notch up a broken heart. How does art ignite science and what can science add to the creative process of making art? The science takes the artist on a journey through the invisible

ecologies of practice that advance the rehabilitation and protection of globally vital ecosystems, under threat by deforestation and desiccation, and the literacy and valorisation of wisdom embedded in landscape.



Jenni Vauhkonen

I am a doctoral student at the Department of Art History at the University of Turku. My research focuses on works of contemporary art that are made together with living plants. This art form connects to the burning questions of the environmental crisis. In addition, I see the agency of plants in art as a burning question that challenges the traditions of art history and our relation to the more than human world around us - to the world that is both literally and metaphorically on

fire. My approach to this subject is multidisciplinary, as I draw inspiration from art history, biology and philosophy.



Yoshimasa Yamada

I am a Japanese woodworker, architect and PhD student. I grew up near Tokyo and graduated from Keio University with a bachelor's degree in applied physics. After moving to Finland in 2003, I studied architecture at Tampere University of Technology and later practised cabinetry in

the small village of Fiskars. Since 2012 I have worked as a woodworker and architect in my own company UUP, based in the Fiskars village. I am currently doing PhD research at Tampere University on the use value of vacant log houses and possibilities of their reuse from the perspective of preserving the spirit of bricolage (DIY).





THURSDAY 19 AUGUST, 14:00-15:00

A Burning Heart - A Broken Heart

Antonia Ringbom & Cecilia Sahlgren

IN GREEK MYTHOLOGY the god Prometheus created humanity from clay and gave fire to human civilisation. As punishment for giving humans fire, Zeus sentenced Prometheus to eternal torment. Prometheus was tied to a rock, and an eagle was sent to eat his liver. The liver grew back overnight, only to be eaten again the next day, in a never-ending cycle.

This myth reflects the regenerative potential of the liver, a potential unique to few organs and tissues in humans and a potential that the human heart has lost. A project within Åbo Akademi University aims at training the human heart to repair itself by activating the molecular architects of the heart through a bioelectrical molecular band-aid.



function. All multicellular life requires coordinated actions by the cells. Such coordina-

pathway is an evolutionary conserved mechanism for communication between cells. Notch is essential for all multicellular life and is an important architect of the cardiovascular system. The scientific project aims at utilising Notch as a therapeutic handle to regenerate a defected heart. The molecular band-aid will reactivate Notch to stimulate cardiac tissue repair.

PERFORMATIVE SESSIONS

nano- and microlevel of the human body, which is as incomprehensible and fantastic as the Universe. The goal of the journey is a cell therapy to regenerate a broken heart. To animate is to give life to ideas and non-living things. In a way, the artist and the scientist are



united by a common theme, the quest to create life. "A Burning Heart – A Broken Heart" is the igniting spark from cell biology to a love story.



Antonia Ringbom is an animation artist based in the Turku Archipelago in Korpoström. She makes animations, illustrations and books, and runs workshops all over the world. For over 25 years, she was the director of Hangö Teaterträff, an annual festival where performing arts are presented, experienced and developed.



Cecilia Sahlgren is Professor in Cell Biology at Åbo Akademi University in Turku, Finland and Professor in Biomedical Engineering at Eindhoven University of Technology in The Netherlands. She heads the Cell Fate lab, a team of 20 researchers that study the fundamental molecular mechanisms that guide cell fate and cell organisation in stem cell differentiation, tissue regeneration and in diseases such as cancer.

THURSDAY 19 AUGUST, 18:00-20:30

Copenhagen - A play by Michael Frayn

Richard McElvain, M. Lynda Robinson & Kimi Kärki

THIS WILL BE a staged reading of Michael Frayn's play *Copenhagen*, a fictional account of an actual event during World War II, in which two physicists exchange heated words and profound ideas. One man, Werner

Heisenberg, seeks to harness the power of the atom for Germany's forces. The other scientist, Niels Bohr, is devastated that his native Denmark has been occupied by the Third Reich.

The reading includes a brief intermission, and there will be a discussion with the audience afterwards.



Richard McElvain is an actor/director/playwright based in Boston. He won an Elliot Norton Award and an IRNE Award for his performance in Conor McPherson's *Saint Nicholas*. He played the title roles in *Macbeth*, Brecht's *Galileo* and *Tartuffe*. He has performed Malvolio, George in *Virginia Woolf*,

Roy Cohn in *Angels in America* and created his own adaptation of Sophocles *Antigone* playing Creon. He has translated and directed four plays by Molière. Richard has directed hundreds of plays, among them *Peer Gynt, Blyth Spirit, August: Osage County, Summer and Smoke* and *A Moon for the Misbegotten*. His film credits include *Mermaids* with Cher and Wynona Ryder. With Colleagues he has created an award-winning Theatre Program at Fitchburg State University. In the spring of 2018, he won a Fulbright Scholarship at the University of Turku in Finland.



M. Lynda Robinson has been working on Boston theatre stages for the last 35 years. She was awarded one of the first Elliot Norton and IRNE Awards for her stage work. She has played the great heroines of the plays of Tennessee Williams – Blanche, Amanda, Maggie and Alma – several times. She loved playing Belinda in *Noises Off* and The Nurse in *Romeo and Juliet*. Additionally, she has founded three theatres in Boston & Cape Ann. She is an accomplished and published playwright. She is a sought-after teacher of Acting, Acting for Film and Playwrighting at

Wheellock College, Gordon College, The Gloucester Writer's Centre, Fitchburg State University and Boston Casting.

PERFORMATIVE SESSIONS

Dr. Kimi Kärki is a senior researcher in Cultural History at the University of Turku and holds the title of Docent in Cultural Heritage Studies. He has mainly published on the history of stadium rock spectacles, talking machines, future imagining and fascist aesthetics in popular culture. He is the principal investigator of the project Fascinating Fascism and its Affective Heritage in



Finnish Culture (Kone Foundation, 2021–2023). He is the current secretary of the European Popular Culture Association (EPCA). He is also an internationally touring musician, with more than 40 releases in heavy metal, progressive rock, ambient, and as a singer-songwriter.

FRIDAY 20 AUGUST, 12:30-13:45

Photo Exhibition "Love Crossing Boundaries" & Panel Discussion "The Fire of Love and Hate"

Artists: Rewan Kakil & Saara Aina

Panellists: Hannaneh Mahmoudian & Tuija Saresma

Moderator: Nana Blomqvist



Organised in collaboration with Hub Turku

This session takes place outdoors on Luostarin välikatu, where the photo exhibition is situated. First, ABOAGORA participants have 30 minutes (from 12:30 to 13:00) to tour the exhibition. The panel discussion will follow at 13:00, taking place outdoors next to the exhibition. The panel will end at 13:45, after which the audience is invited to walk back to the Sibelius Museum, where the next session will begin at 14:00.

Photo Exhibition "Love Crossing Boundaries"

Through art we wanted to thematise different patterns of oppression and stigmatisation that are exercised within and over ethnic boundaries. We wanted to investigate patterns that manifest themselves at different stages of life, perhaps significantly when knots of love, marriage, relationships and companionships are tied in ways that go against the expectations and norms of their respective communities.

Follow the journey of seven different couples as their stories unfold to reveal the challenges they've met as well as the support they've received from both their own community and that of their partner of choice.

Panel Discussion: "The Fire of Love and Hate"

In this panel, we will go deeper into the topic of oppressive structures, masculinity and nationalism. Nana Blomgvist discusses with Hannaneh Mahmoudian and Tuija Saresma about our contemporary society and its radicalised and normalised expressions of patriarchal structures.

Saara Aina is a student at the University of Turku with Comparative Religion as her major and Multiculturalism and Psychology as her minors. She grew up in strict religious Christian charismatic movements and parted from them in her early adulthood. This gave her personal experi-



ence of being involved in a religious community, internalising its mindset and then leaving it behind. Saara Aina has passion towards reflecting on the diversity of society and what society views as normal and abnormal. She is interested in intersectional feminism, mental health and the empowering, as well as the negative, effects of religion. She is attempting to bring more awareness to these subjects through combining research methods with art.

Nana Blomqvist is currently working as the Project Manager of the project "Boundary Transgressing Dialogue Culture" at Hub Turku Ry. She holds an MA in Political Science and is also a junior researcher in Comparative Religion at Åbo Akademi University. The past years, she has been working



with teaching, journalism, research and project management in equality

projects and work on integration. Blomqvist's current project focuses on enhancing democratic processes and works with equality issues, currently focusing on issues related to racism, polarisation, honour-related violence and sexual health.

Rewan Kakil is a freelance photographer who was granted political asylum in Finland in 2016. During his early stay at the reception centre, he produced the *Dreams* photo exhibition, which contains portraits of asylum seekers and their dreams for the future in Finland. His photographs



have illustrated research publications and been exhibited at the Migration Institute of Finland and at a seminar organised by the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL). In his homeland, the Kurdistan Region, he made critical art works about political and religious corruption and double standards. He has also been involved in both documentary and photography projects with UNICEF and UNFPA as well as other agencies. He is passionate about working with issues of racism, conservatism and gender.

Hannaneh Mahmoudian is a project worker by day, specialised in Honour Related Conflicts and Violences at Auralan Setlementti ry/Sopu Varsinais-Suomi, and a volunteer youth worker by night. She is also studying Business IT at Turku University of Applied Sciences. Her aim is to provide a secure platform for young



people who might have social challenges that are not yet recognised by the public sector. Therefore, she was one of the founders of the youth association HangFlow ry. She advocates the recognition of patterns of oppression that young people face and works to develop action plans to counteract these forms of oppression. Hannaneh wants to be an active part of civil society and promotes sexual health and equality for sexual and gender minorities and immigrants (especially women and children).

Tuija Saresma is a senior researcher at the Research Centre for Contemporary Culture, which is part of the Department of Music, Art and Culture

Studies at the University of Jyväskylä. She holds the titles of Docent in Culture Studies and Gender Studies at the universities of Jyväskylä and Eastern Finland. She is cochair of the Association of Gender Studies in Finland (SUNS) and treasurer of the Association for Cultural Studies (ACS). Saresma's



most recent publications include a co-edited anthology *Violence, Gender and Affect* (Palgrave, 2021) and co-written journal articles on intersectional analyses of right-wing populist media, affective mobilisation on manosphere, hate speech, and discursive constructions of white masculinities.

FRIDAY 20 AUGUST, 14:00-15:00

The Conflagration of Turku, 1827: Histories of Emotion and Destruction

Hannu Salmi & Panu Savolainen

Organised in collaboration with the City of Turku

THE CATASTROPHE known as the Great Fire of Turku was the largest conflagration in the history of the Nordic countries. Three quarters of the city were destroyed in the devastating fire that started on 4 September 1827, at 9 o'clock in the evening. The fire raged through the night, in some parts of the city until 6 September. The soil was hot for weeks and the minds of the citizens were disturbed by the tragedy. This session discusses the emotional responses to the fire, its cultural ramifications as well as the volume and consequences of the catastrophe.



Hannu Salmi is Professor of Cultural History at the University of Turku, Academy Professor for the years 2017–2021 and a historian of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. He is the author of, for example, What is Digital History? (Polity, 2020) and the editor of The Routledge Companion to Cultural History in the Western World (Routledge, 2020) and Catastrophe, Gender and Urban Experience, 1648–1920 (Routledge, 2017). He was also one of the

founders of the ABOAGORA Symposium in 2011 and has been a member of ABOAGORA's Advisory Board since 2019.

Panu Savolainen is an architect, historian and Professor of History of Architecture at Aalto University (Helsinki, Finland). He earned his MA in Architecture from the Helsinki University of Techonology and his MA and PhD in History from the University of Turku. He is currently specialising in medieval archaeology and 20th century suburbs but his earlier research has focused on 18th and 19th century Turku and urban history. Savolainen has authored six books, including a children's book, and over 30 scholarly articles. He has also worked as a practicing architect,



including housing design, urban planning and ruin conservation.

FRIDAY 20 AUGUST, 15:15-16:00

On fire

Alessa Brossmer

ON MARCH 19, 2021, the volcano Fagradalsfjall erupted in the Southwest of Iceland close to the capital. The eruption was preceded by a series of earthquakes and the population was already waiting for weeks. When the sky turned red that night people in Reykjavík knew: now it happened. This special kind of fire will be explored in this lecture from a geological, cultural and creative perspective.

Artist and researcher **Alessa Brossmer** lives and works in Germany and Ice-



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land. Brossmer is focused on work at the intersection of art, landscape, architecture and research. She has studied Diploma Sculpting (Metal) at Burg Giebichenstein University of Art and Design Halle and has an MA in Applied Media and Cultural Studies from the Merseburg University of Applied Sciences. Currently, Brossmer is working on a PhD on greenhouses in polar regions.

FRIDAY 20 AUGUST, 16:45-17:15

Feuer

E-Musikgruppe Lux Ohr (Pertti Grönholm, Kimi Kärki, Ismo Virta) & Petri Kuljuntausta



E-Musikgruppe Lux Ohr: Kimi Kärki (left), Ismo Virta and Pertti Grönholm. Image by Jaakko Penttinen.

E-MUSIKGRUPPE LUX OHR is a kosmische Musik group from Turku, Finland. Their music is a mixture of 'Berlin School' style of sequenced space travels, electro-acoustic improvisations and krautrock with melancholic and psychedelic moods. Their third studio album Non plus ultra (Svart Records, LP + digital) was released in 2020. In addition, E-Musikgruppe Lux Ohr has released three live albums, a split album and a mini album. The current lineup is: Pertti Grönholm (synthesizers, samplers, sequencers and percussion), Kimi Kärki (E-guitar, Ebow and effects) and Ismo Virta (Memotron, E-guitar and effects).

For each Five Rings of ABOAGORA, E-Musikgruppe Lux Ohr produces and performs a composition exploring the theme of the year. Each work will feature a guest musician or musicians. At ABOAGORA 2021 they will perform the third of five thematic annual compositions, *Feuer*, featuring **Petri Kuljuntausta**.

PERFORMATIVE SESSIONS

Petri Kuljuntausta is a sonic artist, composer and musician. In close collaboration with natural scientists, he has composed underwater music and made music out of whale calls and the sounds of the northern lights. Environmental sounds, live-electronics, improvisation and collaborations with media artists have influenced him as a composer.



Kuliuntausta has performed or collaborated with Morton Subotnick, Atau Tanaka, Richard Lerman, David Rothenberg and Sami van Ingen, among others. He has made recordings for various labels in Australia, Colombia, Finland, France, Germany, India, Sweden, UK and the USA. The Star's End and Inner Space radio shows selected Kuljuntausta's Momentum as one of the most significant CD releases of the year. Kuljuntausta has published three books on Sound Art and Electronic Music. In 2005 he won an award, The Finnish State Prize for Art, from the Finnish government as a distinguished national artist.

Petri Kuljuntausta performs regularly. In his concerts he often uses soundscapes or environmental sounds as a source material and recycles and mashes these sounds live. He has created site-specific sound performances and performed with birds. Kuljuntausta started his career as a guitarist, and he is performing again with the instrument.

FRIDAY 20 AUGUST, 17:15-18:45

Closing Reception Fire Art Performance by Pino Kollektiivi

Jenni Asunen, Enni Kastari & Helmi Pirkola

FRIDAY 20 AUGUST, 19:00-19:45

Prologi

Multiarts Group Third Space (Kolmas Tila)

The performance is multilingual (mainly Finnish and Swedish) and takes place at the Turku Cathedral. Tickets are sold separately at the door: 10 € for ABOAGORA participants (with the Symposium name tag). The performance will not be livestreamed.



Olen asettanut sinut keskelle maailmaa, jotta voit sieltä helpommin katsella kaikkea, mitä maailmassa on.

(I have placed you in the middle of the world, so that from there you can more easily behold all that is in the world.)

PROLOGI is an independent part of Romanttinen mieli - Ett romantiskt sinne (The Romantic Mind), Third Space's new production on polyphony and human consciousness. Prologi presents the Renaissance's anthropocentric view of the world and the place of man in the entirety of life.

It is the year 1495. Before sunrise, on a Tuscan meadow, man encounters the Renaissance philosopher Pico della Mirandola and the Knight built by Leonardo da Vinci.

Prologi premiers at the Turku Cathedral on August 20, 2021.

Romanttinen mieli – Ett romantiskt sinne premiers in Logomo, Turku on August 27, 2021.



ABOAGORA Organising Committee 2021

Taina Erävaara, Head of Education and Research, Arts Academy, Turku University of Applied Sciences

Astrid Huopalainen, University Lecturer, Business Economics, Åbo Akademi University

Ruth Illman, Director, The Donner Institute for Research in Religious and Cultural History, Åbo Akademi University Foundation

Kimi Kärki, Research Fellow, Cultural History & International Institute for Popular Culture (IIPC), University of Turku

Silja Laine, Post-doctoral Researcher, English Language and Literature, Åbo Akademi University

Liisa Lalu, Doctoral Candidate, 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

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Intern 2021 **Johanna Juupaluoma** (Arts Academy, Turku University of Applied Sciences)

ABOAGORA Advisory Board 2019-2023

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Emilie Gardberg, Dean, Sibelius Academy, Uniarts Helsinki

Leena Kela, Performance Artist & Curator, Executive Director of the Saari Residence and Co-artistic Director of the International New Performance Turku Festival

Joanna Kurth, Project Director at The Museum Center of Turku, City of Turku

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

Hannu Salmi, Academy Professor, Cultural History, University of Turku

Cecilia Sahlgren, Professor, Cell Biology, Åbo Akademi University

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





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In 2021, Turku celebrates the tenth anniversary of the city's year as the European Capital of Culture. ABOAGORA: "Fire" is part of the anniversary programme.

WE THANK ALL OF THE STUDENT ASSISTANTS FOR THEIR INDISPENSABLE HELP THROUGHOUT THE EVENT!

Photos **Pekko Vasantola** (cover, pages 4, 7, 8, 14, 37, 39)

Layout Frida Backman

We reserve the right to any changes.

Past events

ABOAGORA 2020 The Five Rings: Water

ABOAGORA 2019 The Five Rings: Earth

ABOAGORA 2018 Burden | Skuld

ABOAGORA 2017 Becoming | Verðandi

ABOAGORA 2016 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 was launched in 2011 as a joint effort between the Turku Music Festival, University of Turku, the Donner Institute, and Åbo Akademi University. In 2019 Aboagora began collaborating with the Arts Academy of Turku University of Applied Sciences.



Notes	



ABOAGORA venues

- 1. Sibelius Museum (Piispankatu 17 / Biskopsgatan 17)
- 2. HUB Turku (Luostarin Välikatu / Kloster-Mellangatan)
- 3. Pehr Kalm Revival (by Jan-Erik Andersson)

Suggested lunch restaurants

- 4. Pinella (Vanha Suurtori 2 / Gamla Stortorget 2)
- 5. Fabbes Café (Tehtaankatu 6 / Fabriksgatan 6)
- 6. Grädda (Piispankatu 15 / Biskopsgatan 15)
- 7. Hügge (Linnankatu 3 / Slottsgatan 3)

Accommodation

- 8. Solo Sokos Hotel Turun Seurahuone (Humalistonkatu 2 / Humlegårdsgatan 2)
- 9. Villa Hortus (Horttokuja 3 / Hortogränd 3)















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