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Min muorra ja máinnasiid vuovdi – Our Tree and the Forest of Stories. Envisioning Possible Futures through Art

Short description / Abstract:

This presentation introduces New Genre Arctic Art Education (AAE) as a framework that reframes art education as an ecocultural, decolonial and relational practice. Rather than positioning knowledge as flowing from South to North or from expert to learner, this approach understands learning emerging from entangled relationships among learners, educators, materials, places, and cultural contexts.

Rievdan is a two-year art-based action research (ABAR) project conducted by the University of Lapland and funded by the Finnish Kone Foundation. Northern communities are experiencing growing anxiety about the future, as external pressures—national, international, and environmental—affect nature and traditional Sámi livelihoods. Rievdan explores and develops practices in AAE and seeks to support local and Sámi Indigenous communities in a rapidly changing North through art education. In this presentation, we reflect on the Min Muorra ja Máinnasiid Vuovdi art workshop conducted in 2025 in Vuohčču, a small village located at the southernmost border of Sápmi in Finland. In the workshop, participants were able to process and make their thoughts visible regarding the meanings and impacts of change, and to reflect on their own potential to influence its direction. The findings show that AAE can support communities in envisioning possible futures and reshaping their everyday lives.