OPEN CALL FOR ARTISTS: FIGHT / KAMPPAILU

Young Arctic Artists 2021 exhibition promotes emerging contemporary art from northern areas (see detailed instructions below). Exhibition will take place in Gallery Napa, Mustanapa and surrounding city space (Rovaniemi, Finland) 4.9.2021 - 28.9.2021. Additional second exhibition will be arranged in Tromsø, Norway, at late autumn 2021 (details confirmed later). Exhibitions are managed by Artists' Association of Lapland and co-curated by the Finnish - Kven curatorial team: Panu Johansson (FI), Savu E. Korteniemi (FI), Katriina Pedersen (NO) and Åsne Kummeneje Mellem (NO).

Under thematic umbrella of FIGHT / KAMPPAILU, we now invite proposals for works and projects for the 4th edition of Young Arctic Artists.

Deadline for applications is 30th of September 2020 (at 24.00 GMT+2).
On Young Arctic Artists

Young Arctic Artists 2021 continues the series of international exhibitions promoting emerging artists related to the Arctic.

The aim of this exhibition series project is to map out the scene of young contemporary art in the selected northern geographic area, advance its visibility and to create new networking possibilities for artists and curators.

Each exhibition is managed by Artists' Association of Lapland and curated by different emerging curators or curatorial teams. With the Young Arctic Artist 2021 we will update the concept by creating structures and conventions together with the people of the Arctic. With YAA 2021 we have invited Kven people, a Finnic ethnic minority in Norway, to participate to curatorial working. The curatorial theme of the YAA 2021 has been created from the Kven viewpoint and we would especially like to encourage young Kven people from all fields of art and creative expression to apply to the project. However, artists from all kinds of backgrounds and approaches are also welcome to submit under the theme “FIGHT / KAMPPAILU”.

See more at the project website:

www.youngarcticartists.wordpress.com

THEMATIC CALL : FIGHT / KAMPPAILU

Seeing the people of the Arctic and Northern Fennoscandia through dichotomy of indigenous peoples and national majorities doesn’t describe the whole situation aptly. There are groups of people who don’t belong to the national majorities but are not considered indigenous either. There is a clear need for a self generated Arctic culture and with the Young Arctic Artists 2021 we want to raise the diversity of Arctic voices.

From the perspective of a minority you are often pushed towards fighting if you want your tradition / language / culture to live and evolve. At the same time you are punished for fighting, directly by majorities not accepting conflict (conflict towards the majority or conflicts inside the minority itself). Or indirectly by it not being sustainable to stay in fight mode.
Kven activist and curator Katriina Pedersen:

“Fight-flight-freeze responses help us react to acute threats. These natural and good 
responses can become troublesome if the threat is prolonged or we can’t protect ourselves 
from it. I can fight for my language, I can flight from my language or I can freeze in my 
language. All are appropriate responses to the stress of language assimilation. How is it for 
Kven people? How is it for other minorities? Are they in a constant stress of assimilation? I 
can often feel an internal conflict in teaching kven language/tradition. Would it not be easier 
to just leave it? It’s strange to experience how people truly start speaking and living Kven 
only when they stop fighting/fleeing/freezing. I guess it is a process of acceptance and 
healing.”

Questions related to the theme:

- For example, fight can be collective or individual, cultural or lingual, spiritual or visual. 
  It can be tiny, ordinary and personal or big, political or environmental. Or it can be all 
  of these. Which kind of fight are you involved in currently?
- Which kind of fight do you hope to have - or are afraid of having - in the future?
- Language as the field of fight. Language can be verbal, visual, bodily or aural, for 
  example. What is language - what does it consist of for you?
- Healing as a form of fight. What kind of thoughts does this provoke?
- Fight is not (only) against something, it’s mostly pro something. What does 
  reconciliation and revitalisation mean for you?
- If oppression is a process, are reconciliation, revitalisation and healing also 
  processes? If so, what are they like?
- Surprise us - what other views to the subject “FIGHT / KAMPPAILU” you might have?

On the concept of Arctic

Usually the concepts of “art” and “artist” are defined by the Western understanding of history 
and culture. Arctic areas are seen as a periphery and Arctic cultures are seen as the exotic 
other. The purpose of this division is to strengthen the identity of the Western culture as the 
primary hegemonic norm. Nevertheless, to be Arctic is something sovereign and 
independent: it doesn’t need to reflect itself for Western/Southern/non-Arctic identities to be 
defined. To be Arctic could mean something amazing, surprising and unique. However, it 
also means everyday life: things that are important but difficult to “sell” under any brand. We 
would like to ask what does Arctic mean to the people of the Arctic themselves, from their 
own viewpoint with their own verbal or visual language.
On Kven Culture

The Kven people have been a part of the Northern hemisphere for a long time and in Norway they make up one of five national minority groups. They wandered from what today is the northern parts of Sweden, Finland and Russia to the coastline of the North of Norway. One does not know when the first Kven people settled down by the coastline of the Northern Norway, but there are sources confirming Kvens living in Alta in the early 1500s.

The Kven people brought with them agricultural techniques that was sustainable in harsh environments. They had boat building techniques perfect for the shallow rivers. They burned tar, fished in the Norwegian Sea, and built houses and saunas, creating communities in the deep fjords and at the exposed coast lines. The Kven people were seen as a resourceful people, bringing along traditions, good work ethics and great stories. Their language developed over time in a different direction than the Finnish language today, and was called the Kven language. In a parallel manner the Meänkieli language developed in northernmost Sweden and in the areas of the Torne River Valley. Meänkieli and Kven are similar both in terms of grammar and vocabulary.

Some areas, the Kven people lived side by side with both Norwegian and Sámi people. Other areas were more concentrated either Kven or Sámi. It was not unusual to marry across cultures and languages, and many locals talked both two or three languages to communicate with their fellow neighbors.

Kven people wandered also before Finland became a separate nation-state. They followed the resources and opportunities because of famine, war, family reunions, and maybe a sense of adventure. It's also worth of noting that the wandering of Kvens can't be understood through modern terms of immigration, emigration or nationality.
Information and conditions

What and where?

- Exhibition in Gallery Napa, Rovaniemi, Finland at 4.9. - 28.9.2021
- Exhibition in Tromsø, Norway, at late autumn 2021 (timetable and exhibition space in Norway will be confirmed later)

Exhibition content between locations can vary.

Who can submit?

Participating via Open Call is available for young artists (born in 1986 or later) whose roots are (or who are rooted) somehow in the Arctic neighbouring areas:

- Northern parts of Fennoscandia: Lapland (Finland, Sweden), Norrbotten (Sweden), Västerbotten (Sweden), Troms (Norway), Nordland (Norway), Finnmark (Norway), Svalbard (Norway).
- All Sápmi areas
- Iceland, Faroe Islands, Greenland.
- Northern Parts of Russia including Siberia

…OR whose background is in the ethnic groups of the Arctic area:

- Kven people and Norwegian Finn people
- People of Meänmaa
- Sámi people
- All indigenous peoples of the Arctic
- All people who identify to peoples of the Arctic

What to submit?

We accept visual and cross-disciplinary art projects of all mediums including media-arts, performance, photography, creative writing and cinema, as well as other ways of creative expression and artivism. Artworks can be sent, brought or built on site. Since we are open to present some works outside the gallery context and with temporal variety, proposals of site-specific works and performances are also welcome.
Submissions can consist of works already finished or project plans for works under construction.

If you can’t participate to both exhibitions of the autumn 2021, please specify this in your application.

How to submit?

Only digital applications via email are accepted. Send us as a one pdf document (Max 5 Mb), including:

- Work or project proposal
- CV
- Links to possible online materials such as videos or other documents.
- Short introduction of yourself.
- Short portfolio or a link to an online portfolio (website, social media profile etc.)
- Pronoun that you prefer to use (she / he / they / ?)
- Remember to include your contact details: Name, date of birth, (phone, email and street address)

Please don’t send us CD’s, DVD’s, USB-sticks, download links or any video files. Videos are accepted as online stream links only (Youtube, Vimeo or similar).

Works or project proposals and CV should be sent in digital form to email address youngarcticartists@gmail.com by 30th of September 2020.

Please note the following things, when making your application:

- Tools and materials: Basic tools for installing and building artworks are provided by Gallery Napa. For video works we have projector (Epson EH-TW6600 Full HD 2D- and 3D-projector) mediaplayers, DVD-players, screen television and speakers. **If you need more specific tools that you can’t transport with you, please specify them in your application and we’ll try to find a solution.**

If you’ll build something on site, please specify it in the application and we’ll help you to find the materials from Rovaniemi. Materials for making the artwork itself are covered by the artist. Our goal as organisers is to cover the material costs in the end, but this will depend on the funding.
- **Transportation of artworks:** If your work requires special transportation, please specify your needs in your application and we'll try to find a solution. Expenses for artwork transports can possibly be covered by the project if needed. Artists must negotiate the logistics with the organiser. Please specify in your application if you have a possibility to come with a car and if you could bring the artworks with you.

**Participants**

Approximately 4-7 artists will be selected for the exhibition Rovaniemi and Tromsø.

Selection of the artists will be announced during January 2021 via personal email.

Some artists will also be invited to participate the exhibition outside the open call.

Participants between locations can vary.

**Travel and accommodation**

A roundtrip travel to Rovaniemi will be organised and paid by the project for selected artists. Artists must negotiate the way of traveling with the organiser. People applying from Finland, Sweden, Norway and Russia, please specify in your application if you have a possibility to come with a car and if you could bring the artworks with you. This will help us to calculate the budget of the project.

Accommodation will take place in local artists’ homes or joint accommodation. Snacks will be provided in Gallery Napa during installation, event and opening days.

Details for the travel and accommodation for the exhibition in Tromsø will be decided later on.

All details may be subject to change.

**Compensation**

Selected artists will get daily allowance of approximately 40€/day for five days stay in Rovaniemi (including traveling days).

Other compensations will be decided later on.
Preliminary timetable for staying in Rovaniemi

Selected artists are invited to stay in Rovaniemi approximately from September 1st to September 5th of 2021 (three full days + arrival and departure days).

Preliminary timetable

1st of Sep (Wed): Arrival to Rovaniemi
2nd of Sep (Thu): Installing and/or building of artworks
3rd of Sep (Fri): Installing and/or building of artworks
4th of Sep (Sat): Exhibition opening in Gallery Napa
5th of Sep (Sun): Departure from Rovaniemi

Schedule for the exhibition in Tromsø will be confirmed later.

Schedule may be subject to change.

Insurances

As individuals, the participants take part in the exhibition at their own risk. Please ensure that you have organized adequate insurance cover for yourself. Artworks presented in Gallery Napa are not insured, but looked after by the gallerist.

Sales

The artworks presented in the exhibition can be for sale. The Artists’ Association of Lapland is responsible for invoicing for sales. The commission fee for the Gallery is 20% of the sale price of works excluding VAT. The commission shall be deducted from the sales income to be paid to the artist.

Gallery space in Rovaniemi

The exhibition will take place in two spaces (Gallery Napa and Studio Mustanapa) located in the same premise.

Gallery Napa: floor space about 90 m2. Gallery has big windows, natural light and movable walls in addition to fixed walls.
Gallery Mustanapa: Size: 190 cm X 360 cm. Basement space without windows. Suitable mainly for video, media-art and installations.

More information (including the floor plan):


Accessibility information:

The gallery Napa (street level) is accessible by a ramp with thresholds. The toilet has also thresholds but is not spacious enough to meet accessibility standards. There is no lift to the Studio Mustanapa (basement floor). For further details, please contact us.

Contact information:

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