

## WORKSHOP

### PAINTINGS COME TO LIFE: PERFORMING POWER AND INTERACTION AT WORK

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Photos of the paintings: Jari Martikainen

In this workshop, we invite participants to reflect on organizational interaction and power relations through their own short performances inspired by works of art. Participants are shown pictures of paintings depicting groups of people in versatile situations. They are guided to observe and reflect on them as organizational events e.g. strategy meeting, team work session or informal party within an organization.

Participants are divided into groups. Each group prepares and plays a short performance showing what happens in the organizational event / how interaction proceeds after the scene depicted in the painting. The participants can choose their point of view by bringing out aspects of organizational interaction the painting suggests for them as well as choose the mode of performing (e.g., gesturing, dancing, singing, speaking, acting). Afterwards, the performances are reflected on collaboratively.

Works of art and the performances based on them function as “cultural mirrors” through which participants are invited to reflect on and mirror organizational life. The aim of the workshop is to promote understanding between people acting in various organizational roles through role-taking and embodied simulation as well as pay attention to the visual dimension of interaction. Moreover, participants may recognize not only their individual desires in such situations but also new and unforeseen opportunities for organizational behaviour and skills. The design of the workshop may provide the participants with a novel kind of platform to reflect on their own identity, roles and ways of acting in their work organization as well – and even in conferences like AoMO 2018.

This is a low threshold improvisation workshop where no prior experience in collaborative improvisation or performance is needed. Similarly, neither advance preparation nor special supplies are needed. **Just come along and get inspired!**