

# ARTARCTICA FESTIVAL

9.-11.2.2017

ARTARCTICA.COM

## FESTIVAL PROGRAMME



**NORDISK  
KULTURFOND**



Pohjoismaiden  
ministerineuvosto



Helsingin kulttuurikeskus

# THE FESTIVAL

**9.-11.2.2017**

**artArctica** is a group of artists with a passion for the Arctic. Our vision is to create an open, multiarts event and present diverse perspectives on the Arctic nature and people: what does the Arctic mean to the people living in it? What can the Arctic also be, other than what we think it already is? We are a community of creatives aiming to inspire understanding across cultures and raise awareness about the environment through our passion for the Arctic. We do this through the arts, discussions, research, and story-telling. We blog, organize wilderness expeditions, workshops and performances – we thrive on adventure, artistic exchange, and dialogue.

**artArctica festival 2017** is a three-day international and multi-arts festival taking place in the heart of Helsinki. It is our way of providing a platform for exploring these questions, and bringing together artists from around the Arctic and the world, to share their passion for the Far North. This is our second festival, and it is funded by **Nordic Culture Point**, **Nordic Culture Fund**, and **Helsinki Culture Centre**.

## RESIDENCY

As part of artArctica festival 2017, we are launching a pilot artistic residency, which will take place one week prior to the festival. The aim of the residency is to stimulate development of already existing work or creation of new work arising from new collaborations between the residency participants. Final artworks, works in progress, discussions, performances — these will all be interweaved with the rest of the festival content, so there will be a wonderful opportunity to meet the artists, hear about their work, and experience their work first-hand during the festival.

RESIDENCY ARTISTS: **PAGE 19**

## TICKETS

Entrance to the festival is **free** during the daytime. There is one ticketed event at 7pm every evening. Festival passes and tickets are available here: **[www.artarctica.com/liput](http://www.artarctica.com/liput)** until Wednesday 8.2.2017. Tickets to same-day events can only be purchased at the door. You can book places for limited-audience events through **[liput@artarctica.com](mailto:liput@artarctica.com)** .

**FACEBOOK EVENT:** <https://www.facebook.com/events/927128587418535/>

# THURSDAY 9.2.

## 17-18.30: KAIA OPENING

FREE ENTRANCE — *book your place at [liput@artarctica.com](mailto:liput@artarctica.com), only 50 places*

The festival and gallery opening will include mingling with artists, welcoming words by the artArctica team and the Canadian Embassy, as well as tasted performances by our visiting artists. **Arctic Mama's**, who makes produce with natural ingredients from Lapland, will be creating delicacies to taste at the opening!

## 19-22: EVENING PERFORMANCES

TICKETS: €10 / 5

### RESIDENCY ARTISTS

Work developed/created by our residency artists. See our facebook event for details.

### DRAKEN

RUSSIA / UK / ESTONIA / SWITZERLAND



Draken's evening performance will demonstrate the difficulties of daily activities on the Viking ship Draken Harald Hårfagre, which sailed across the North Atlantic Ocean in the summer of 2016. The funny little things we do every day, such as putting on clothes and making a cup of coffee, can become challenging missions onboard a primitive vessel in high seas.

**BIO // Draken** is a group of people from different countries and varied backgrounds united by one great adventure: Sailing a Viking ship across the North Atlantic Ocean. Draken Harald Hårfagre left Norway in the Spring of 2016 and sailed to Shetland, Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland, Canada and the USA.

**Kessu**, Estonian, The Galley Queen.

**Christoph**, Swiss, Mechanical Engineer, Musician and Sound Designer.

**David**, British, Watch Leader.

**Polina**, Russian, Artist, founder of The Draken Mackerel Club.

## **PTICA**

RUSSIA



The Russian trip-hop band **Ptica** performs for the first time outside of Russia! Two members of Murmansk-based band **Timur Mizinov** and **Viktor Skorbenko** create a progressive mixture of improvisation, rock, folk, and soundscapes. artArctica met them for the first time at the Arctic Art Forum in Arkhangelsk, and we are extremely happy to be hosting Ptica on their first international tour!

# FRIDAY 10.2.

## 11-18: ARCTIC CAFÉ / EXHIBITIONS / INSTALLATIONS

FREE ENTRANCE

In the daytime, the festival space is open to the public as a café and gallery space. Visit us for a warming cup of coffee or tea, delicious snacks, and have a chance to meet some of our visiting artists. Among others, you will have a chance to see works by Parisian artists **Anna Filipova** and **Camille Mazier**, drawings and paintings by **Marja Heinonen**, an installation by the Faroese **Katrin and Rói Einarsson**, handicrafts and exhibits from Greenland (courtesy of **Uummannaq Polar Institute**), and new works by **Johanna Hakala-Kähäri**.

## 16-18: OPEN DISCUSSION: "Thinking and living— perspectives on the natural environment"

WITH CORINNA CASI, YOVAN NAGWETCH, KATARINA SJÖBLOM

This discussion focuses on different understandings of the natural environment, from deep ecological thinking by Norwegian philosopher Arne Næss to experience-based knowledge of Northern American indigenous peoples. Discussion participants' views on the meaning of nature will also be included in the talk.

**Corinna Casi** is an Italian PhD student living in Helsinki, working on an article about the non-economic value of the Barents Region natural environment and the importance of preserving it. She graduated in 2005 with a Master thesis in Moral Philosophy at the University of Bologna, Italy, and is currently working on her Doctoral research at the University of Helsinki, focusing on Environmental Ethics and environmental non-economic value.

**Yovan Nagwetch** (Little Sun) belongs to the Wabanaki people, a little hoop of tribes on the East shores of Canada (Quebec). His traditionalist Native American father developed in his heart a deep love for Mother Earth, Father Sky and the many sisters and brothers from all horizons. He is also a musician, composer, singer and producer for his band Wabanag (Native American blues-rock) and Finnish band "Jonne". Other life experiences include cooking, natural food distribution, organic farming, and founded the NGO *Terre Des Jeunes*.



## **18-18.30: WHAT THE TREES KNOW** (Gertrude & Jemima)

FREE ENTRANCE / Max. 30 participants, book your place: [liput@artarctica.com](mailto:liput@artarctica.com)

If you sliced through your life, like a tree's trunk, what story would the rings of your life tell? The project is an exploration of human vulnerability and the role it plays in our ability to build relationships and grow true community. What The Trees Know is a meditation through improvised performance, on the innate wisdom and beauty of trees. Combining poetry (both written and spoken), music (flute and drums), with field/found recordings of tree audio, we create a performance shaped and informed by the process, elements and forms of trees. Gertrude, Jemima and the audience will be blindfolded in order to facilitate and emphasise connection with the moment. The improvisation will be rooted in verbal and auditory explorations of how the processes of arctic trees relate to the human experience, and how we can learn from them.

**BIO // Gertrude and Jemima** are an international music/poetry duo by UK drummer and poet **Remi Graves** and SA poet and performer **Toni Stuart**. Their work explores the relationship between words, music and silence through experimental and improvised sound.

ALSO PERFORM ON: SATURDAY 11.2 / 18.00



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### **SNOWY-OWL = YOU** (Lars & Randi)

NORWAY / GERMANY

Like few other animals the snowy owl personifies the immensity, the calm, but also the fragility of the Arctic. May it serve as a potent metaphor for the interconnectivity and interdependence between man and his so called natural environment.

Schmidt + Brecke's work touches upon multiple art forms including dance, poetry, performance and visual art. They question the self importance displayed by human vision and understanding, and seek to allow the other-than-human world to be heard.

**BIO // Randi** is a tango dancer and visual artist from Moss, Norway. She contributed with on-site sunrise birdsong recordings in "Luftballett", a Public Art Norway-funded art-festival in Bergen, and also continues in searching for stories of the mysterious extinct Lofot horse in the far North of Norway. Born in Germany, but based in Oslo, **Lars Schmidt 'Tali'** is a poet, multidisciplinary artist and builder of bridges at the margins of art and deep ecological thinking. He also holds a Diploma of Applied Permaculture Design.



## KRISTINE UN ZANE

LATVIA



Latvian singers **Kristine Liede** and **Zane Perkone** are bringing two different musical approaches and ideas together and making their own to introduce Latvia as a Nordic country with lots of interesting stories to tell in music. Latvian traditional music is filled with mythical creatures, nature phenomena and human emotions that are affected by everything around us. Nature shares one path with emotional states of human beings. The performance includes traditional songs and some originals, with Kristine and Zane on voice accompanied by the rhythm of life.

**BIO // Zane** and **Kristine** are both from Latvia but they met here in Helsinki at the Sibelius academy. Their musical backgrounds vary between classical, folk, global, jazz, but what makes them Latvian is their traditional music background. Zane currently studies at the Global music department and Kristine at the Jazz department. They have been singing in festivals and different workshops with various bands but this is the first time for them to make music together which is very exciting. This duo is inspired by artArctica's aims and vision.

## DOMEDAGSLÅTTEN

NORWAY / ITALY

Domedagsslåtten (*The Doomsday Tune*) is a hardanger fiddle piece from the remote valley of Setesdal, South-Western Norway. It belongs to a circle of melodies usually associated with magical powers, and bears a trance-like drive that captures the listener and then releases its spell.



Doomsday itself is a concept we associate with something dark and threatening, metaphysical and apocalyptic. As climate change is dramatically reshaping the Arctic, perhaps thoughts of Doomsday can inspire us to take action and prevent a chaotic and potentially devastating situation from unfolding. This project stems from the urge to combine the ancient folk knowledge of nature with a contemporary vision of the world encompassing positive solutions for the future. Through elements of folk art and music, Domedagsslåtten hopes to inspire connection with nature, triggering a deeply felt awareness of the endangered Nordic/Arctic environment.

**BIO //** Norwegian visual artist **Tone Bjordam** and Italo-Indian musician **Krishna Nagaraja** come from different geographical and cultural backgrounds, but share a strong passion for art applied to and inspired by nature. Krishna's obsession with Nordic folk music has found a counterpart in Tone's mesmerizing visual artworks that capture the essence of Nordic nature: together, the two artists tell its many stories of enchantment, life, death, ceaseless destruction and rebirth.

## ICELANDIC MOVEMENTS (Nicolaj Wamberg)

DENMARK

*In Iceland you are never alone.*

*All around is the nature. With stories to tell, with music to conduct.*



*You are a small creature who cannot take control. Not even with an app.  
But you can listen and you can join!*

Icelandic movements is a performance inspired by interactions nature in Oláfsfjörður, Northern Iceland. The musical compositions (performed on piano) are reflexions on the moving elements of water, wind and the animals living there, will be accompanied by a series of photos and videos. The idea of the project is related to **Nicolaj Wamberg**'s background in traditional folk music and dance, where the musician interoperates the music, influenced by the movements of the dance floor.

**BIO // Nicolaj Wamberg** is a freelance musician and performing artist from Denmark. He has a Master's Degree in folk music, and is experienced in both dance and physical theatre. Nicolaj is inspired by people and movement. He loves the simplicity and asymmetric beauty of nature. He is currently touring with the ukulele and double bass duo Elof & Wamberg, and completing his second year as a singer at the Anne Rosing Institute in Copenhagen where he lives.



# SATURDAY 11.2.

## 11-18: ARCTIC CAFÉ / EXHIBITION / INSTALLATIONS

FREE ENTRANCE

## 14-16: OPEN DISCUSSION: "Ympäristöaktivismi pohjoisilla leveyspiireillä" (IN FINNISH)

WITH JAANA VALKAMA, LAURA MELLER, PETRA LAITI, KATARINA SJÖBLOM

*Environmental Activism in Northern Latitudes*

Open discussion to be held in Finnish. More detailed information can be found in the Finnish language program.

## 17.00: KAASSASSUK (Greenlandic short film)

FREE ENTRANCE // UUMMANNAQ POLAR INSTITUTE

**LOCATION:** KOLO CAFÉ (Pengerkatu 9, 00530)

In the Greenlandic myth, **Kaassassuk – The Orphan** we follow Kaassassuk from his birth and later outcast till he grows up as a fearless hunter. As a child Kaassassuk is unwanted by the hunters in the village. His foster family – an old wise woman and an elderly man tell Kaassassuk that he must go and meet the Great Spirit, hence only the Great Spirit can give him strength to become a great hunter. Kaassassuk returns after a long journey to the village with new great powers. But it is up to Kaassassuk to determine how to use the strength and power – will he seek revenge?

*Kaassassuk* was made by children at Uummannaq orphanage together with Perlefilm in 2016. The children from the orphanage have participated in all aspects of the creative and artistic processes. The soundtrack also includes throat singing and drumming from northern Greenland. The animation movie is made with authentic Greenlandic materials from the orphanage and Ann Andreassen's private collection of traditional Greenlandic arts and crafts e.g. pearls, claws from polar bears, furs from ox and seals, tupilak, rocks, paintings, designs and even ice all mixed with the children's own drawings and illustrations.

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### **STORIES OF THE ARCTIC**

UK / FINLAND / SÁPMI

What are the stories of the Arctic? If we put our ears to the ground and listen, what tales do we hear? The indigenous peoples of the Arctic have been listening to the land for thousands of years. Their myths and legends are born from the Arctic landscape, and have much to teach us. If we listen, we can learn something of what it means to live in deep connection with nature and its mysteries. This performance explores some of the myths, legends and folktales of Arctic peoples. The stories are told mainly in English and also through Sámi yoiking and the Finnish accordion.



**BIO // Christine Cooper** is a storyteller and musician from Wales, with a special interest in how stories are shaped by landscape. **Hildá Länsman** is a Sámi singer-songwriter and yoik performer from Utsjoki, who was raised in the yoik tradition and has performed on national TV. **Viivi Maria Saarenkylä** is an award-winning young Finnish accordion artist, who has toured internationally. All three are currently studying at the Sibelius Academy.

## SÄHKÖPAIMEN

FINLAND



**BIO // Sähköpaimen** (trans. *Electric Shepherd*) perform archaic electronic music. They blend Karelian and Ingrian improvisation, live looping and effects, beats, and soundscapes. Archaic music and electronic music are, despite their differences, quite similar: they both deal with durational and minimalist aesthetics, and variations. Sähköpaimen bring these different elements in their similarity together. The band consists of Eero Grundström, Amanda Kauranne, and Kirsi Ojala.



# EXHIBITIONS // INSTALLATIONS //

## VISUAL ARTISTS

OPENING TIMES: Thu 9.2: klo17-18.30 / Fri-Sat 10.-11.2: klo11-18

FREE ENTRANCE

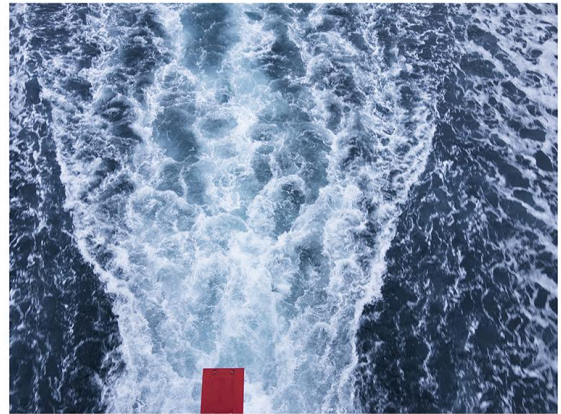
### CAMILLE MAZIER

*THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY BUT SILENCE (2015)*

*There was no other way out but silence*

*So I went to look for it  
as far away as possible  
and further still.*

*When a tragic family event occurs  
we lose the thread of our thoughts.  
Travelling becomes necessary  
in order to escape from the real world  
for a while.*



*If this outlet saved me at the time,  
let's hope it brings calm and peace to those who see it.*



**BIO // Camille's** work exists at the intersection between documentary photography and the topographic representation of my mind. *Always ensuring I respect entities that surround me, I focus on the relationship between Nature and mankind.*

## ANNA FILIPOVA

### RESEARCH AT THE END OF THE WORLD (2015)

Ny-Ålesund is situated on the 79th parallel north on Svalbard archipelago, which makes it the most northerly permanent civilian settlement in the world. It houses the largest laboratory for modern Arctic research in existence. It has a very restricted access both because of the scientific project that are conducted and the measuring instruments that are situated around the area. Even though there are many rules and regulations in Ny-Ålesund to protect the wildlife and preserve the environment, one



can see the human activity through the scientific instruments, which are gradually becoming part of the landscape. Even though the settlement is located away from major sources of human pollution, the atmospheric circulation brings air from Europe and North America into the region. This creates a unique environment for the observation of post global warming conditions and secondly in creating a concentration of international scientific research and collaboration between nations.

**BIO // Anna Filipova** is a documentary photographer based in Paris. She has worked for Reuters and the International New York Times and has been published in CNN, The Telegraph and The Guardian, amongst others.

For the past few years, she has been focusing on the Northern parts of the world, where she explores environmental topics based in remote and inaccessible areas.

## KATRIN & RÓI EINARSSON

### HULDUFÓLK

*Huldufólk* are a big part of both Faroese folklore and Icelandic folklore. They are the grey people, who live in the large rocks and inside the mountains and cliffs, where the fog is thick. They often appear in stories, but their images are rarely portrayed or illustrated.



In this exhibition, the **Huldufólk** will appear in the form of sculptures. Some of the sculptures will be scenarios from well-known stories. One such legend goes like this, "A man walks in the mountains, looking for his sheep. He hears voices, they are arguing loudly. When he gets closer to where these voices are coming from, he sees the "Huldufólk" sitting and standing around a big stone table. Yet, as always happens, they disappear before he can get close enough to really see them. They remain a mystery"

**BIO //** Katrin and Rói Einarsson, are a brother and sister from Trongisvágur, a small town on Suðuróy, in the Faroe Islands. They grew up immersed in Faroese folklore. Their passion for the ancient myths and stories of their childhood has continued to influence their artistic work throughout their studies at Blackpool and the Fylde College in Liverpool, UK where they both majored in illustration, and in their subsequent artistic work and exhibitions.

## JOHANNA HAKALA-KÄHÄRI

### *ILISMANNITTOQ - 'WITNESS'*

Greenland's dogs bear witness to the country's majestic, floating icebergs. Due to dramatic climate change Greenland's dogs are also the unfortunate witnesses of the continued catastrophic meltdown and disappearance of these beautiful ice giants. The natural scenery and very environment that sustains the canines natural habitat is in jeopardy.





**BIO //** **Johanna Hakala-Kähäri** lives and breaths the nature around her home beside Nuuksio national park in Southern Finland. She explores the world by orienteering with a map and compass, running on trails, hiking and kayaking. She is "a child of winter" ( born in February 1973), so it comes as no surprise that Arctic surroundings, ice and snow, melt her heart.

## **MARJA HEINONEN**

### **CLIMATE CHANGE AND ANIMALS OF THE ARCTIC**

The spray paintings 'Icebear', 'Climate Change/Green Land' and 'Penguin' were created in 2016. A larger version of the canvas-penguin is on display Arabia mall parking lot (Helsinki).

That penguin asks "Where did my ice vanish?

Smaller ink drawings illustrate climate change on minor scale, as well penguins and Saimaa ringed seal with its pups. With its tiny population (now less than 500), the Saimaa ringed seal is extremely endangered. The snowdrifts on the bank of lake Saimaa (where seals nest in winter) are no longer reliable as the climate warms..



**BIO //** Marja Heinonen's involvement in street art began in 2011, when joining SixFive Cru. Marja began her study of drawing and painting in 2015. In 2016 she had her first private visual arts exhibition at Gallery Asematila, with street art outside and various concerts inside. Several private and group exhibitions will take place also in 2017. She hopes that her works in artArctica will contribute to its vital mission.



# DRAKEN

## DRAKEN SENSES

Draken Senses is an interactive installation of objects, sounds, sights, scents and people from the Viking ship Draken Harald Hårfagre, which sailed across the North Atlantic Ocean in the summer of 2016. The exhibition reveals the rituals of endurance and routines of adaptation to survive on an open ship in cold, wet, harsh conditions. Touching the objects, hearing the stories behind them, immersed in the sounds of the ship and her crew and the odor of tar, you have an intimate glimpse into the reality of life onboard Draken.

**BIO //** We are a group of people from different countries and varied backgrounds united by one great adventure: Sailing a Viking ship across the North Atlantic Ocean. Draken Harald Hårfagre left Norway in the Spring of 2016 and sailed to Shetland, Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland, Canada and the USA.

**Kessu**, Estonian, The Galley Queen.

**Christoph**, Swiss, Mechanical Engineer, Musician and Sound Designer.

**David**, British, Watch Leader.

**Polina**, Russian, Artist, founder of The Draken Mackerel Club.



# **UUMMANNAQ POLAR INSTITUTE** (Greenland)

## GREENLANDIC ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION



A unique collection of arts and crafts from East, West and North Greenland.

Situated in Uummannaq, North-West coast of Greenland, the **Uummannaq Polar Institute** is an umbrella for the outdoor activities undertaken by the Uummannaq Children's Home. Its purpose is to provide educational programmes for young Inuit children residing in the Children's Home, with a focus on Greenlandic culture. Its projects include dog-sledge expeditions, study-travels, scientific work, film-making, music, theatre and painting.

# ARTARCTICA RESIDENCY

## PARTICIPANTS



### **JAIME CULEBRO**

MEXICO / FINLAND

Jaime is a photographer, audiovisual producer, activist and engineer specialised in water treatment. He summarises his photographic work as a “mixture of cinematic style peppered with darkness and mystery”.



### **REUBEN FENEMORE**

JAPAN / NEW ZEALAND / ICELAND

Reuben is a musician, composer and creative currently living in Reykjavik, Iceland. His creative output is varied but centred on creating experiences, storytelling and cross-arts collaborations.



### **AMANDA KAURANNE**

FINLAND

Amanda uses folk music as fuel for her songs, performances, radio programmes and texts. She lives for and through soundscapes, finding most of her inspiration in the different surfaces of nature.

**ALICE MASELNIKOVA**

CZECH REPUBLIC / SWEDEN

Alice is a Czech artist, curator and art coordinator currently based in Stockholm. Fond of (in alphabetical order): art, books, chess, cheese, jazz, nudes, whisky, wine and writing.

**ANNI SAVOLAINEN**

FINLAND / SWEDEN

Anni is a writer, photographer, and is doing Media Studies. She recently worked for the Reykjavik International Film Festival.

**KELSEY SCHOBER**

ALASKA

Kelsey is an emerging dancer/choreographer from Alaska, curious about exploring the North and her relationship to it. She is currently in Tasmania as a part of Bates College' Watson Fellowship 2016.





## **POLINA SHUBINA**

RUSSIA

Being a young explorer curious of any kind of art, Polina has some experience in theatre lighting design, sculpting, painting, singing and sailing across North Atlantic Ocean.



## **ROBIN YOUNG**

CANADA

Robin is a writer, and performer living in the Northwest Territories, Canada. He writes and performs many things: stories, articles, jokes, songs, comics, radio, improv and poetry.

## **LARS SCHMIDT & RANDI BRECKE**

GERMANY / NORWAY

**Lars Schmidt** is a poet, multidisciplinary artist and builder of bridges at the margins of art and deep ecological thinking. He also holds a Diploma of Applied Permaculture Design.

**Randi Brecke** is a dancer and visual artist from Moss, Norway. She contributed with on-site sunrise birdsong recordings in "Luftballett", a Public Art Norway-funded art-festival in Bergen.

