

SÁMI STORIES

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

New York – The American-Scandinavian Foundation (ASF) has developed an assortment of public programs related to the landmark exhibition *Sámi Stories: Art and Identity of an Arctic People*, on view at Scandinavia House: The Nordic Center in America Saturday, May 10 through Saturday, August 23, 2014. Programs include a free mobile audio guide of highlights and once-monthly docent tours; family-friendly workshops led by art educators; lectures and symposia on Sámi history, identity, and visual culture; a concert that weaves traditional joiking with folk music, jazz, and rock; extended gallery hours with drinks and DJ nights; and a cross-section of films and music videos that explore components of Sámi identity and visual storytelling.

Curated by the Tromsø University Museum and Northern Norway Art Museum, *Sámi Stories* examines the history, identity, politics, and visual culture of the Sámi, the indigenous people of Finland, Norway, Sweden, and Russia's Kola Peninsula.

Featuring a selection of contemporary artworks in a variety of media, including sculpture, video, installation, woodcut print, embroidery, and photography and traditional *duodji* (handicraft), including a reindeer milk scoop, shaman's drum, cradle, and a selection of hats and dolls, *Sámi Stories: Art and Identity of a Nordic People* offers visitors an overview of Sámi history and visual culture from the 17th century to the present.

The exhibition has been organized in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Norwegian Sámi Parliament and the 200th anniversary of the Norwegian Constitution, which, in 1988, was revised to offer unprecedented formal recognition of the Sámi people, language, and culture.

Please note: To reserve tickets for programs, the public may contact event_reservation@amscan.org or 212.847.9740. Only ASF Members may reserve film tickets: film_reservation@amscan.org or 212.847.9746. Programs are subject to change. For updated information, the public may visit scandinaviahouse.org, [Facebook](#), and Twitter [@ScanHouse](https://twitter.com/ScanHouse) | #samistories.

AUDIO GUIDE & TOURS

Audio Guide

Saturday, May 10 through Saturday, August 23, 2014

Free (no cost except your minutes)

Learn more about *Sámi Stories: Art and Identity of an Arctic People* with your cellphone! Hear the exhibition's curators share their thoughts on several exhibition highlights and walk you through this innovative exhibition. Call 212.514.0013 to begin the audio tour.

Docent Tours

Saturdays @ 1 pm, June 14 & July 12, 2014

Free

Visitors to *Sámi Stories: Art and Identity of an Arctic People* can participate in free, docent-led gallery tours that explore in greater detail the contemporary works and historical artifacts featured in the exhibition. Available the second Saturdays of June and July, these 35-minute public tours meet in the 3rd Floor Gallery elevator lobby.

Please note that tours are subject to last-minute changes and/or cancellation.

KIDS & FAMILIES

Journeys through Arctic Art and Folk Culture

Exhibition Workshops with Art Educators

Saturdays, 2 – 3:30 pm, April 26 through June 14, 2014 – No workshop on Saturday, May 24, 2014

\$12 (\$10 ASF Members), Series pass: \$68 (\$56 ASF Members); Ages 6 – 11

Enrollment is limited; early registration is strongly encouraged

Inspired by the *Sámi Stories: Art and Identity of an Arctic People* exhibition and drawing upon the rich art and culture of the Sámi – an indigenous people living in Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia's Kola Peninsula – children will create projects using mixed media, textiles, and natural materials in tandem with stories about Sámi history and folk culture.

About the art educators

Dr. Amy Brook Snider arrived at the Pratt Institute in 1979. She chaired the Art and Design Education Department for 30 years while also working as a consultant in arts education. As Chair, she received grants for a number of programs promoting art, poetry, and design in the education of public school students. In 2012, she re-emerged as a full professor, teaching, supervising student teachers, and advising thesis students.

Brook Snider's non-traditional approach to the profession is exemplified by the broad range of her interests, i.e., storytelling and children's picture books, self-taught artists, and the integration of design in art education, to name a few.

She has served as Director of Writing Across the Curriculum, and as a representative on the Faculty Council and later, the Academic Senate. She was a founding member of the Initiative for Arts, Community, and Social Change Committee, and served on several committees across schools and departments.

In addition to teaching at Pratt, she has lectured in the U.S., Canada, and Great Britain; designed international and American educational programs; published articles; conducted teacher workshops; curated exhibitions; organized national panels and conferences; and advised a public television station, an architectural firm, and private foundations. Brook Snider has also served on the Board of the Beginning with Children Charter School and was awarded a Fulbright Specialist Grant in 2010.

Ingrid Menendez has taught art in public and private schools, after school programs, museums, and at Pratt Institute's Saturday Art Program for 18 years, acting as a supervisor and master teacher. She has also worked with Studio in a School and the New York City Department of Education, where she developed units for the NYC Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in the Arts Standards. Menendez has shown her work in museums and galleries nationally and internationally.

Caitlin Reller received her B.F.A. in sculpture from the Herberger College of Fine Arts and Design in Tempe, Arizona. Upon graduation she received the Most Outstanding Sculpture Student Award. Reller obtained her Masters in Art and Design Education from Pratt Institute in December 2012. She is a co-founder of and teacher for the Small Hands Workshop, an affordable art program for young children in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. She currently lives in Brooklyn with her husband and child.

Exhibition-related educational programs have been supported in part by Scandinavian Seminar and the Royal Norwegian Consulate General in New York.

LECTURES & SYMPOSIUM

Indigenous Expressions and Identity: A Symposium

Saturday, May 10, 3:30 pm

Free, but RSVP encouraged

Sámi Stories: Art and Identity of an Arctic People opens with an afternoon symposium offering in-depth perspectives on Sámi history, identity, and visual culture. The program will feature a panel discussion with contemporary artists Britta Marakatt-Labba, Aslaug Juliussen, and Jason Lujan; renowned musician Mari Boine; and curators Charis Gullickson, Northern Norway Art Museum and Marit Anne Hauan, University of Tromsø Museum.

Program Schedule

- 3:30 pm: **Welcome** | *Edward P. Gallagher, President, The American-Scandinavian Foundation*
- 3:40 pm: **Introductory Remarks** | *Dr. Anne Husebekk, Rector, University of Tromsø and Knut Ljøgodt, Director, Northern Norway Art Museum*
- 4 pm: **Talk: Sámi Identity & Citizenship** | *Dr. Anne Julie Semb, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Oslo*
- 4:20 pm: **Break/Coffee**
- 4:40 pm: **Panel Discussion** | *Renowned musician Mari Boine and contemporary artists Aslaug Juliussen, Britta Marakatt-Labba, and Jason Lujan in conversation with Charis Gullickson, Curator of Contemporary Art, Northern Norway Art Museum and Marit Anne Hauan, Director, University of Tromsø Museum*
- 5:40 pm: **Audience Q & A**
- 5:50 pm: **Short Performance** | *Mari Boine Trio*
- 6 pm: **Exhibition Opening Reception**

Exhibition-related educational programs have been supported in part by Scandinavian Seminar and the Royal Norwegian Consulate General in New York.

Duodji: Sámi Traditional Objects

Lecture by Dr. Thomas DuBois, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Tuesday, June 24, 6:30 pm

Free

In this talk, Dr. Thomas DuBois, University of Wisconsin-Madison, introduces some of the basic considerations of form, substance, and use that characterize traditional Sámi objects. He shows how in Sámi art, aesthetic values are inseparable

from other considerations such as usefulness, belief, and skill. A sense of beauty arises from practical concerns, but this pragmatic approach means that beauty comes to pervade all aspects of life, even the performance of ordinary, mundane activities. The talk will be illustrated through abundant images, some of which are paralleled by elements seen in *Sámi Stories*.

About Dr. Thomas DuBois

Thomas DuBois is a professor of Scandinavian Studies and Folklore at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He researches and writes particularly on Finnish and Sámi cultures, past and present. Along with numerous books and articles, DuBois has translated important works of Sámi literature, including Johan Turi's *An Account of the Sámi*, the first book ever written in Sámi language, which appeared in 1910.

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CONCERTS

Mari Boine

Tuesday, May 13, 7 pm

\$15 (\$10 ASF Members)

Brave and distinctive, Mari Boine's soaring voice has defined a new musical language in Norway. Her beguiling talent for weaving other sounds into joik, the traditional music of her native Sámi people, incorporates rich seams of other folk music, jazz, and rock.

About Mari Boine

Mari Boine is a Norwegian Sámi musician known for having added jazz and rock to the joiks of her native people. Born in Finnmark, Norway she grew up amid the Laestadian Christian movement as well as amidst discrimination against her people. *Gula Gula* (first released by Idut, 1989, later re-released by Real World) was her breakthrough release, and she has continued to record popular albums that has listeners all over the world.

In 2003 Boine was awarded the Nordic Council Music Prize for her ethnic intuition, her artistic strength and for the ability to communicate, which allows her to reach people in all corners of the world – regardless of cultural background. She has retained her musical roots, while giving them a contemporary expression which reaches an enormous audience all over the world. She was appointed knight, first class in the Royal Norwegian Order of St. Olav for her artistic diversity on September 18, 2009. In early 2010 she released her first “best of” album.

Co-presented with Riddu Riddu Festival and Center for Northern Peoples. The concert is supported by The Sámi Parliament of Norway and Music Norway.

Art Afterhours

Tuesdays, 6 – 8 pm, June 3 & July 1, 2014

Free

Come early and stay late! *Art Afterhours* is a once-monthly art party with extended gallery hours, 6 to 8 pm, featuring music and drinks. Meet up and socialize with other Nordic art fans at Scandinavia House to relish *Sámi Stories: Art and Identity of an Arctic People* after hours.

FILM

Sámi Side of Life: Films from the Far North

Wednesdays @ 7 pm, June 4 through 18, 2014

\$10 (\$7 ASF Members)

A cycle of nine films – including feature-length narrative and documentary films, short films, and music videos – dedicated to exploring facets of Sámi identity through artistic means.

Selects from the Tromsø International Film Festival

June 4

A package of Sámi films chosen by the Tromsø International Film Festival (TIFF), including the experimental dance films *The Wind Whispers There is Someone Behind the Tundra* (Norway, 2006) and *The Yoiking Hand/Juoigangiehta* (Norway, 2011), and the narrative documentary *Sámi Daughter Yoik/ Sámi nieida jojk* (Sweden, 2007).

The Wind Whispers There is Someone Behind the Tundra/Biegga savkala duoddariid duohken lea soames

Directed by Ken Are Bongo & Elle Sofe Henriksen (Norway, 2006). As dancers travel through time and space, enjoying the wonders of the sky, they find different objects that connect them to their Sámi ancestors and reveal a belief in the powers of nature. Choreographed by Elle Sofe Henriksen/Johtti kompani, the silent film's impressionistic imagery is inspired by the poem *Biegga savkala duoddariid duohken lea soames* by award-winning Sámi poet Synnøve Persen.
10 min.

The Yoiking Hand/Juoigangiehta

Directed by Elle Sofe Henriksen (Norway, 2011). A short documentary and dance film by choreographer and filmmaker Elle Sofe Henrikson that provides brief insight into Sámi culture. *The Yoiking Hand* features the unrehearsed movements of three traditional Sámi yoikers and their thoughts about why the hand moves in a certain way while yoiking.
5 min. In Sámi with English subtitles.

Sámi Daughter Yoik/Sámi nieida jojk

Directed by Liselotte Wajstedt (Sweden, 2007). *Sámi Daughter Yoik* is a beautiful, fractured documentary that delves deeply into the insecurity, humor, and vulnerability of a young urban Sámi woman trying to understand herself. Armed with a few Sámi phrases learned in a summer course and a *kolt* (traditional Sámi outer garment), director Liselotte Wajstedt sets off on a road trip determined to find a connection to her culture. Part video diary, part experimental animation, this film explores the excitement of the filmmaker's self-discovery and her frustration at trying to fit into a culture that she doesn't fully understand. The painful and often hilarious trials of Wajstedt reveal that defining indigenous identities is truly an international struggle.
58 minutes. In Swedish and Sámi with English subtitles.

Selects from the Sápmi Indigenous Film & Art Festival

June 11

A package of Sámi short films and music videos picked by Dellie maa – the Sápmi Indigenous Film & Art Festival that goes beyond traditional portraits of Sámi culture and represents a fresh, new wave of Sámi storytelling and filmmaking, including works by Oskar Östergren, Marja Bål Nango, Amanda Kernell, Ken Are Bongo and Elle Márjá Eira, and Per-Josef Idivuoma and Lars-Ánte Kuhmunen.

8 Seasons, 8 Films/8 årstider – 8 filmer*

Directed by Oskar Östergren (Sweden, 2014). The climate of Northern Scandinavia fluctuates from the coldest, darkest winters to the brightest, warmest summers. It is through the filter of these shifting seasons that the indigenous Sámi developed their view of life and nature through history. As a nomadic culture, nature is the most sacred element of life to the Sámi and in these fluid conditions, four seasons are not enough to describe their relationship to it.

Comprised of eight documentary short films, *8 Seasons, 8 Films* introduces audiences to the eight different Sámi seasons through the interpretations of eight different artists, spreading knowledge about traditional and modern Sámi life and expressing the different feelings that the Sámi seasons represent.

The eight seasons and their respective artists include:

Deep Winter/Daelvie | *Monica Edmondson, glass art*

Early Spring/Gijre-daelvie | *Sofia Jannok, music*

True Spring/Gijre | *Ola Stinnerbom, stage art*

Early Summer/Gijre-giesie | *Oliver Israelsson, handiwork*

True Summer/Giesie | *Anders Sunna, visual arts*

Early Autumn/Tjaktje-giesie | *Lena Stenberg, photo/installations*

True Autumn/Tjaktje | *Lena Lundin Skott, handiwork*

Early Winter/Tjaktje-daelvie | *Tomas Colbengtson, graphics/glass art*

40 min. Each film is 5 min. & in Swedish with English subtitles.

*Q & A with director Oskar Östergren follows screening.

Before She Came, After He Left/Før hun kom, etter han dro

Directed by Marja Bål Nango (Norway, 2012). In Sámi artist and filmmaker Marja Bål Nango's deeply affecting film, a young man on the verge of marriage questions the frailty of life and the complex bonds of friendship after a recent tragedy.

22 min. In Norwegian with English subtitles.

The Association of Joy

Directed by Amanda Kernell (Denmark, 2013). Charlotte (Ida Dvinger) and her husband Mads (Bo Carlsson) live a privileged but lonely upper-class life without children. An educational project for Thai

girls seems to be the way out of boredom and into the charitable limelight for Charlotte.

Teenage Joy (Maryann Salvador) moves from Thailand to Denmark to be inserted into Charlotte and Mads' beau monde villa – complete with swimming pool. But Joy is not at all interested in Charlotte's care or her offer of education and makes it very difficult for Charlotte to be the good person she so desperately wants to be.

25 min.

To Herd Reindeer/Guođohit

Directed by Ken Are Bongo & Elle Márjá Eira (Norway, 2013). A unique, music video encounter with a Sámi reindeer herding family. We follow the artist's father and brother herding their family's reindeer in the tundra, in Northern Norway. Both the music and the film capture the essence of this unique lifestyle in the coldest time of winter. Old traditions are passed on to the younger generation. Sámi artist Elle Márjá is portrayed through her personal joik, performed by her father Per Henrik Eira.

6 min.

Sound of Snowy Wind/Guoldu njurgo

Directed by Per-Josef Idivuoma (Norway, 2013). Sámi musician and reindeer herder Lars-Ánte Kuhmunen's *Sound of Snowy Wind* music video portrays a schizophrenic man in northern Scandinavia that ends up in a gunfight with himself. From his album *Somás muittut* (Stierdna, 2012).

5 ½ min.

The Cuckoo/Kukushka

June 18

Written & directed by Aleksandr Rogozhkin (Russia & Finland, 2002). In Alexander Rogozhkin's surprisingly gentle film set in Finland near the end of the World War II, uniforms, national alliances, even the markings on a fighter plane can be misleading, and the assumptions spawned by language and cultural barriers can be both comic and dangerous.

When Anni (Anni-Kristiina Juuso), a solitary young Sámi woman, offers escaped Finnish sniper Veikko (Ville Haapasalo) and Ivan (Viktor Bychkov), a Russian captain accused of anti-Soviet correspondence, refuge on her primitive homestead, the trio of lost souls – none of whom speak the other's language – must coexist without fully understanding each other.

The Cuckoo is a meditation on the ability of people to feel tenderness for each other as individuals, even when they believe they have nothing in common.

104 min. In Russian, Finnish, & Sámi with English subtitles.

Special thanks to the Tromsø International Film Festival, Dellie maa – Sámpí Indigenous Film & Art Festival, and Sony Picture Classics.

PUBLICATION

The exhibition is accompanied by an illustrated, two-volume boxed set catalogue and will be available for purchase in The Shop @ Scandinavia House.

EXHIBITION SUPPORT

Sámi Stories: Art and Identity of an Arctic People has been curated by Charis Gullickson and Marit Anne Hauan and organized by Northern Norway Art Museum, Tromsø University Museum, and The American-Scandinavian Foundation (ASF). The exhibition has been made possible by grants from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the University of Tromsø, with the collaboration and expertise of the Center for Northern Peoples. Funding for the accompanying exhibition catalogue has been provided by the Fritt Ord Foundation. The ASF gratefully acknowledges exhibition support from The Bergesen Foundation, DNB Bank ASA, Bård and Barbara Bunaes, and the Consulate General of Sweden in New York. Support for educational programs and events was received from Scandinavian Seminar and the Royal Norwegian Consulate General in New York, and funding for artist travel was received from Frame Visual Arts Finland. Additional support has been provided by a number of funds of the ASF, including The Bonnier Family Fund for Contemporary Art, The Hilppa and Joe Roby Fund for Finnish Cultural and Educational Programs at Scandinavia House, and the Andrew E. and G. Norman Wigeland Fund.

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