

RELATE NORTH 2025



Billy Gauthier, *Intertwined*, 2024, Whale scapula, caribou sinew caribou antler and serpentine

LESSONS OF THE LAND

November 3-4, 2025

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About the Relate North Symposiums

[The 13th Annual Relate North Symposium](#) is happening online on November 3rd and 4th, 2025. The Symposium brings together artists and designers, knowledge keepers, researchers, and scholars from across the Circumpolar North to share Indigenous art and land-based knowledge, and land-based arts education more generally. This year's theme is "Lessons of the Land". ASL interpretation is provided by NLAD.

Relate North is coordinated by [Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador](#) in collaboration with the [University of Lapland](#), [Umeå University](#), [Nord University](#), and [Yukon University](#). The Symposium is part of the [Thematic Network on Arctic Sustainable Arts and Design \(ASAD\)](#).

Memorial University's Leslie Harris Centre of Regional Policy and Development has awarded \$40 000 funding for the project from the Global Arctic Leadership Initiative Fund for Indigenous and Northern Collaborative Research and Education Engagement.

Registration Links

To register for the Symposium, please follow the links below. There are separate links for each day. Once you register, you will receive the schedule and a video tutorial for using the Webex platform.

Nov 3rd: <https://mun.webex.com/.../rb83e6d151ab700e9454327d4ebff522b>

Nov 4th: <https://mun.webex.com/.../r1058099326629bd0a4dfd3dbe3ac562e>

Art Exhibition

Relate North includes an arts-based exhibition. Artists from across the Circumpolar North have generously contributed their arts-based research for knowledge sharing and community building. The online exhibition opens on November 3.

[Relate North 2025 Online Art Exhibition](#)

Relate North Schedule November 3-4, 2025

November 3, 2025: Morning

Time	Name	Country	Title	Summary
9:00	Organizers	Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada		-Welcome and Introduction -Webex housekeeping -Online Exhibition -Positionality
9:15	Anne Pickard	St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada		Introduce Billy
9:20	Billy Gauthier	Nunatsiavut	Keynote	Keynote Presentation
9:50	Heather McLeod	Victoria, British Columbia, Canada		Thank you to Billy
9:55	Luis Berríos-Negrón	Sweden	Of tree nurseries... and Let the River speak	The decolonisation of nature through art and design education, with a focus on enhancing kinship, land protection, and environmental responsibilities
10:10	Ni Lin	Taiwan/Finland	Even If The Nets Break, The Farmed Salmon Can Never Escape Their Modified Bodies: Filming Transformational Sustainability in Seyðisfjörður	Intersection of environmental sustainability, the ecological impacts of aquaculture, and the transformative power of art in community and ecological activism
10:30	Hanna Ólafsdóttir	Iceland	"It Looks Cold Even Though It Is Supposed to Be Summer": Children Listening to Land in Museums	Listening to Land through Art and Museums
10:45	Break: 15 mins			
11:00	Organizers	Memorial University		Welcome back

11:05	Dr. Ásthildur Björg Jónsdóttir	Iceland	Green Memories: Art, Plants, and the Embodied Archive of Place	Interconnectedness of memory, ecology, and participatory art within specific landscapes, particularly in sub-Arctic and Northern regions
11:20	Timo Jokela	Finland	Lesson of the River	How the Ounas River in Northern Finland serves as a dynamic ecosystem and cultural lifeline, emphasizing the interconnectedness of land and water in shaping eco-culture
11:35	Natarsha Bates and Susan Hauri-Downing	Sweden/ Australia	"There's no future in ice": Lichen, Reindeer, Olfaction and Environmental Change	How climate change disrupts olfactory interactions between lichen, reindeer, and ice in Sápmi, affecting migration patterns, ecosystems, and cultural practices
11:50	Organizers	Memorial University		-Thank you to morning presenters -Information about online exhibition during lunch
12:00	Lunch Break: one hour			Art Exhibition - Billy Gauthier, Heather Campbell and Anne Pickard

November 3, 2025: Afternoon

Time	Name	Country	Title	Summary
1:00	Organizers			Welcome back
1:05	Niko Väistö & Maria Huhmarniemi	Finland	Significant other of the North: Ecoculture in documentary storytelling in Polar Night Light	The representation of ecocultural relationships through documentary filmmaking, specifically focusing on multispecies companionship and sustainable living in the Nordic environment.
1:20	Julie Lewis	St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador	"Beta: the Sensory Wolf" - Land as Pedagogy	Exploring how interactive digital art rooted in Newfoundland's sub-Arctic ecosystems weaves together technology, ecology, and Indigenous knowledge to reimagine relationships with Land, extinction, and environmental change.
1:35	Genevieve Sawyer Males	Scotland	Regenerative Dissonance: Speculative listening and the registers of the Flow Country	Reimagining human relationships with complex, dynamic ecosystems through immersive, sensory engagement and decolonized perspectives
1:50	Dr. Jennifer Anderson	Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada	Practicing your craft: Returning to place to restore, enrich, and foster creativity	How teachers' engagement with artistic and place-based creative practice can enrich their teaching repertoire and foster creativity in their pedagogy.
2:05	Break: 15 mins			

2:20	Organizers	Memorial University		Welcome back
2:25	Alison Shields, Beili Liu, Eszter Sziksz and Danielle Schlunegger-Warner	Canada, USA, Hungary	My eyes are full of here: Learning from the water and land aboard an artist residency on a tall ship in the Arctic	Exploration of ecological connection, environmental vulnerability, and the transformative role of art in addressing climate change
2:40	Dr. Ruth Beer	Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada	Materiality, Artistic Practice and Learning of the Land	How artistic expressions, particularly through sculptures, woven tapestries, and photographs, engage with landscapes affected by resource extraction, sustainability issues, and the climate crisis
2:55	Mette Gårdvik, Karin Stoll & Wenche Sørmo	Norway	Lessons of the Land: Integrating Science, Art, and Sámi Knowledge in Circumpolar Education	The integration of science, art, and Sámi cultural knowledge within circumpolar education to foster ecological literacy, cultural awareness, and identity development
3:10	Polly Blake	Inverness, Scotland	'Le marginal' – being comfortable with uncertainty	Exploring concepts of liminality, peripheral spaces, and the metaphorical significance of natural phenomena—like sea fog—as representations of societal turbulence, borders, and belonging
3:25	Byron Alexander, Chief of Indian Head First Nation			Open discussion
3:55	Organizers	Memorial University		Closing Words

November 4, 2025: Morning

Time	Name	Country	Title	Summary
9:00	Organizers	Memorial University		-Welcome to Day 2 -Webex housekeeping -Art Exhibition Part 2
9:15	Video	Memorial University		Sophie Angnatok
9:20	Sophie Angnatok	Nunatsiavut St. John's, Canada		Interview with Anne
9:30	Maria Huhmarniemi	Finland	Lessons of the Land: Ecocultural Practices in Wool and Natural Dyeing	The evolving relationship between traditional textile practices and contemporary ecological concerns
9:45	Siv Årsand	Norway	Weaving Stone	Exploring how weaving, an ancient technology, serves as a foundational metaphor for understanding the development of mathematics, written language, and computer programming
10:00	Dr. Vitalija Povilaityte-Petri, Viktorija Baltušienė, Jonas Vytautas Petri, and Brussels Health Gardens (BHG)	Belgium Sweden	Learning with plants, people, technology, places and land	Transformative learning through the interconnectedness of plants, people, technology, places, and land
10:15	Xiaowei Zhang	Finland	The Land as Teacher: Interdisciplinary Art & Science education in Arctic Classrooms	The integration of art and science within educational frameworks to cultivate ecological awareness, cultural identity, and creativity
10:30	Break: 15 minutes			
10:45	Organizers	Memorial University		Welcome back

10:50	Dr. Yelyzaveta (Lisa) Glybchenko	Finland	FUTURES DESIGN: Augmented Reality Design of Futures' Demos in Finland and Ukraine	The innovative use of augmented reality (AR) technologies for peacebuilding and futures design in the context of Ukraine's defense against Russia's war of aggression
11:05	Dr. Korinna Korsström- Magga and Dr. Mirja Hiltunen	Finland	Land as a bond for community: New genre Arctic art education generating sustainable change	Exploration and support of the strong eco-cultural bond between northern Indigenous and local communities and their environment through art-based action research
11:20	Dr. Herminia Din	Alaska, United States	The Alaska Beach Project – Create an Eco Art to Connecting Land and Mind	The exploration of eco-art as a means to connect land and mind through natural materials and patterns reflective of local geology
11:35	Billy Gauthier	Nunatsiavut		Open discussion
11:50	Organizers	Memorial University		-Thank you to morning presenters -Art Exhibition part 2 during lunch
12:00	Lunch: one hour			Art Exhibition - Billy Gauthier, Heather Campbell and Anne Pickard

November 4, 2025: Afternoon

Time	Name	Country	Title	Summary
1:00	Organizers	Memorial University		Welcome back
1:05	Janne Sirniö and Åsa Andersson Martti	Sweden	Dreaming with the Land: Visionary Cognition and Sacred Place-Making in the Swedish Arctic	How dreams and visionary cognition serve as relational knowledge practices, mediating sacred place-making and decolonial learning within Indigenous and land-based spiritual contexts
1:20	Christine Taylor Fearing and Rhonda Pelley	Newfoundland and Labrador, British Columbia	Crip Cartographies: Tarot as Access, Land as Teacher	The intersection of land-based knowledge, Crip practices, and Tarot as transformative, trauma-informed tools for understanding and navigating the world
1:45	Nadine Malcolm and Sydney Henderson	Scotland	The Eagle with the Sunlit Eye	The intertwined histories of land, language, and species in the Scottish Highlands, particularly focusing on the impact of the Highland Clearances and the colonial erasure embedded in naming conventions and conservation narratives
2:10	Break:15 minutes			
2:25	Organizers	Memorial University		Welcome back
2:30	Dr. Ranjan Datta, Dr. Felix Nwaishi, Dr. Katherine Lawless & Dr. Margot A. Hurlbert	Calgary, Canada	Climate Justice in the Arctic: Land-based Knowledge and Practice as Pathways to Climate Action	Critical role of Indigenous Elders' storytelling, oral histories, and land-based educational traditions in addressing climate change

2:45	Jonathan Lush	Newfoundland and Labrador	The Blue Tent of Pagnirtung	The integration of traditional Inuit knowledge and community values with contemporary art practices to create meaningful educational experiences
3:00	Alina Ben Larbi	Scotland	Verbatim Storytelling for Belonging	Belonging and the role of verbatim storytelling in addressing loneliness within communities
3:15	Byron Alexander, Chief of Indian Head First Nation			Open discussion
3:45	Organizers	Memorial University		-Thank you to all presenters -Mailing list for knowledge sharing -Online Art Exhibition link and closing date -Invite Billy to lead Closing Circle
3:50	Billy Gauthier	Nunatsiavut		Closing Circle

*Please note, while every effort will be made to adhere to the schedule, session start times may vary slightly depending on presenter timing and session flow.

Presenter Biographies: November 3rd

Time: 9:20

Billy Gauthier, Nunatsiavut

Keynote Speaker

Biography: Billy Gauthier is an Inuit carver. His materials are those of his ancestors - the stone, the bone and the baleen that populate the shores and lands of his native Labrador. His work pays homage to those ancestors - to their land and their way of life. But Billy Gauthier is a contemporary man; a man of his time. His awareness of the dangers of climate change - to his land and to his culture - have led him to depict these contemporary themes in his work, reinforcing his role as an activist and an environmentalist.

Gauthier works with extreme attention to detail; the delicacy of his finished pieces belies the strength of the materials. The apparent fluidity of the stone is remarkable - the stone flows like water. The grace and elegance of the turn of a loon's neck, for example, or the wispy tendrils of a breath, show Billy Gauthier's mastery. This smoothness is a hallmark and makes his work readily identifiable as coming from his hands.

Experiment is key to Billy Gauthier's way of learning. Learning the capabilities of his tools, and the capacities of his materials, he pushes himself to his limits. He was always willing to force things to the point where his tools or his materials would break. Although he tries his best not to break things, in his eyes, it's the only way you can truly know how much the material can bear. Perhaps he has taken this approach from lessons taught by the larger world. Perhaps humanity is pushing the earth as hard as it can to find out how much it can take.

Billy believes that anything that's broken can also be fixed, giving life and hope to his work. Sure of hand, and confident in his abilities, Billy Gauthier knows that his most powerful voice is in making his best work. His deep commitment to make work that honours and respects the Earth and its gifts makes that work extraordinary.

Time: 9:55 Nov. 3

Luis Berríos-Negrón, Sweden

Of tree nurseries... and Let the River speak

Description: The decolonisation of nature through art and design education, with a focus on enhancing kinship, land protection, and environmental responsibilities

Biography: Luis Berríos Negrón is a Puerto Rican environmental artist and experimental architect researching decolonial forms and forces of climate injustice. He serves as Associate Professor at the Umeå University (2024-ongoing). Beyond his practice and exhibitions based in Berlin (2006-17), and doctoral work at Konstfack KTH (2015-2020), his current work stems from post-hurricane reforestation research in Puerto Rico at Para La Naturaleza's Art & Science Research Residency (PR, 2021–22), as Postdoctoral Fellow in Art and Architecture at UmArts in Umeå University in partnership with Bildmuseet (SE, 2023–2024), and currently as collaborator in Hosting Lands, a slow-growing, decentral exhibition movement unfolding around land across Denmark (2024-ongoing).

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Time: 10:10 Nov. 3

Ni Lin, Finland/Taiwan

Even If The Nets Break, The Farmed Salmon Can Never Escape Their Modified Bodies

Description: Intersection of environmental sustainability, the ecological impacts of aquaculture, and the transformative power of art in community and ecological activism

Biography: Lin Ni is a doctoral student at the faculty of art in University of Lapland under supervision from associate professor Maria Huhmarniemi. She has hosted educational workshops at Saari Residence, Relate North 12 Symposium. Her work has been exhibited at the Ateneum Art Museum in UrbanApa Festival, the Research Pavilion#5 in HIAP Augusta Gallery in Finland, Haus Der Statistik, Kunstkraftwerk, and Helmut Space in Germany, Herðubreið Gallery in Iceland, and independent festivals such as Flat Earth Film Fest. In 2023, they were nominated for the Chi-Po-Lin Film Award in Taiwan.

Time: 10:30 Nov. 3

Hanna Ólafsdóttir, Iceland

“It Looks Cold Even Though It Is Supposed to Be Summer”: Children Listening to Land in Museums

Description: Listening to Land through Art and Museums

Biography: Hanna Ólafsdóttir is an Assistant Professor of Visual Arts and Chair of the graduate program in Visual Arts at the University of Iceland, School of Education. Her academic background includes an MA in Arts Education (Iceland Academy of the Arts, 2011), a BA in Visual Arts, and a degree in Philosophy. Her research focuses on visual arts and teacher education, particularly research in and through the arts. The field spans aesthetic, interdisciplinary, and cross-cultural work, alongside citizenship education within a social justice context, and transformative and critical learning approaches.

Time: 11:05 Nov. 3

Dr. Ásthildur Björg Jónsdóttir, Iceland

Green Memories: Art, Plants, and the Embodied Archive of Place

Description: Interconnectedness of memory, ecology, and participatory art within specific landscapes, particularly in sub-Arctic and Northern regions

Biography: Ásthildur Jónsdóttir, Iceland (b. 1970) has PhD from University of Iceland and Doctor of Arts from University of Lapland. MA from NYU and Med from University of Iceland. Jónsdóttir is an educator, artist, researcher, curator and art teacher. She works at the Iceland University of the Arts, since 2009. She has studied artistic actions for sustainability, community-based art and participatory art practices when finding a balance between well-being and the integrity of nature. Concepts from critical, place-based education for sustainability, participatory pedagogy, collective efficacy and places /spaces are fundamental to her research interests. Her research interests include arts and cultural movements that support sustainability at all levels. For a number of years, she has been involved with issues concerning the ecology of the planet. In her work she is concerned about places/ environment, memories, recollection and identity through authorship and collaboration, questioning individuality, exploring what is unique and what is common. With her works, she wants to bring attention to how human interaction can further both the understanding and practice of wellbeing with respect to the integrity of nature. In later years, participation has played an essential role in her works. With participation, she creates settings for people to experience significance through actions performed in close connection with the spirits of nature. She often works with installations in a contemporary context and with the voices of participants from a selected place.

Time: 11:20 Nov. 3

Timo Jokela, Finland

Lesson of the River

Description: How the Ounas River in Northern Finland serves as a dynamic ecosystem and cultural lifeline, emphasizing the interconnectedness of land and water in shaping eco-culture

Biography: Timo Jokela is Professor Emeritus of Art Education at the University of Lapland. He has led the Arctic Sustainable Art and Design network of the University of the Arctic and has served as the UArctic Chair of Art, Design and Culture. Jokela's research interests focus on the relationships between northern cultures, art, and nature. He has led several regional, national, and international art-based research projects that have approached art, education, teaching, and learning from the perspective of sustainability. Jokela also works actively as an environmental and community artist, often using natural materials such as snow, ice, and wood, as well as the local eco-cultural heritage of the northern and Arctic regions as starting points for his works. He has carried out numerous exhibitions, environmental art projects, and community art projects in Finland and abroad.

Time: 11:35 Nov. 3

Natarsha Bates and Susan Hauri-Downing, Sweden/Australia

“There’s no future in ice”: Lichen, Reindeer, Olfaction and Environmental Change

Description: How climate change disrupts olfactory interactions between lichen, reindeer, and ice in Sápmi, affecting migration patterns, ecosystems, and cultural practices

Biographies:

Based in Whadjuk Nyungar Boodja / Southwestern Australia, **Susan Hauri-Downing** works at the intersections of social work and artistic methodologies. Her art practice focuses on bio-cultural diversity, ecological grief and loss and interspecies relationships.

Based in Ubmeje Sápmi / Northern Sweden, **Tarsh Bates** is a transdisciplinary artist/researcher/educator interested in the aesthetics of interspecies relationships and queer ecologies. We collaborate on the *Scents of Solastalgia* project, which examines the significance of olfactory landscapes to the rapidly changing, multi-species experiences of place through a series of eco-sensory residencies, workshops and artworks.

Time: 12:00 Nov. 3 & 4

Heather Campbell, Rigolet, Nunatsiavut

Co-Facilitator of Lunchtime Art Talk

Biography: Coming soon!

Time: 1:05 Nov. 3

Niko Väistö & Maria Huhmarniemi, Finland

Significant other of the North: Ecoculture in documentary storytelling in Polar Night Light

Description: The representation of ecocultural relationships through documentary filmmaking, specifically focusing on multispecies companionship and sustainable living in the Nordic environment.

Biographies:

Niko Väistö (MA/MSSc) is a documentary filmmaker and doctoral candidate based in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Lapland. With a background in sociology and wilderness guiding, Niko combines the art of storytelling with a deep connection to nature and community. His work aims to inspire sustainable mindsets and challenge existing perceptions, using narrative art to foster transformative thinking and promote a more ecologically and socially sustainable future.

Maria Huhmarniemi, DA, is a Vice Dean and Associate Professor at the Faculty of Arts and Design, University of Lapland. She is dedicated to art and research that enhances cultural sustainability in the Arctic and promotes Arctic art and art education. She has created socially and environmentally engaged art, pioneering arts-based methods to address societal needs. Huhmarniemi is UArctic Chair in Arctic Art and Design and she leads the Arctic Sustainable Arts and Design network.

Time: 1:20 Nov. 3

Julie Lewis, Canada

"Beta: the Sensory Wolf" - Land as Pedagogy

Description: Exploring how interactive digital art rooted in Newfoundland's sub-Arctic ecosystems weaves together technology, ecology, and Indigenous knowledge to reimagine relationships with Land, extinction, and environmental change.

Biography: Julie Lewis is a freelance professional artist based in St. John's, Newfoundland, specializing in drawing, acrylic, and watercolor painting with digital techniques. Since 2002, she has operated SassyTuna Studio®, teaching over 10,000 art sessions to students aged 5-17. Her work includes large-scale murals for commissions and has been exhibited across Canada and Internationally. Certified in therapeutic art, Julie explores intersections of technology, education, nature, and health through her creative practice.

Time: 1:35 Nov. 3

Genevieve Sawyer Males, Scotland

Regenerative Dissonance: Speculative listening and the registers of the Flow Country

Description: Reimagining human relationships with complex, dynamic ecosystems through immersive, sensory engagement and decolonized perspectives

Biography: Genevieve Sawyer Males is a creative practice-led PhD Candidate at the University of Dundee. She holds a MFA (by research) from the University of Dundee, a BA (hons) in Contemporary Art Practice from the University of Dundee, and a BA in psychology from Simpson University. Her interests lie in nurturing human relationships with the environment and in decolonizing the value systems that determine so much of human behaviour.

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Time: 1:50 Nov. 3

Dr. Jennifer Anderson, Canada

Practicing your craft: Returning to place to restore, enrich, and foster creativity

Description: How teachers' engagement with artistic and place-based creative practice can enrich their teaching repertoire and foster creativity in their pedagogy.

Biography: Jennifer Anderson, PhD, has a rich pan-Canadian and international experience across all levels of the K–12 and post-secondary education systems. Alongside her research and teaching, she has served as a consultant for provincial, national (PCAP), and international (PISA) mathematics assessment programs, as well as for educational evaluation initiatives in Asia and the Caribbean. Her research and publications focus on place-based mathematics, the ways in which cultures define and assess competencies, and how these values shape educational programming and learning—particularly within northern and remote communities.

Time: 2:25 Nov. 3

Alison Shields, Beili Liu, Eszter Sziksz and Danielle Schlunegger-Warner, Canada/USA/Hungary

My eyes are full of here: Learning from the water and land aboard an artist residency on a tall ship in the Arctic

Description: Exploration of ecological connection, environmental vulnerability, and the transformative role of art in addressing climate change

Biographies:

Alison Shields is an Associate Professor in Art Education at the University of Victoria. She received a PhD in art education from the University of British Columbia and an MFA from the University of Waterloo. She has exhibited her paintings and drawings within Canada and Europe and has participated in local and international residencies, including The Arctic Circle in Svalbard, Norway, and Friday Harbor Laboratories in

Washington. Her current artistic research examines painting processes and local marine ecologies.

Danielle Schlunegger-Warner grew up among the sand dunes and shell shops of the Southern California coast. Her early love of nature and museums guided her towards becoming a multimedia artist working in installation art and museum exhibits. With over 10 years of experience around exhibit creation from concept to fabrication, Danielle has been passionate about creating artworks and experiences that center around wonder, curiosity and learning through play. Danielle helps create award-winning exhibits that travel the country in her role as Fabrication Lead at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry. She also makes and shows her artwork in galleries around the Pacific Northwest and in Philadelphia.

Beili Liu is a visual artist who creates material-and-process-driven, site-responsive installations and performances. Liu's current research focuses on environmental concerns and the urgency of the climate crisis on a planetary scale. Liu is an Institute for the Humanities Fellow (2020-2022) and the Leslie Waggner Endowed Professor in the College of Fine Arts at the University of Texas at Austin.

Eszter Sziksz is a Hungarian artist, and has traveled and lived in several countries from Asia to Europe. Her work blends printmaking, installation and video elements. She is an active artist and has shown at the regional and international level from Tokyo to Budapest. As a printmaker, she explores the Ephemeron---or shifting material states of each piece as it grows in time, decays, and leaves a trace of memory.

Time: 2:40 Nov. 3

Dr. Ruth Beer, Canada

Materiality, Artistic Practice and Learning of the Land

Description: How artistic expressions, particularly through sculptures, woven tapestries, and photographs, engage with landscapes affected by resource extraction, sustainability issues, and the climate crisis

Biography: Ruth Beer is a Vancouver-based Canadian artist, of European heritage, gratefully living on the lands of the Squamish, Musquem and the Tsleil-Waututh people. Her interdisciplinary research creation practice examines and envisions contested geographies and landscapes in transition. Her artworks, which include sculpture, video, photography, and tapestry, have been exhibited internationally. Ruth's recent SSHRC-supported research-creation projects include *Trading Routes: Grease Trails, Oil Pipelines* and *Shifting Ground: Mapping Energy, Geographies and Communities in the North*. Ruth is Professor of Art in the Faculty of Art and Graduate Studies at Emily Carr University of Art and Design.

Time: 2:55 Nov. 3

Mette Gårdvik, Karin Stoll & Wenche Sørmo, Norway

Lessons of the Land: Integrating Science, Art, and Sámi Knowledge in Circumpolar Education

Description: The integration of science, art, and Sámi cultural knowledge within circumpolar education to foster ecological literacy, cultural awareness, and identity development

Biographies:

Mette Gårdvik is professor in Art and Crafts Education at Nord University, Nesna campus. She holds both a bachelor's and a master's degree in art and crafts teacher education. Gårdvik is a member of the research group Place-based Learning and

Education for Sustainable Development and represents Nord University in the University of the Arctic's thematic network Arctic Sustainable Arts and Design (ASAD). She is responsible for the international and interdisciplinary course Living in the Landscape, offered at master's and PhD level in collaboration with the University of Lapland, Finland. In addition to research, she teaches design, didactics, and arts and crafts at all levels of teacher education.

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Karin Stoll (Diplombiologist Friedrich Aleksander Universität Erlangen/Nürnberg, Germany) is associate professor in Natural Science Education at the Faculty of Education and Arts at Nord University. She has elaborated a strategy for teaching natural science interdisciplinary, art based and place based. Stoll is leader of the research group Place-based Learning and Education for Sustainable Development. Her research focuses on In-depth learning, outdoor education and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in the Arctic region. She was member of the national board for developing core elements for the new natural science curriculum for primary and secondary education in Norway.

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Wenche Sørmo is an associate professor (Dr. Scient. from the University of Tromsø, Norway) of natural science. Her background is in comparative physiology with a specialization on the seasonal changes in the anatomy and microbiology of the digestive system of reindeer. Since 2006, she has been educating teacher students in natural science. From 2013 she has been a member of the research group Place based learning and education for sustainable development at Nord University, Campus Nesna. Her main research concerns creative and interdisciplinary working methods, education for sustainable development and place based learning in teacher education.

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Time: 3:10 Nov. 3

Polly Blake, Scotland

'Le marginal' – being comfortable with uncertainty

Description: Exploring concepts of liminality, peripheral spaces, and the metaphorical significance of natural phenomena—like sea fog—as representations of societal turbulence, borders, and belonging

Biography: Being an English/French person with a neurodiverse family background, Polly is used to masking and adapting to her environment. Her art practice is multi-faceted, and she enjoys staging interventions into the social landscape and helping to facilitate creative spaces in which participatory art can happen. Polly adapts her practice to invite participants to engage and create in a playful way using surrealist parlour games, and photography approaching complex subjects challenging austerity, social isolation, and the climate crisis.

Time: 3:25 Nov. 3

Byron Alexander, Chief of Indian Head First Nation

Open Discussion



Biography: Byron Alexander is Chief of Indian Head First Nations and Interim President of the Federation of Newfoundland Indians. With over 35 years of experience in the health and fitness field, and nearly three decades as owner/operator of Universal Health Care, Byron has dedicated his life to wellness, self-sufficiency, and community empowerment.

Today, he carries this forward through Newfoundland Naturalist, an educational platform focused on reconnecting people to the land. Through guided foraging walks, homestead tours, and public presentations, he shares knowledge of wild foods, medicinal plants, and sustainable living. His work blends Indigenous teachings with Western science using the “Two-Eyed Seeing” approach, first coined by Elder Albert Marshall, to foster a deeper understanding of our connection to Mother Earth.

Byron is also working on his forthcoming book Backyard Medicine, a beginner-friendly field guide to the medicinal plants of western Newfoundland, which combines personal stories, traditional teachings, and modern science.

Passionate about food sovereignty, cultural knowledge, and community resilience, Byron’s work with Newfoundland Naturalist inspires others to live more seasonally, sustainably, and in harmony with the land.

Presenter Biographies: November 4th

Time: 9:20 Nov. 4

Sophie Angnatok, Nunatsiavut/St John's, Newfoundland and Labrador,
Canada



Biography: Sophie Angnatok is an Inuk artist from Nain, Nunatsiavut who currently resides in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. She has been practicing the art of throat-singing and traditional Inuit drumming for 20 years and plays an active role within her local urban Inuit community.

Sophie has performed for the Canadian Prime Minister during the Truth and Reconciliation apology for Labrador Inuit, the Governor General of Canada, and the Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador. In 2024, she was the inaugural recipient of the Chris Brookes Memorial Award for “artists effecting positive change in the world”.

Time: 9:30 Nov. 4

Maria Huhmarniemi, Finland

Lessons of the Land: Ecocultural Practices in Wool and Natural Dyeing

Description: The evolving relationship between traditional textile practices and contemporary ecological concerns

Biography: Maria Huhmarniemi, DA, is a Vice Dean and Associate Professor at the Faculty of Arts and Design, University of Lapland. She is dedicated to art and research that enhances cultural sustainability in the Arctic and promotes Arctic art and art education. She has created socially and environmentally engaged art, pioneering arts-based methods to address societal needs. Huhmarniemi is UArctic Chair in Arctic Art and Design and she leads the Arctic Sustainable Arts and Design network.

Time: 9:45 Nov. 4

Siv Årsand, Norway

Weaving Stone

Description: Transformative learning through the interconnectedness of plants, people, technology, places, and land

Biography: Siv Årsand is a Sea Sámi artist and researcher from Romssas / Tromsø, Norway, working on her PhD project at the Informatics Department at the University of Oslo. She is part of the Technology & Sustainable Futures research group and their Sustainability Lab. Her project explores how to design a Materials Library of Stones, with the aim of weaving connections between humans and their digital world(s). This is done by applying critical and systemic design, using Indigenous practices and knowledge as a lens.

Time: 10:00 Nov. 4

**Dr. Vitalija Povilaityte-Petri, Viktorija Baltušienė, Jonas Vytautas Petri,
and Brussels Health Gardens (BHG), Belgium/Sweden**

Learning with plants, people, technology, places and land

Description: Transformative learning through the interconnectedness of plants, people, technology, places, and land

Biographies:

Brussels Health Gardens (BHG) is a collective of caring citizen researchers and their kin, with links to Brussels, interested in exploring human-nature relationships. By acknowledging BHG as author, we want to stress out the importance of caring and learning in a collaboration with others, humans and nonhumans. The first activities of BHG were organised early 2019.

Dr. Vitalija Povilaityte-Petri (LT/SE/BE) is a pharmacist, transdisciplinary researcher, kin gardener and co-creator in urban communities focusing on nature-based health practices for resilience and personal exploration in possible becoming. In her work she is focusing on relational lived experiences shared between humans and plants.

Viktorija Baltušienė is preschool teacher based in North of Lithuania, specialised in systemic transdisciplinary learning, especially Reggio Emilia pedagogy. In her work she is exploring how ecology of communication rooted in research of Gregory Bateson and Nora Bateson can be applied locally by combining traditional ecological and global knowledge, focusing on transgenerational mutual learning.

Jonas Vytautas Petri is citizen researcher interested in cocreation research which explores human-plant relationships and becoming resilient with plants. He is interested in citizen science's connections to humanities and STS, sustainability, culture, history, economy, technology, political and legal systems, resources, public health, education and other fields.

Time: 10:15 Nov. 4

Xiaowei Zhang, Finland

The Land as Teacher: Interdisciplinary Art & Science education in Arctic Classrooms

Description: The integration of art and science within educational frameworks to cultivate ecological awareness, cultural identity, and creativity

Biography: Xiaowei Zhang is a doctoral candidate in Art Education at the Faculty of Art and Design, University of Lapland, Rovaniemi, Finland. Her research applies art-based action research to examine interdisciplinary education that connects art, science, and ecology. She explores how natural materials can serve as educational resources to foster children's creativity, ecological awareness, and embodied learning. She has presented her work at international conferences and published visual essays and articles on Arctic education, STEAM pedagogy, and sustainable art practices. Her studies contribute to advancing ecological and interdisciplinary approaches within contemporary art education.

Time: 10:50 Nov. 4

Dr. Yelyzaveta (Lisa) Glybchenko, Finland

FUTURES DESIGN: Augmented Reality Design of Futures' Demos in Finland and Ukraine

Description: The innovative use of augmented reality (AR) technologies for peacebuilding and futures design in the context of Ukraine's defense against Russia's war of aggression

Biography: Lisa Glybchenko - artist, and researcher, working with visual design innovation and digital technologies. In 2016, Lisa founded her peacebuilding startup Color Up Peace, which uses digital visual art-making as a futures design strategy of peace arrangements. Lisa's entrepreneurship is at the core of her completed PhD "Visual PeaceTech" (Tampere University, Finland). Lisa's work was recognized with the

2024 Transformative Futures in Peace and Security Prize (Geneva Centre for Security Policy, 3rd prize), 2023 Jon Rieger award for exceptional work in visual sociology (International Visual Sociology Association), and the 2023 Creative Achievement Award (International Visual Literacy Association).

Time: 11:05 Nov. 4

Dr. Korinna Korsström-Magga and Dr. Mirja Hiltunen, Finland

Land as a bond for community: New genre Arctic art education generating sustainable change

Description: Exploration and support of the strong eco-cultural bond between northern Indigenous and local communities and their environment through art-based action research

Biographies:

Mirja Hiltunen (Doctor of Art, MEd) is a professor of Art Education in the Faculty of Art and Design, University of Lapland, Rovaniemi, Finland. She has devised performative art as part of her work in art teacher education and has been leading community-based art education projects in Lapland for over twenty years. Place-specificity, performativity, and socially engaged art are her particular interests. She has presented numerous international research papers and has published her work in art education journals, books, and art exhibitions. She is one of the leaders of the Northern Art, Community and Environment Research Group (NACER) (<https://nacerteam.weebly.com/>).

Korinna Korsström-Magga, DA, is a freelance art educator and researcher. She emphasises community engagement, participation, and co-research in her work. Her main working field is in the North, in the Sámi homeland. In her doctoral study for the Faculty of Art and Design at the University of Lapland, Korsström-Magga explored the Sámi reindeer herders' contemporary daily living, involving the herders collecting visual research data. The project revealed their contemporary livelihood to other stakeholders

who are branching out on their ancient reindeer pastures. Her special interest is participatory community-based art education in order to enlighten and increase understanding between different communities.

Time: 11:20

Dr. Herminia Din, Alaska, United States

The Alaska Beach Project – Create an Eco Art to Connecting Land and Mind

Description: The exploration of eco-art as a means to connect land and mind through natural materials and patterns reflective of local geology

Biography: Dr. Din is Professor Emerita at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Since 2008, she has been advancing Junk to Funk—a community-based art series focuses on using recycled materials to create beautiful yet finished functional artwork. In 2014, she created the Winter Design Project, a collaborative learning experience connecting faculty and students to take an in-depth look at “ice” and “snow.” Presently, her work focuses on Plastic Pollution in the Arctic and using community art as an action for change. Grounded in educational theory and practice, she engages students in hands-on learning addressing a theme of global significance.

Time: 1:05 Nov. 4

Janne Sirniö and Åsa Andersson Martti, Sweden

Dreaming with the Land: Visionary Cognition and Sacred Place-Making in the Swedish Arctic

Description: How dreams and visionary cognition serve as relational knowledge practices, mediating sacred place-making and decolonial learning within Indigenous and land-based spiritual contexts

Biographies:

Janne Sirniö (he/him) with a post-MA focus on Theology, Ethnology, and Cognitive studies, and raised within Forest Sámi nature-based livelihoods, including reindeer ownership and the crafting of fishing lures, is a traditional healing professional and an engaged environmental advocate affiliated with the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation. Sirniö explores dreams, visionary cognition, and sacred place-making in Arctic contexts, with a self-reflexive and arts-based approach to environmental transformation, memory, and resilience.

Åsa Andersson Martti (she/her), MA Religious, Cultural, and Cognitive studies, is of Sámi and Lantalainen descent and rooted in reindeer herding traditions, traditional healing practices, craft, and activism. Åsa is the founder of the historical pilgrim trail and indigenous project Sámi Trail of Tears, based on forced dislocation of Sámi people at the beginning of 20th century.

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Time: 1:20 Nov. 4

Christine Taylor Fearing and Rhonda Pelley, Canada

Crip Cartographies: Tarot as Access, Land as Teacher

Description: The intersection of land-based knowledge, Crip practices, and Tarot as transformative, trauma-informed tools for understanding and navigating the world

Biographies:

Rhonda Pelley is a visual artist based in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, whose work explores feminist place-making, cultural memory, and the politics of Northern identity. A second-generation artist, she works in digital collage, photography, and installation. Her *Certain Strange Visions* (2025) reimagines Tarot through Newfoundland archetypes and landscapes. Pelley's work has been exhibited at The Rooms Provincial Art Gallery, Christina Parker Gallery, and the Musée de l'Elysée (Switzerland), and featured in *Canadian Art*, *Room*, and *Newfoundland Quarterly*. Her projects draw on lived experience and regional culture to unsettle dominant representations of femininity, spirituality, and place.

Christine Taylor Fearing is a queer feminist artist, writer, and Crip scholar living and working between Newfoundland, British Columbia, and the Isle of Lewis, Scotland. Profoundly Dyslexic and Neurodivergent, with Irlen Syndrome (a sensory disability), their practice is rooted in island culture, intergenerational memory, and land-based storytelling. A Doctoral Fellow funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, she is completing an interdisciplinary PhD at Memorial University and is a Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Victoria. Their work foregrounds Crip-informed access and centres those excluded from dominant artistic and educational frameworks.

Time: 1:45 Nov. 4

Nadine Malcolm & Sydney Henderson, Scotland

The Eagle with the Sunlit Eye

Description: The intertwined histories of land, language, and species in the Scottish Highlands, particularly focusing on the impact of the Highland Clearances and the colonial erasure embedded in naming conventions and conservation narratives

Biographies:

Sydney Henderson (she/ they) is a multi-disciplinary creative practitioner based in Inverness, in the Scottish highlands, currently studying Art and Social Practice MA at UHI Shetland. Her practice explores ecology, power structures, and fostering community around connection to nature, particularly through birding. Their practice includes an ongoing commitment as co-founder and leader of the Inverness chapter of the Feminist Bird Club, and is informed by her work with Cairngorms Connect, the UK's largest ecological restoration project.

Nadine Malcom (she/her) is a final year part-time student on the UHI Shetland Art & Social Practice MA course and Community Development Consultant working alongside conservation agency, Fauna & Flora, within her native region of north Sutherland, in the Scottish Highlands. Her practice draws on lived experience and inherited memory, to develop new context-specific methodologies that catalyse and forge connections between locals, newcomers and landowners, within these communities fractured by ongoing colonial legacies.

Time: 2:30 Nov. 4

**Dr. Ranjan Datta, Dr. Felix Nwaishi, Dr. Katherine Lawless & Dr.
Margot A. Hurlbert, Canada**

Climate Justice in the Arctic: Land-based Knowledge and Practice as Pathways to
Climate Action

Description: Critical role of Indigenous Elders' storytelling, oral histories, and land-based educational traditions in addressing climate change

Biographies:

Dr. Ranjan Datta is a Canada Research Chair in Community Disaster Research and Associate Professor in Humanities at Mount Royal University. His interdisciplinary research bridges Indigenous land-based science, community-led climate justice, and community-led disaster adaptation in Canada, Bangladesh, Nepal, Ghana, and beyond. With a strong, high-ranked publication record—over 70 peer-reviewed journal articles, 8 books, 10 edited volumes, and 35 book chapters. He has led or collaborated on more than 39 major research grants, including SSHRC, CIHR, and international projects totaling over \$15 million in funding. His leadership spans national and global forums, including the UN Environment Programme and the International Science Council. Committed to community engagement, Dr. Datta co-develops land-based learning and cross-cultural climate education with Indigenous, Black, and racialized immigrant communities. His work has been widely recognized through invited talks, keynote presentations, and national media coverage, advancing both scholarly and community-led climate action

Dr. Felix Nwaishi is an Associate Professor of Ecosystem Science and Environmental Change and Canada Research Chair (Tier II), Community Disaster Research at Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. His research focuses on understanding and mitigating the impacts of human and natural disturbances on ecosystem functions, especially in wetland environments. Dr. Nwaishi works closely with Indigenous communities across Canada's North to co-develop research that integrates Traditional Ecological Knowledge with ecosystem science, particularly in addressing the impacts of

permafrost degradation, water quality, and ecosystem resilience. His interdisciplinary projects aim to advance climate adaptation strategies that respect Indigenous knowledge systems and strengthen community-led environmental monitoring. As a recipient of major national research funding, Dr. Nwaishi has led novel interdisciplinary research projects that foster collaboration among natural and social scientists, Indigenous knowledge holders, and policy leaders in environmental sustainability.

Dr. Katherine Lawless is an Assistant Professor of Transdisciplinary Environmental Communication at the University of Calgary, cross-appointed in Geography and in Communication, Media and Film. Her research investigates how human–soil relations inform ecological restoration, climate adaptation, and land governance in Canada. As principal investigator of the SSHRC-funded project (Re)mediating Soils: A Transdisciplinary Intervention, she leads collaborations among soil scientists, artists, farmers, and Indigenous partners to develop transdisciplinary methods for understanding and scaling relational soil care. She is also co-investigator on national and international projects examining agrivoltaics, plant “memory”, and Indigenous-led climate research. Her work integrates soil science, social science, critical humanities, and creative approaches to advance new methodologies for environmental communication and land stewardship. Lawless is lead editor of PUBLIC Issue 73: (Re)mediating Soils (forthcoming, May 2026), a catalogue-anthology and exhibition series that brings together artistic, scientific, and community-based research to explore how soils mediate relations among ecological, cultural, and social systems.

Margot Hurlbert is a Professor and Canada Research Chair, Tier 1, Climate Change, Energy, and Sustainability Policy of the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Regina. She explores the gap between what is needed to address climate change and current policy and behaviour. Margot has led and participated in many interdisciplinary research projects, serves on the editorial boards of international journals, was Coordinating Lead Author of a chapter of the Special Report of the Intergovernmental Panel (“IPCC”) on ‘Climate Change on Land’ (2019), and a Review Editor and Contributing Author for the IPCC’s AR6 (WGI and WGII)(2021/2022). She also worked on Future Earth’s Earth Commission Working Group on Transformations

(2019-2022), is an expert panel member on 'Adaptation' for the Canadian Climate Institute and on the Research Board of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Chair of its Task Team on Social Science and Geophysical Science Integration.

Time: 2:45 Nov. 4

Jonathan Lush, Canada

The Blue Tent of Pangnirtung

Description: The integration of traditional Inuit knowledge and community values with contemporary art practices to create meaningful educational experiences

Biography: Jonathan Lush is a teacher and multidisciplinary artist from St. John's, Newfoundland. He is presently a master's student at Memorial University's Faculty of Education, a Learning Facilitator at Thrive - Community Youth Network, and the director of DarkNL Community Darkroom. He spent 4 years living and working in Pangnirtung, Nunavut, and continues to organize workshops and programming there whenever possible. His interests include art education, place-based learning and the de-institutionalization of art. He currently resides in downtown St. John's, NL.

Time: 3:00 Nov. 4

Alina Ben Larbi, Scotland

Verbatim Storytelling for Belonging

Description: Belonging and the role of verbatim storytelling in addressing loneliness within communities

Biography: Alina Ben Larbi is a socially engaged performance artist and PhD student at the University of the Highlands and Islands. After gaining her undergraduate degree in Drama & Performance, she added a socially engaged component to her work by completing an MA in Art & Social Practice. Her performance practice seeks to forge connections between people, to our environments, and to ourselves. Currently she is researching the effect of verbatim storytelling on the sense of belonging in local communities.