

## Two Houses with Changing Masters – Helsinki Workers’ House and Katajanokan Kasino during the Civil War of 1918

- Photographic exhibition at Paasitorni and Katajanokan Kasino

***Helsinki Congress Paasitorni and Katajanokan Kasino are holding a joint photographic exhibition on the history of Helsinki in 1918, especially through the history of two buildings. The exhibition opens at Paasitorni on 18 January and runs until June 2018. From August until December 2018, the exhibition will be on display at Katajanokan Kasino. The exhibition is open to everyone during the opening hours of Paasitorni and Katajanokan Kasino. A hundred years after the Civil War, the Two Houses with Changing Masters exhibition offers the audience a poignant glimpse of the tragic events of 1918.***

Paasitorni (Helsinki Workers’ House) was designed by architect Karl Lindahl and it has been owned by the Helsinki Workers’ Association since its completion in 1908. Katajanokan Kasino was built as a club for Russian officers probably in 1913. It is owned through Katajanokka Officers’ Club by the Finnish Officers’ Union, the Helsinki Reservist District and the Finnish Reserve Officers’ Federation.

Opening on 18 January 2018, the Two Houses with Changing Masters exhibition features 20 historical photographs depicting the events of 1918 and the Civil War in Helsinki, in which the Helsinki Workers’ House and Katajanokan Kasino played a key role.

The name of the exhibition refers to the changing occupants of the two houses. Paasitorni, or the Helsinki Workers’ House became the base for the Red Guard despite the objection of the Workers’ Association, and on 26 January 1918, the Red Guard lit up a red lantern in the tower to mark the beginning of the revolution. The Battle of Helsinki took place in April 1918 between the Red Guard of Helsinki and the German soldiers allied with the White Guard of Helsinki. The tower caught fire and the roof of the congress hall caved in under the German artillery fire. On 13 April, the Red Guard of Helsinki surrendered. After the fighting ended, the Workers’ House was taken over by the German troops.

Katajanokan Kasino had already been occupied in March 1917, when pro-revolutionary junior seamen of the Russian Navy took the building over from the officers and raised a black anarchist flag on top of the building. After the Civil War broke out in January 1918, the casino was held by the Red Guard for a few months. Like the Workers’ House, the casino was later taken over by German troops after the Red Guard had surrendered.

The First World War ended in November 1918 in Germany’s defeat, and the German troops left Helsinki. In December 1918, the two buildings were returned to their original masters: the Workers’ House to the Helsinki Workers’ Association and Katajanokan Kasino to the Finnish military and in January 1919 to the Finnish Officers’ Union to be used as an officers’ club.

Today, Helsinki Congress Paasitorni and Katajanokan Kasino are both among the most popular congress, banquet and event venues in Helsinki. The Paasitorni restaurants are managed by Graniittiravintolat, part of Ravintolakolmio Group, and Katajanokan Kasino by Royal Ravintolat. One hundred years later, Helsinki Congress Paasitorni and Katajanokan Kasino are holding a joint photographic exhibition on the events of the Civil War. The exhibition is produced by Helsinki Walks.

Further information:

- Helsinki Congress Paasitorni, Osku Pajamäki, CEO, +358 50 5555245, [osku.pajamaki@paasitorni.fi](mailto:osku.pajamaki@paasitorni.fi)
- Katajanokka Officers’ Club, Caspar von Walzel, Chairman +358 50 3534714, [puheenjohtaja@hrup.fi](mailto:puheenjohtaja@hrup.fi)

The opening hours of the exhibition and press photos for Paasitorni:

- Helsinki Congress Paasitorni, Kati Kosonen, marketing manager, +358 50 4359911, [kati.kosonen@paasitorni.fi](mailto:kati.kosonen@paasitorni.fi)

Historical photographs featuring at the exhibition:

- Helsinki Walks, Katja Tikka, producer, +358 40 717 2772, [katja.tikka@helsinki.fi](mailto:katja.tikka@helsinki.fi)