

Our Arctic Archive



Our Arctic Archive consists of works that unfolded through an artist- in residence stay at Arctica Svalbard in Longyearbyen 2021. The stay was made possible through OCA (Office for Contemporary Art) and lasted a little more than one month. The methods for artistic enquiry were based on archiving experiences, dialogues, or impressions through material such as lino print on both textiles and paper, as well as through documentation of movements within the landscape. Our aim was not to reach a specific destination, but to be on a journey of process and to see where it could lead us. We walked and passed the deeply ancient landscapes and wondered on the way, how did we as human beings arrive here in the first place, on the land that is the land of the glaciers, mountains, and polar bears amongst other? How could we be visitors on the land fragile for human activity?

Our physical work started almost the first days of our stay to carve our first prints in studio, without so much background information in our bodies. As time passed, experiences deepened and the digestion of them came more frequently. The stories within the lino prints came to life as our dialogues with the surroundings was opening. You are invited to witness some of the stories in the exhibition.

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Further is our work a poetic and collaborative story about sea Sámi culture that we both carry in different ways. It is a story about heritage and a dialogue about political difficulties in the Sámi communities today. It brings up sensations of daily life and the ordinary together with the more- than human world aspect. The work is about coffee talks and daily walks.

It is a humbling experience to be able to come back to Svalbard. To revisit this archive that already has developed and changed with time. The mountains and the glaciers that are not the same, yet still the same.

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Our archive is full of tactile moments of movements, which are continuously developing, and we are curious to exhibit works that can live further with the arctic landscape and the people with time.

To share a moment of how our process was unfolding collectively in the Artica Studio, we share few notes from the archive diary, written by Ramona.

It was in the Artica studio Katarina, and I would experience how printing is supposed to be done with the right equipment. When we got started in the studio, we rolled ink on our cut linoframes, went to the small press, folded away felt cloth no. 3, no. 2 and no. 1, placed the frame, then the paper to print on, then a thin paper for protecting the felt cloth no. 1, and then we stood on each our side of the press, laid down felt cloth No. 1, No. 2 and finally No. 3. Then we rolled the press over our frames, ink, paper, and cloth. It took several times to find the right pressure on the press. Then lifted felt cloth no. 3, no. 2 and then no. 1. Carefully removed the thin paper, and with great anticipation lifted the printing paper to reveal the quality of the motif. How much ink had we used? Was it evenly distributed? Was there enough pressure? Finally, we got a rhythm, which reminded me of a scene in an old movie.

Ramona and Katarina

Artistic Bio:**Ramona Salo Myrseth
and Katarina Skår Lisa**

Ramona Salo Myrseth and Katarina Skår Lisa are two independent artists that works as a collaborative duo. Together they explore a common yet personal enquiry in contemporary arts through their Sea Sámi heritage. They are concerned with creating art related to ecology, relations, culture, and care. Their aim is to investigate ways of learning and practise with a Sea Sámi cosmology and their landscapes.

Their projects look specifically at contemporary art and storytelling through movement, textile, choreography, and design. Works that they have collaborated with are amongst others; *Gift of Stone* (2019), *Passing through Landscapes* (2019 and 2022), *Ung Kunst project* at Festspillene I Nord- Norge (2021) and *Cazevulosniedia – The Underwater Girl* (2021). They have also attended artistic residency together at Vadsø Gjesteatelier (2019), Fossekleiva Art and Culture centre (2019), Stiftelsen Lásságámme (2020) and Artica Svalbard (2021).

Salo Myrseth and Skår Lisa has previously held a performance lecture at PAO Festival (2019) and a lecture presentation for students in choreography at Kilpisjarvi Bio arts research centre (2019). The duo was nominated to the Skulpturpunkt Ekebergparken competition to make a proposal for a new three-dimensional work outdoors. A work competition they did not win, but that they hope can be realized in other ways in the future.

Artistic Bio:**Ramona Salo Myrseth**

Ramona Salo Myrseth is a clothing designer currently based in Gáivuona suohkan / Kåfjord in Northern Norway/Sápmi. She has a master's degree in fashion design from the Oslo National Academy of the Arts. As both an artisan, fashion designer and storyteller she explores materials, textures, cultural and personal memories, and tries to navigate between different perspectives and landscapes with needle and thread as traveling tools. Her practice is influenced by her upbringing in Sápmi, where these forms of expressions are woven into the aesthetic, but also philosophical aspect of her work. Ecology and sustainability are important anchor points in her practice.

Artistic Bio:

Katarina Skår Lisa

Katarina Skår Lisa is a moving artist, choreographer and teacher who holds a MA in choreography from the Oslo National Academy of the Arts. Through her artistic enquiry she is looking at her own heritage as Norwegian, with sea Sámi roots from Nesseby in Finnmark/Sápmi. Specifically, she looks at the intertwined relation between nature, culture, human being, and how the landscapes can be our teacher, guide and co-creator of our process and work.

Lisa's work can be placed in the intersection between performing arts and performance art. Her expression highlights interdisciplinary collaborations as an important visual, relational, artistic and social method of working. In this way she feels that the artworks not only relate to the artworld but also the nature of our society, raising voice (hopefully) to multiple perspectives of the heard- unheard, the seen- unseen.

The sound works in the exhibition are by the Sámi musician, composer and joiker Lávre Johan Eira and the Norwegian musician and composer, working in the field of performative arts and choreography, Simen Korsmo Robertsen.

“Our Arctic Archive” is an exhibition initiated by Nordnorsk Kunstmuseum and curated by Lise Dahl.