

# 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 Fann - 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: 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

### 12.25-13.45 Lunch

#### 13.45 Changing practices

Moderator: Leena Svinhufvud

##### Human Understanding: 'The user' as a site for socio-technological imaginaries

Kaisu Savola - Independent researcher, Finland

##### 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

### 14.45-15.15 Fika

#### 15.15 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

### 16.15-16.30 Short break

#### 16.30 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

### 17.30-17.45 Final words

#### 19.00 Conference dinner

at Tonka Strandgatan, Östra Strandgatan 24

## FRIDAY 8 MAY

### 09.30-12.00 Visit to Västerbottens Museum

with guided tours

#### After lunch:

More visits and also craft workshop(s).

Sign up needed

### THE NORDIC FORUM FOR DESIGN HISTORY

... is an open forum for researchers in the Nordic countries 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.

#### Join our mailing list

Send an e-mail to Pernille Dahl Kragh at [dk@sdu.dk](mailto:dk@sdu.dk) to be updated on coming events.



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