



PETRI SAARIKKO

Painting with the Dark Otherness

8.8.–31.8.2025

Painting with the Dark Otherness explores the artist's internal experience of otherness. The exhibition reflects how the act of creation forms a connection between the painting mind and the physical body.

The large-scale oil paintings presented in the exhibition were created in complete darkness, using only hands and fingers. The pigments absorb daylight and release it in darkness as glowing luminescence. Luminescence is a phenomenon in which a substance emits stored light through its own material agency.

The artist draws strength from these self-made luminescent colours in order to make darkness visible. The light radiated by the glowing pigments is placed in parallel with conventional daylight – as a second kind of light. The paintings' stochastic, relief-like surfaces resemble tactile writing, such as Braille. Through colour, gesture and trace, the series Mind Map emerges as a visual expression of an inner experience of otherness.

In addition to the paintings, the exhibition includes a collection of small-scale ink and pigment drawings that form a separate, sketch-like part of Mind Map. These slowly evolving drawings stand in contrast to the physical and large-scale process of painting.

The drawings travel with the artist, and through colour, they record traces of presence – impressions of meaningful places and encounters with people. They serve as tools for observing, structuring and unfolding the layered meanings of the expanding Mind Map series. Through their symbolic forms, the artist enters into an inner dialogue with the silence and emptiness of the paintings.

**Petri Saarikko** (born 1973) is a visual artist based in Helsinki. His work combines material-based artistic inquiry with social critique and expertise in new media. He explores constructions of national identity, authorship, and related political narratives by examining material tensions between what is considered "real" and "artificial."

Saarikko is particularly interested in experiential ways of perceiving the world – especially through visible light and colour. He is drawn to the transformation of a painting as it shifts from daylight into darkness. This transition opens up a multidimensional perspective on the entanglement of social, historical, and philosophical layers within material artistic expression.

Lisätietoja, [galleria@ama.email](mailto:galleria@ama.email) ja <http://www.ama.fi>