

ID: 424

Academic paper (20+10 min)

Topics: Contemporary artistic and art educational approaches to diversity and cultural changes

Keywords: Art teacher training, in-service training, arctic visual culture, contemporary Sami art

Joint knowledge building on Arctic visual culture and contemporary Sami art

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This presentation focuses on the *Arctic Reformative and Exploratory Teaching Profession project* (2017-2020) funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture. In the Arctic area, there are educational challenges because of the long distances, centralization of educational institutions and decreasing services in sparsely populated areas. This calls for efforts to maintain high-quality education and its equal availability. Visual art education's contribution in this project is to invite rural Schools in Lapland, Sami researchers and art education students and scholars from Rovaniemi and Helsinki to work together on knowledge building on Arctic Visual culture and contemporary Sami art.

An increasing number of Sámi live outside the Sámi homeland. This brings challenges to services and to the future of the Sámi Culture but also need to be considered when training future art educators. Also, inside the Sami homeland there are several cultures living side by side. The development work and research will offer strategies for higher education on indigenous and social justice teaching and allows conversation on contemporary Sámi art practices.

The project is carried out in cooperation with several municipalities in Lapland. Joint knowledge building on Arctic visual culture in collaboration with the Sami artist and researchers, students and local schools. Arctic pedagogy in this project is education that respects the people and culture in the area and seeks to make use of modern technology. We are developing a web learning environment for, and with, art education students in Aalto University and the University of Lapland – art teachers and in-service training of teachers.