

Many Places, Many Design Histories

The Nordic Forum for Design History
Biennial Symposium, 6-8 May 2026
Umeje/Umeå, Sápmi/Sweden

Umeå Institute Of Design, Arts Campus, Umeå University

WEDNESDAY 6 MAY

[Foyer, Umeå Institute of Design]

10.00 Registration opens

10.15 Pre-programme for early arrivals:

Visit to Bildmuseet, Umeå Arts Campus

[Project Studio, Umeå Institute of Design]

12.30 Welcome and initial address

13.00 KEYNOTE — GUNVOR GUTTORM

“External conditions create specific needs” What can the coat of the late Iver Jåks mean in contemporary duddjon and for relations to landscapes and places?

- *Since then (...the 1960's...), the conditions for duddjon (creative process) has changed, but is it still possible to see a connection to the landscape?*

Gunvor Guttorm - Professor in duodji (Sámi arts and crafts, traditional art, applied art) at Sámi allaskuvla/ Sámi University of Applied Sciences, Guovdageaidnu/ Kautokeino in Norway

14.00-14.30 Fika (a.k.a. Coffee break)

14.30 Expanding Nordic Design histories

Moderator: Maria Göransdotter

Sámi duodji and Silk – Material Dialogues

Heidi Pietarinen - University of Lapland, Finland
Maarit Magga - Sámi Allaskuvla/ Sámi University of Applied Sciences, Norway
Satu Miettinen - University of Lapland, Finland

Full program
with abstracts
& speaker bio



Everyday objects and ritual food in Lule and Pite Sami Religion 1670-1750

Anna Westman Kuhmunen - Stockholm University/ Ájtte, Swedish Mountain and Sami Museum, Sweden

Design Across the Iron Curtain: Jyväskylä as a Site of Cold War Design Negotiation

Sini Rinne-Kanto - Paris 8 University, France

15.30-16.00 Fika

16.00 Place-based perspectives

Moderator: Elin Manker

The Ärtemark Hat: Braiding Local and Transnational Histories at Halmens Hus

Tom Cubbin - HDK-Valand Campus Steneby, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

Attending to the Ordinary: Suburban Everyday Life and Situated Histories

Maryam Fanni - Independent researcher, Sweden

The Kartan Carpentry. Centre, Periphery and Musealization

Maja Willén - Konstfack, Sweden

17.00-17.15 Short break

17.15 Sharing histories — installations and interactive activity

Moderator: Maria Göransdotter

Resistant Fibers, Fibrous Histories: The Work of Emiko Tokushige in the Collection of Designmuseum Danmark/ Exhibition

Amalie Voss - Designmuseum Denmark

Ubiquitous Aluminium, Where Are You From?/ Map installation

Elín Margot Ármannsdóttir - University of Oslo, Norway

Counter-mapping ways of learning. An atlas of art and design schools beyond the centre - periphery relationship/ Presentation

Katja Klaus and Philipp Sack - Bauhaus Dessau Foundation, Germany

17.45 Edit-a-thon

Map design historical blind spots together with Katja Klaus & Philipp Sack, Bauhaus Dessau Foundation. Engage with/contribute to the interactive atlas, which will be open throughout the evening and all Thursday

19.00 Soup dinner

at Bygden, Umeå Arts Campus

THURSDAY 7 MAY

[Project Studio, Umeå Institute of Design]

09.00 KEYNOTE — BART PUSHAW

For Whom? Relationality and the Historicizing of Arctic Design

- *What does design history do? Who does it and why? With whom, precisely, are we in relation as researchers?*

Bart Pushaw - Assistant Professor of art history at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, USA

10.00-10.30 Fika

10.30 Design museums and beyond

Moderator: Elin Manker

Design Stories from Many Angles: Reframing the Permanent Display at Röhsska Museum

Josefin Kilner & Jessica Sjögerén
Röhsska Museum, Sweden

Metabolic Design Museums and their Active Role in Re-Shaping Design

Anja Neidhardt-Mokoena - HumLab, Umeå University, Sweden

Just local? An invitation to a discussion on how we can write design histories with many places, various practices and diverse communities

Christina Zetterlund - Linnaeus University, Sweden

11.30-11.45 Short break

11.45 Textile traces

Moderator: Dr. Denise Hagströmer

Dressing the Royal Child

Trine Brun Petersen - The Royal Danish Collection
Rosenborg Slot, Denmark

Weaving the narrative: Visualizing global iconography, local design practices, and material histories in 16th-century Swedish tapestries

Ida Madsén - Uppsala University, Sweden

12.25-14.00 Lunch

14.00 Changing practices

Moderator: Dr. Leena Svinhufvud

Narrating Design Otherwise: Fiction as Method in Historical Recontextualization

Georgina McDowall - The Coastal Museum in Sogn og Fjordane
Kiersten Thamm - Navigating.art

From Babysitting to Black Panthers. Danish students in SDO and the final seminar in Copenhagen 1969

Anders V. Munch - University of Southern Denmark
Vibeke Riisberg - Design School Kolding, Denmark

14.40-14.50 Short break

14.50 Material flows

Moderator: Anders V. Munch

Moving Matter: Design History as Pathfinding

Ingrid Halland - Aarhus University, Denmark
Kjetil Fallan - University of Oslo, Norway

Design as Geological Force: The Making of Norwegian Aluminium

Elín Margot Ármannsdóttir - University of Oslo, Norway

Nordic Waters: Negotiating Hydroscaapes by Design

Mads Nygaard Folkmann - University of Southern Denmark
Malin Graesse - National Museum Oslo, Norway

15.50-16.20 Fika

16.20 Panel: Crafting Voices of Norrbotten

Moderator: Christina Zetterlund

Silvia Colombo - Visual Art Consultant, Region Norrbotten, Luleå

Ida Isak Westerberg - Textile artist, Luleå and Övertorneå
Linnea Nilsson and Sofia Öberg - Craft and Design Consultants, Region Norrbotten, Luleå

Anna-Stina Svakko - Sámi designer and duojár, Porjus
Karin Tjernström - Archivist, Norrbottens Museum, Luleå

17.20-17.45 Final words

19.00 Conference dinner

at Tonka Strandgatan, Östra Strandgatan 24

FRIDAY 8 MAY

10.00-12.00 Visit to Västerbottens Museum

Meet-up 09.50 at Västerbottens Museum, Helena Elisabeths väg 3 for guided tours of the ongoing exhibition *Soevjene* by Tomas Colbengtsson and the open-air museum Gammlia.

13.00-16.00 Gather around Sámi stitches

Meet-up 12.50 at Tráhppie, Helena Elisabeths väg 4. Sámi craft master Anna-Stina Svakko invites us to a meeting with Sámi stitches. Through images and stories she inspires us to try them for ourselves.

THE NORDIC FORUM FOR DESIGN HISTORY

... is an open forum for scholars in the Nordic countries and beyond, working within the field of design history. Every two years, a different country hosts a symposium to promote contact and discussion across borders, institutions, and related fields.

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Send an e-mail to Pernille Dahl Kragh at pdk@sdu.dk to be updated on coming events.



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