

Dear President, Provost, Deans and Professors (pause) Honorary doctors, promovendit, ladies and gentlemen...

The Conferment Ceremony is a celebration with origins in mediaeval European universities. Scholars have speculated how the genesis of its symbols have roots in the ancient civilizations of Rome and Greece. At Aalto University's School of Arts, Design and Architecture the Conferment Ceremony fulfills the special function of recognizing a place for knowledge and academic achievement in our fields. A reflective moment regarding our role as creative practitioners and knowledge-makers suits us well today as participants in this ceremony.

Extensive treatises have been written about how Renaissance perspective afforded artists a methodological approach to perception and expression thus enabling emergence of new cultural, historical and even scientific schemas. More recent (19th century) media history is full of examples of transdisciplinary ways in thinking and doing that have brought our fields recognition.

Before inventing the telegraph, the American Samuel Morse (inventor of the telegraph) was a recognized painter with works in the Metropolitan Museum collection. In 1858 when he set a two-mile telegraph line connecting his daughter's house in Arroyo to *Hacienda Concordia* in Guayama, (my grandmother's village in Puerto Rico), he set a mark in Latin American communications history. Meanwhile in Europe, during the early 1800s the theatre designer and panorama painter, Louis-Jacques-Mandé Daguerre paired with inventor Nicéphore Niépce to create 'light paintings', or photography. The invention was presented to the world by the French government in 1839 in what could be described as one of the first instances of 'open knowledge'. Both the inventions of photography and the telegraph, communications tools that rocked the core of our planet, were carried out by people who were trained as artists.

Finnish writer, dramaturge, and journalist, Minna Canth was also born during times not unlike our current era replete of both turmoil and great inventions. 'New Beginnings', chosen as the theme of our Conferment ceremony for 2019, comes from one of her letters where she states: "We must start living anew. New, wide perspectives open up... before us."

Hyvät promovendit, olemme valinneet teemaksemme lauseen: "Uudet, avarat näkö_alat aukeavat eteemme." Haluamme näin korostaa suomalaisen kirjailijan Minna Canthin työtä. Yli sata vuotta sitten, hän kirjoitti uudesta feministisestä näkökulmasta. Uuden aloitus on aina pelottavampaa. Rohkeutesi aloittaa työsi, oli ensimmäinen askel akateemisellä matkallasi. Nyt olet saapunut uuden näkö_alan ääreen. (pause) Voit levätä (pause) hetken.