



### **Roses and Totoros on the site fence around Kasarmitori- Jani Tolin's work represents the phases of the construction site**

Street artist Jani Tolin combines contemporary art with graffiti art in the work that spans a 45-metre fence at the Kasarmitori square in Helsinki. The fence borders the construction site of a new office property at Kasarmikatu 21 in Kaartinkaupunki. The block used to house the City of Helsinki Public Works department.

“The work of art on the site fence can be read from left to right, like a piece of writing. My work represents the phases of the construction project. It begins with plain, abstract forms that gradually take the shape of humans. Similarly, a construction site starts with building supplies and materials that are used for constructing the property that will, once completed, house people and with them, life, artist **Jani Tolin** describes his work.

It is not common to order a piece of art—street art, in particular—to a site fence in Finland.

“Kasarmikatu 21 is in a prime location in central Helsinki. The art-adorned fence allows us to bring the site to life and make the everyday life of residents and passers-by more colourful and joyful”, **Hanna Malmivaara**, Vice President, Communications at YIT points out.

“Enhancing the visual appeal of Kasarmitori and Kaartinkaupunki was one of the most important goals of this construction project. We decided to work towards this goal already at the construction phase and enliven this distinguished neighbourhood with art. In our opinion, street art is the best way to represent the changing and living Helsinki”, says **Marianne Luojola**, Investment Director at HGR Property Partners.

### **Something for children**

The work ordered for the Kasarmikatu 21 site fence comprises abstract textures and grainy human figures from the 20<sup>th</sup> century to our times, including pioneering abstract artist Hilma af Klint. Tolin has not forgotten children either.

“Because children often find the machines used at construction sites fascinating, I wanted to include children's themes in my work, too. The figures from the Totoro animated film have high ethical standards, which made them seem suitable for this work”, Tolin says.

Jani Tolin is a self-taught street artist from Helsinki (born in 1974). He painted his first graffiti in the 1980s, and he won the Finnish Graffiti Championships in 1990. He has featured in international exhibitions in Stockholm, Barcelona and New York, and his works have been on display in, for example, Kiasma in Helsinki.

Kasarmikatu 21 is an office building to be completed at the end of 2017. The new property will be seven floors and consist of 16 000 square meters of office space. Project impact on employment is estimated at up to 400 person-years and it will employ 40-50 YIT employees and a large number of contractors over the next two years. The building will have office workstations to accommodate up to one thousand employees. Roschier, Attorneys Ltd has been the first business to make the decision to move in to the new property.

### **Project Info**

**Ahlström Capital, YIT and HGR Property Partners** are building a new property by Kasarmitori square in Helsinki CBD. The property will provide business space for up to a thousand employees at the end of 2017. The new building will be completed in the city to replace the former City of Helsinki Public Works Department property and it was designed by **architects SARC** with **Antti-Matti Siikala** as chief designer.

The anchor tenant is **Roschier, Attorneys Ltd** whose approximately 200 employees will move into the new building as soon as it is ready. The development is located across two different building sites. Roschier has its own entrance into the corner of Kasarmikatu and Pohjoinen Makasiinikatu.

The property is built according to the requirements of **LEED Platinum** certification for green buildings.

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***You can follow the development of the property on social media:***

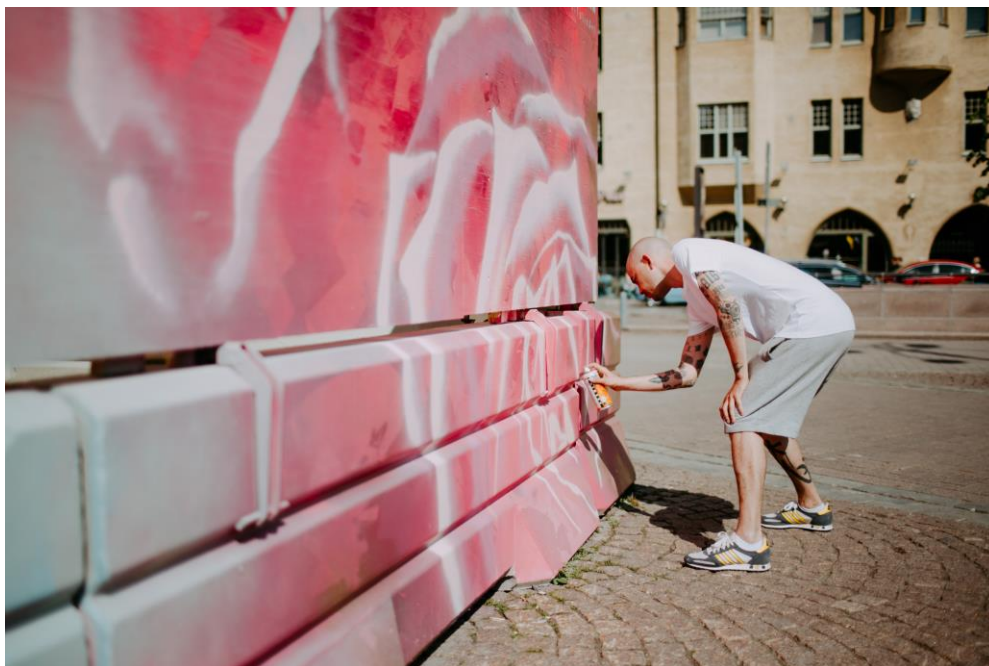
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Roses and Totoros. Totoros down on the left.



Jani Tolin in action.