

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

The painting process reveals how an artist learns and becomes

Licentiate of Education Ohto Sabel will defend his doctoral dissertation *Signs of Painting, Acts of Art: Semiotics of Artistic Becoming* at Tampere University on Friday 22 May 2026 at 12.00.

The dissertation examines painting from the perspectives of visual arts, semiotics, and learning research. It asks how painting produces meaning and how artistic work shapes the one who makes it.

Sabel's research challenges us to look at painting beyond the finished artwork. Painting is not only about making artworks; it is also a process of learning, thinking, perception, and meaning-making. According to the study, artistic becoming should not be understood primarily through changes in style or external recognition, but through the development of perception, action, and meaning-making over time.

The study offers a new model for examining the painting process and the finished artwork together. It opens new perspectives on the study of artistic expertise, art education, studio pedagogy, and the understanding of painting as a meaning-making practice.

“A painting is not only an image that becomes finished. It is also a process in which the maker learns to see, act, and construct meanings in new ways,” Sabel summarises.

Public defence

Date and time: Friday 22 May 2026 at 12.00

Venue: Tampere University, Pinni B Building, Auditorium Pinni B 1096, Kanslerinrinne 1, Tampere

The event can also be followed online.

The public defence will be held in Finnish.

Defence page and online participation details:

<https://www.tuni.fi/en/tau/news-and-events/ohto-sabel-painting-process-reveals-how-artist-learns-and-becomes>

Dissertation:

<https://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-03-4537-2>

Public defence details

The doctoral dissertation of Licentiate of Education Ohto Sabel, *Signs of Painting, Acts of Art: Semiotics of Artistic Becoming*, will be publicly examined at the Faculty of Education and Culture of Tampere University. The opponent will be Professor Emeritus Eero Tarasti from the University of Helsinki. The custos will be Professor Emeritus Eero Ropo from Tampere University.

Further information

Ohto Sabel

<https://ohtosabel.com>

ohto.sabel@gmail.com