

Call for papers

Sámi art: Perspectives on the Indigenous and the Contemporary

International conference, Tromsø, Norway, 21st – 23rd November 2012

The aim of the conference is to bring together researchers within art history and related disciplines (literature, anthropology, philosophy, etc.), curators and artists, and to ask a fundamental question: what theories and methodologies do we use to research indigenous and contemporary art?

The conference has a double aim: To gain new knowledge about Sámi art in the broadest sense, and to develop new approaches to art criticism and art history. We want to generate new empirical knowledge, work on new historiographical perspectives and develop concepts, theories and methods of art history in Sámi as well as other European or global contexts. Such broad scopes call for interdisciplinary approaches, methods and theories such as in postcolonial and indigenous research, and their application in art historical discourse.

Keynote speakers:

- **James Elkins**, E.C. Chadbourne Chair of art history, theory, and criticism at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.
- **Greg Hill**, Audain Curator and Head of the Department of Indigenous Art at the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa.
- **Dylan Miner**, artist, activist, and art historian who focuses on Indigenous and anti-colonial issues. Assistant Professor of Transcultural Studies, Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, Michigan State University.
- **Performance** by Sámi artist, choreographer and dancer **Elle Sofe Henriksen**.
- **Lecture on Sámi art** by Ph.D. scholar **Irene Snarby**, University of Tromsø.

The overall themes for the conference invite contributions on a variety of topics. Papers may address, but are by no means restricted to, the following questions: What does research on indigenous art tell us about “established” theories, historiographies and methodologies in the history of art or related disciplines? In what ways are contemporary art global – or not? How may we theorize about issues such as historiography, aesthetics, representation, indigeneity, nationalism, queer/outsider, art criticism and curating in the 21st century? What are the ethical challenges in research on indigenous and contemporary art and how can we develop possible solutions to them?

Length of papers: 20 minutes.

Abstracts of no more than 200 words should be sent to Svein Aamold (svein.aamold@uit.no) by 15th October 2012.

Ph.D. scholars may also apply for a partial funding of their travel- and tuition costs for the conference.



Gunvor Guttorm, *Ikte, Odne, Ihttin*, 2001. Foto: RDM/Marvin Hope.

The conference is being arranged by the Sámi Art Research Project ([SARP](#)), funded by The Research Council of Norway and The Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education, University of Tromsø. [SARP](#) includes six art historian researchers at the University of Tromsø, and twelve collaborating researchers, curators and artists from Norway, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland. Please see the [SARP](#) webpage for more information about the conference, including a preliminary programme:

http://uit.no/publikum/prosjekter/prosjekt?p_document_id=300799

The conference papers will be considered for publication in the anthology scheduled to present the results of SARP to a wider public.

We are proud to invite you all to Tromsø, 69,65 degrees North, and to the Northernmost university in the world. In addition to plenary lectures and workshops at the University, the conference will be offering cultural events, an exhibition opening of Sámi art, dinners and visits in the centre of Tromsø.