Call for Proposals

Relate North 2025 is an English-language, peer-reviewed symposium. We seek proposals for our online symposium on **November 3-4, 2025**, that aim to chronicle, document, and critically analyze art, design, craft, and education in the North, including Arctic and near-Arctic regions, which focus on the theme "Lessons of the Land".

Within this broad theme, we understand that Land is not simply a place one "goes out to." Instead, we invite presentations that recognize Land as a vibrant and generous teacher—a pedagogy in and of itself. We acknowledge that Land is deeply connected to the creative practices, governance, wellbeing, and worldviews of Indigenous Peoples globally. Moreover, as a political movement, Land represents a critical site for healing, resistance, and transformative change. The connection between human beings and Land transcends borders, resonating universally as an innate bond that every person, regardless of their location, can understand and feel.

How does Land teach us?

To explore this question, we seek proposals that explore visual arts and design projects, traditional and contemporary craft, arts-based research, and educational initiatives from across the circumpolar North that engage with the Land as a teacher. This symposium seeks to share understandings and approaches to both Indigenous land-based education and land-based education more generally, including the interface of interdisciplinary and collaborative pedagogy.

We welcome presentation proposals that critically engage with the theme "Lessons of the Land" and address the following areas:

- **Land-based, place-based, and site-specific design, art, research, education, and interdisciplinary projects** in sub-Arctic, Arctic, and Northern regions.

- **Creative practices and projects** that engage with the **land rights of Indigenous Peoples** in the global North.

- **Initiatives that facilitate reconnection to Land** in the global North.

- **Creative responses to climate-related challenges** facing Northern communities.

- **Arts education programs or creative practices that foster reciprocal relationships** and attune to **non-human entities** through engagement with the Land.

- **Enhancement of kinship, land protection and responsibilities**; and the decolonisation of nature through art and design education.

- Projects considering budding **relationships to Land amongst Newcomers** to the global North are encouraged.

About the Relate North symposiums

The **Relate North** symposiums explore and share contemporary practices in arts-based research and academic knowledge exchange in arts, design, and visual culture education.

Each symposium consists of peer-reviewed presentations. The symposiums engage academic researchers, artists, designers, art educators, and practice-based researchers.

Timeline for submissions and the review process

The organizers invite the submission of a synopsis (abstract) of the proposed contribution (up to 500 words). Please submit synopsis by **July 15, 2025**.

Synopsis should be emailed to: madelineak@mun.ca and rseifpanahi@mun.ca

Organizers will select abstracts for the symposium by **July 30, 2025**, and you will be notified through email.

Please note: the book "Relate North 2025" will be published at the time of the symposium. To download previous volumes of **Relate North**, please follow this link: https://www.insea.org/insea-publications-2-2/

Guidelines for presenters

- When submitting, presenters should bear in mind the overall theme of the series: Sustainable Arts and Design in the Arctic and the North.

- A short author biographical note is also required (maximum 100 words). The proposal should not contain your biographical note, but it can be sent in the same file. Please include a contact email address.

- Send text documents in Microsoft Word (.docx) format with low-resolution images embedded in the document to show preferred positions.