



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oulu's Iconic AaltoSiilo to Host Aaltosiilo Festival 2024: 'The Post-Industrial Dance' on September 14th

OULU, FINLAND – On September 14, 2024, the Aalto Silo, Oulu's historical architectural landmark, is set to host the much-anticipated *Aaltosiilo Festival 2024: The Post-Industrial Dance* on September 14th. This festival marks a significant step in the transformation of the concrete silo, originally designed by Finland's renowned architects Alvar and Aino Marsio Aalto, into a cutting-edge multimedia performance and exhibition space.

The festival, conceived by Valentino Tignanelli, runs from 13:00 to 22:00 EEST. It promises a unique blend of music, dance, and multimedia performances that engage directly with the building's industrial heritage and its future as a cultural hub. This year's theme, "The Post-Industrial Dance," explores the ways in which post-industrial landscapes can be reimagined through art and architecture, with a special focus on the integration of concrete spolia waste into sustainable construction.

AaltoSiilo's Transformation

The AaltoSiilo, originally built in 1931 as a silo for storing woodchips, is undergoing a significant restoration and reinvention, led by Skene Catling de la Peña and supported by the Oulu City Council as a legacy project for Oulu 2026.

In 2020, Factum Foundation for Digital Technology in Preservation bought the Silo. Adam Lowe, Factum's founder, and Charlotte Skene Catling, of Skene Catling de la Peña, have developed a vision for the vast, concrete-like cathedral. It is intended to act as a catalyst for urban regeneration by redefining the relationship between man and the environment. The Silo represents another time when resources were perceived as infinite and only to be exploited, with no thought of the consequences.

The first phase of these restoration proposals has been approved, aiming to double the lifespan of this architectural masterpiece by transforming it into a 525 sqm multimedia performance space. Future plans also include a 1,150 sqm Research Lab dedicated to sustainable construction practices.



Festival Highlights

The Aaltosiilo Festival 2024 features a diverse lineup of performances designed to test and showcase the building's capabilities as a multimedia centre. The festival includes:

- **LNA (DJ) & OIVO (DJ):** These performances kick off the festival, with vinyl selections that mirror the rough, weathered beauty of the AaltoSiilo, ranging from downtempo to dystopian sounds.
- **Alvar Aalto Photography Landscapes Block:** Featuring work by renowned artist Elina Brotherus and a Meri-Toppila Photowalk exhibition by Photonorth, this segment explores the intersection of architecture, photography, and public space.
- **Live Music & Multimedia Performances:** The day will be filled with live electronic performances by artists like OSSIA (UK) and a special guest from Tartu 2024. AaltoSiilo will also connect with Villa Tammekann in Tartu through a live-streamed hybrid audiovisual performance by Gatesleeper and VJ Tencu.
- **Concrete Cathedral & Silo Dance:** Multidisciplinary performances by artists Antonia Henn and Sisko Iljana will collect and present the dreams of Meri-Toppila residents, while acrobatic choreographies by Lisa Ilona Jantti and Pavlína Podzimková will showcase the building's unique features.
- **Triálogo:** A location-sensitive live performance where flamenco artist Anna Murtola, electronic musician Josu Mämmi, and the AaltoSiilo itself engage in a tripartite conversation that spans time. This unique performance incorporates soundscapes, history, and interviews with former workers of the Toppila Oy factory, adding their experiences to the show's soundscape. Murtola, the world's northernmost flamenco singer, and Mämmi, a versatile composer and sound designer, bring together a blend of tradition and innovation that reflects the rich history and future aspirations of the AaltoSiilo.

Event Details

- **Date:** September 14, 2024
- **Time:** 13:00 – 22:00 EEST
- **Location:** AaltoSiilo, Alvar Aallon Katu 5, Meri-Toppila, Oulu, Finland
- **After Party:** 23:00 at 45 Special, Saaristonkatu 12, Oulu
- **Live Streaming:** <https://www.twitch.tv/aaltosiilo>

The Aaltosiilo Festival 2024 is a free public event, part of the Oulu European Capital of Culture 2026 program. All performances will be live-streamed on a 14m² LED screen outside the silo, ensuring that the public can enjoy the experience both inside and outside the venue.

Follow Us:

- Website: aaltosiilo.com
- Instagram: [@aaltosiilo](https://www.instagram.com/aaltosiilo)

Aaltosiilo Festival 2024 is produced by Aaltosiilo Ry and Factum Foundation in collaboration with Oulu 2026 European Capital of Culture. This event is made possible thanks to the collaboration and support of the Finnish Estonian Institute, Turku University Foundation, Tartu 2024, Oulu 2026, Ö Studio, Factum Foundation, Aaltosiilo Ry, and pARTir.



Parallel Event – The Aalto Bridge

The festival also includes "Aalto Bridge," a parallel event in Tartu, Estonia. The cities of Tartu and Oulu, both designated as European Capitals of Culture for 2024 and 2026 respectively, host buildings by Aalto that will serve as vibrant arenas for concerts and other cultural programs live-streamed between the two cities. This initiative allows the residents of Tartu and Oulu to participate in a shared celebration of art and architecture, fostering a sense of unity without the need for travel.

In Tartu, the event will feature performances by Estonian electronic music and video artist Gatesleeper (Martin Rästa) and VJ Tencu (Andres Tenusaar), offering a fresh perspective on Alvar Aalto's legacy. Gatesleeper is known for his innovative fusion of sound, image, and various art forms, while VJ Tencu is a renowned director, animator, and audiovisual artist. The event will also include a talk by architectural historian Karin Hallas-Murula on the significance of Aalto's work, along with free introductory tours of Villa Tammekann and a relaxing garden party.

The six-hour live cultural broadcast will blend different art forms, bridging the architectural styles and cultural contexts of two Aalto buildings in two cultural capitals. While Villa Tammekann is a charming villa that was once home to geography professor August Tammekann, who admired Aalto's modernist vision, the Toppila cellulose factory in Oulu, of which the cathedral-like silo was the signature building, showcases Aalto's unique approach to industrial design.

Parallel Event - Reception at the Iberoamerican Finnish Institute in Madrid, Spain

In addition to the events in Oulu and Tartu, a special reception will be held at the Iberoamerican Finnish Institute in Madrid:

- **Date:** 14 September 2024
- **Time:** 17:00 to 21:00
- **Venue:** Finnish Cultural Institute in Madrid, Calle San Agustín, 7, 28012 Madrid

This reception will feature live screenings from AaltoSiilo in Oulu and the Finnish Cultural Institute in Tartu. The schedule includes:

- **17:00 LIVE FROM ESTONIA:** *Gatesleeper and VJ Tencu*
- **19:00 LIVE FROM OULU:** *Triologo – Flamenco performance by Anna Murtola and Josu Mämmi*
- **20:00 LIVE FROM OULU:** *Ilmatila* acrobatic performance in and on the Aalto Silo

The Finnish Institute in Madrid will provide drinks, and attendees will have the opportunity to view the exhibition "On Poetry, Mythology, and Allegory: Prints by Vargas and Varis."

The Finnish Cultural Institute in Madrid is one of 15 Finnish Institute's worldwide. It aims to promote Finnish culture in Spain, Portugal and Latin America as well as dialogue between cultures.

For more information, please follow the Finnish Institute in Madrid's communication channels:

Instagram: [@proyecto.uoma](#) / [@institutofinlandia](#)

Website: www.madrid.fi

Facebook: Instituto Iberoamericano de Finlandia



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NOTES TO THE EDITORS

About AaltoSiilo

AaltoSiilo, originally designed by Alvar and Aino Marsio Aalto in 1931, is an architectural icon in Oulu, Finland. Now being transformed into a multimedia performance and exhibition space, it is at the forefront of sustainable construction practices and cultural innovation. The project is part of Oulu's journey as the European Capital of Culture in 2026.

About Aaltosiilo Ry

Aaltosiilo Ry is a Finland-based organisation responsible for advancing the renovation plans of the Alvar Aalto Oulu silo, as designed by Skene Catling de la Peña. In addition to overseeing the architectural project, Aaltosiilo Ry is actively involved in organising cultural events and fostering collaborations with both local and international institutions. Since its establishment in 2022, the association has hosted symposiums, workshops, and showcases in partnership with various entities, including the City of Oulu government, the Oulu 2026 Foundation, New European Bauhaus, the Alvar Aalto Foundation, and the European Commission's Culture and Creativity Living Spaces initiative.

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About Factum Foundation

Factum Foundation is a global leader in using digital technology to preserve the world's cultural heritage. With the AaltoSiilo project, the focus extends to documenting the changing natural heritage at the edge of the Arctic Circle. The Foundation's primary mission is to create high-resolution, accurate digital records of cultural heritage sites and artworks worldwide, ensuring they are preserved for future generations. By safeguarding the past, Factum Foundation seeks to empower the present and inspire the future.

Factum Foundation collaborates closely with its sister company, Factum Arte, a multidisciplinary workshop in Madrid dedicated to digital mediation in contemporary art and the production of facsimiles. Factum Arte emphasises cross-disciplinary communication, innovation, and the sharing of knowledge and ideas. The workshop houses over 50 experts working within a 10,000-square-meter studio space.

The AaltoSiilo project is integral to Factum Foundation's mission of creating sustainable preservation that fosters new local economies. The AaltoSiilo Research Centre will apply cutting-edge technology



to the preservation of culture and the environment, in alignment with Factum Foundation's global initiatives. Utilizing digital technologies, 3D scanning, AI, and creative software design, the Centre will connect with other Factum Foundation projects worldwide, including ARCHiVe in Venice, ARCHiOX with the Bodleian Library and Oxford University, Colnaghi-Factum in London, and the Theban Necropolis Preservation Initiative (TNPI) in Luxor, Egypt. A similar empowerment and knowledge-sharing program is underway in Nigeria. The principles guiding the AaltoSiilo project are those Factum Foundation has honed over the past 21 years: local communities must benefit both socially and economically from sustainable preservation efforts.

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About Skene Catling de la Peña

Skene Catling de la Peña have a unique approach they call 'Geoarchaeology', excavating meaning from the geology of the site and its historical human occupation as a means for developing architecture. They are experienced in the design and integration of contemporary projects into sensitive historic contexts such as Waddesdon Manor, Buckinghamshire, and the Perm World Heritage Site, Russia. Charlotte Skene Catling writes about architecture in *The Architectural Review*, *ARCH+* and *DOMUS* magazine and co-launched the biennial architectural film festival, ArchFilmFest, in London. She taught architecture at the Royal College of Art (RCA) and at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Germany, and was on the jury of the World Architecture Festival (WAF) for many years. The practice has won numerous awards and has been extensively published internationally.

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