



# **AALTO SILO**

**Alvar Aallon Katu 5,  
Meri-Toppila, Oulu**

# SCREAMING DUENDE

## WORLD PREMIERE

Spanish flamenco *bailaor* Israel Galván

meets the Finnish Screaming Men, Mieskuoro Huutajat, at the AaltoSiilo

June 3rd 2023 | 4pm to 9pm - Alvar Aallon Katu 5, Oulu

SCREAMING DUENDE at the AALTOSIILLO is an event staged by Factum Foundation and Oulu2026 Capital of Culture on June 3rd, 2023. It is a central part of the AALTOSIILLO project that uses art and the reinvention of industrial cultural heritage to transform a neglected part of a city on the edge of the Arctic Circle and the frontline of climate change.

*'El duende, then, is a power, not a work. It is a struggle, not a thought.'*

SCREAMING DUENDE is a world premiere, pairing the radical Sevillian flamenco *bailaor* (dancer), Israel Galván, with the world-famous Screaming Men of Oulu, Mieskuoro Huutajat, in the spirit of Federico García Lorca's concept of *El Duende*. The Spanish poet enunciated his theory of *el duende* in the famous lecture 'Theory and Play of the Duende' that he gave in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1933, two years after the AaltoSiilo by Alvar Aalto and Aino Marsio-Aalto was completed. The Silo, a unique example of Finnish industrial architecture, will become the unusual *tablaó* -flamenco stage- of this encounter. There will also be performances by vinyl DJs Malsson, Tenko, and Matti Aikio and an audiovisual concert by Veera Neva & Arttu Nieminen. The event is free and will be live-streamed and projected outside the Silo itself.

*'We are reminded that originality is truly radical, that it comes from the root, from the mythic origins of the art.'*

The art of Flamenco has a long-established and passionate following in Finland, with a network that stretches across the country. This may be because both the Spanish and Finnish share a sense of *el duende*, the spirit of evocation that Lorca describes as a state of 'tragedy-inspired ecstasy, a poetic emotion which is uncontrolled'. *El Duende*, an earth spirit from Andalusian folklore, is usually associated with flamenco culture, but Lorca defines it as a universal artistic concept. Israel Galván and the Screaming Men of Oulu, in this meeting, will release *el duende* or its mischievous Finnish equivalent, the 'Tonttu'.

*'The artist doesn't simply surrender to the duende; they have to battle it skillfully, on the rim of the well, in hand-to-hand combat.'*

SCREAMING DUENDE becomes part of the new lifeblood of Meri Toppila, creating excitement locally and internationally. It follows the first event in 2022 when Finnish group Transistori 'played' the Silo building as a vast, urban-scale musical instrument. Over 1,000 people attended. These events feed the AALTOSIILLO as it transforms into a multimedia performance and exhibition space, with its future neighbour, the AALTOSIILLO research laboratory, public AALTO-SAUNA and an amphitheatre to follow. The restoration plans by Skene Catling de la Peña have recently been approved by the City Council, and the next stages of the transformation of the site are now in motion.

*'The duende is not in the throat; the duende climbs up inside you, from the soles of the feet.'*

You are invited to come and witness the power of *el duende* and experience its uncontrolled ecstasy!

The AALTOSIILLO reinvents itself as a dynamic repository of cutting-edge research, ideas and creativity, a legacy project that will go beyond Oulu2026 and establish itself as a vibrant hub for future generations. For those who would like to know more about the [AaltoSiilo](#) project, become involved or help in the transformation of this extraordinary place, please see the Factum Foundation website, or contact them directly.

*'Duende is not a question of ability, but of true living style, of blood, of the most ancient culture, of spontaneous creation.'*

Free entry! Free entry! The event will be live-streamed on the Oulu2026 Facebook page and through Twitch.

\*The quotes are from Federico García Lorca's lecture 'Theory and Play of the Duende', which he delivered in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on Oct. 20, 1933.

Live stream through Twitch: <http://www.twitch.com/aaltosiilo>

## Note to Editors:

### Israel Galván

Born in Seville, Spain, into the dancing family of José Galván and Eugenia de los Reyes, Israel Galván underwent classical flamenco training but since his first creation ¡Mira! / Los zapatos rojos (1998), which paves the way for a manifesto for a new spirit of flamenco dance, he has gradually transformed into an unclassified dancer and choreographer. Galván recodifies the physical language of flamenco, using not only modes of expression genealogically close to it, such as bullfighting, but also performative aspects of other rituals of popular culture, from football to activism and cross-dressing. He produces a multiplicity of bodies for flamenco that is itself going through a process of change. Each of his creations is to be a milestone in his pursuit of a dance that seeks to free itself from certain features inherited from a crystallized flamenco. He wants to refocus dance on the actual act of dancing. Israel Galván was honoured with the most prestigious prizes, such as the Premio Nacional de Danza (Spain), the New York Bessie Performance Award, and the National Dance Award for Exceptional Artistry (UK). In 2016, he was promoted to the rank of Officier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in France. Israel Galván is also featured in a Netflix docuseries about dance called Move. He is an associated artist at Le Théâtre de la Ville, Paris.

For more information: <https://www.israelgalvancompany.com/about/>

### Screaming Men, Mieskuoro Huutajat

Huutajat is a choir that doesn't sing a note. 20-40 properly dressed men enter the venue with military precision and begin to scream, bellow and shout excerpts from national anthems, children's ditties or international treaties. Sometimes the text is delivered as a complex rhythmic structure, sometimes as a simple-but-loud reading.

The choir was founded in the late 1980s. It all started with surprise performances for unsuspecting audiences anywhere in the Oulu region: streets, community events, spectacular nature spots... Now Huutajat has become one of the most popular ambassadors of Finnish art. The choir feels equally at home in prestigious music festivals, museums of contemporary art, country fairs and underground clubs. Petri Sirviö is the founder, composer and conductor of the group. Sometimes when the choir is out of reach or resting, he sets up installations with videos, transcriptions and audio devices.

For more information: <https://www.huutajat.org/en/story/>

## Factum Foundation

The Factum Foundation for Digital Technology in Preservation is a not-for-profit organisation established by Adam Lowe in Madrid, in 2009. It works alongside its sister company Factum Arte, a multidisciplinary workshop dedicated to digital mediation, producing works for contemporary artists as well as facsimiles for preservation purposes. Factum Foundation was created to demonstrate the importance of documenting, monitoring, studying, re-creating and disseminating the world's cultural heritage through the rigorous development of high-resolution recording and re-materialisation techniques. Factum Foundation has a proven track record in the recording of heritage – both cultural and climate-related, and in the preservation of architectural masterpieces through putting them to new uses (such as Factum's ARCHiVe project – the Analysis and Recording of Cultural Heritage in Venice, the Theban Necropolis Preservation Initiative in the Valley of the Kings in Luxor and The Resurrection of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry). The Foundation is leading the AALTOILO project in collaboration with Skene Catling de la Peña, and a core team has now been assembled to progress the project, including fund-raisers, architects, engineers and conservation specialists.

## Skene Catling de la Peña

Architects 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. Work includes a variety of typologies and scales in the UK and abroad. They collaborate regularly with Factum Foundation, and have created major exhibitions for the Royal Academy, London, and the Antikenmuseum, Basel among others. They are experienced in the design and integration of contemporary projects into sensitive historic contexts such as the Perm World Heritage Site, Russia. They designed a permanent gallery in a Grade II listed building for 17th century Spanish art and architecture in Bishop Auckland for The Auckland Project. Charlotte Skene Catling has written about architecture in The Architectural Review, ARCH+, and a monthly column for DOMUS magazine. In 2017, she co-launched the biennial architectural film festival, ArchFilmFest, in London. She ran a post-graduate architecture unit at the Royal College of Art 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. The Flint House for Jacob Rothschild, 'extruded' from the landscape like a geological form, won the RIBA 'House of the Year' Award in 2015.

## Relevant Social Media:

Oulu 2026: <https://oulu2026.eu/>

Ig @oulu2026official

[Oulu2026 - European Capital of Culture 2026 \(facebook.com\)](#)

Aaltosiilo:

<https://www.aaltosiilo.com/en/>

Factum Foundation: [Factum Foundation](#) (web)

Ig: @factum\_foundation

[Factum Foundation | Madrid | Facebook](#)

Israel Galvan: <https://www.israelgalvancompany.com/>  
Ig @israelgalvancompany  
[Israel Galván | Facebook](#)

Huutajat (screaming men choir of Oulu)  
<https://www.huutajat.org/>  
[Huutajat \(@huutajatofficial\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

Veera Neva & Arttu Nieminen:

Veera Neva:  
<https://www.facebook.com/veeranevamusica/>  
<https://www.instagram.com/veeranevamusica/>  
[Veeraneva.com](#)

Arttu Nieminen:  
<https://www.facebook.com/HCMatkalla>  
<https://www.instagram.com/hcnieminen/>  
<https://hcnieminen.wixsite.com/arttu-nieminen>

Dj Malsson - Ig: @malssoni

Dj Tenko - Ig @tenko\_barr

Dj Matti Aikio - Ig @mattiaikio

Foodtruck Kujalantila:  
[Kujalantila \(@kujalantila\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

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