

**Title:** Art and Design on the Edge: Challenge, change and opportunity in the Arctic

**Glen Coutts and Timo Jokela**, University of Lapland, Finland

This presentation will be in three parts, the first part will address the central theme of the session: challenge in the Arctic, as viewed through the lens of contemporary art as the agent for change. We will present art developments at the University of Lapland and, in particular, a thematic network called *Arctic Sustainable Arts and Design (ASAD)* that focuses on innovative ways of using contemporary art to address socio-cultural issues in diverse cultural contexts.

In the second part, the theme of change will be addressed, we will reflect on developments in art education in the North, and a new initiative located at the intersection of art and design practice, that draws on the key strengths of both the art and design disciplines. Referred to as *Applied Visual Arts*, the studies require students to work on issues related to the Arctic and the circumpolar north, thus creating a challenging environment for students to create innovative solutions with community groups.

The third part of the presentation will consider some of the opportunities that the unique socio-cultural and ecological conditions that exist in the Arctic afford. In presenting selected case studies, we examine the role of art and its potential benefits when operating in the field and in collaboration with local partners. How might the techniques and methods of art and design be used to the benefit of local people and businesses?

#### **Presenters**

**Glen Coutts** is a professor of applied visual arts at the university of Lapland and is currently principal editor of the *International Journal of Education through Art*. He writes regularly about issues in art, community and education.

**Timo Jokela** is a professor of art education and Dean of the Faculty of Art and Design, University of Lapland and has published extensively on issues related to the North, art and environment in leading international journals and invited book contributions.