

## OPEN CALL!

We invite you to join us this summer for a four day seminar, where artists and scientists will speak about their research concerning the ocean. From the perspective of nature science, political science and a variety of artistic methods and expressions. Full program and practical info below.

We thank the Norwegian Arts Council for their generous support.

**Where:** Røst, Lofoten, Norway/ Sapmi.

**When:** June 27th - July 1st 2017

**Host:** Røst Artist in Residence: [www.rostair.com](http://www.rostair.com)

**Curator and producer:** Marie Kaada Hovden.

**Curatorial input:** Elin Már Øyen Vister, Berit Kristoffersen and Eva Bakkeslett.

**Thanks to:** Jason Rosenberg and Cal Harben.

**Apply by June 1st:** Send an email with short motivation and bio to: [marie\\_hovden@yahoo.no](mailto:marie_hovden@yahoo.no) and copy to [foreningarostair@gmail.com](mailto:foreningarostair@gmail.com)



*Carta marina by Olaus Magnus, 1593*

## OCEAN SEMINAR Vol.1

There are several reasons why Røst AiR wish to engage in a gathering to exchange artistic works and knowledge about the ocean and it's marine ecology. With our location on the island Skomvær, surrounded by the North Atlantic sea, it is hard to overlook. The world's largest known deep water coral reef is located in the Røst archipelago and is among the richest habitats we have. Røst is also home to one of Northern Europe's largest pelagic seabird colonies situated in the Nykan nature reserve. However the seabird populations are in a crisis and have been struggling along since the Atlantic Herring population collapsed in the 60'ies. Pollution, badly managed fisheries, and climate change are all

impacting the seabirds current situation, both here on Røst and in the far away places they spend their winters. And as the story goes with most other circumpolar seabird colonies, year after year with decline in population, colonies and eventually bird mountains become silent. To take one example, Vedøya, Europe's most extravagant and lively birds mountains, had in 1980, after years of decline, still an impressive breeding colony of 22000 pairs of Kittiwakes and 12000 pairs of Guillemots, as well as numerous Puffins and Razor Bills. In the spring of 2017, it is empty. This is climate change in practice, and the air mirrors the sea. The Røst archipelago is also situated amidst a grand economic and geopolitical battle which concerns the oil drilling in Lofoten, Vesterålen and Senja and the struggle to end the Norwegian oil age.

Røst AiR is an artist run AIR initiative and communal workshops, founded in 2012. Since the summer of 2013 members of the Røst AIR working group and our guest artists have lived out with this wild landscape on the island of Skomvær and its 150 year old lighthouse station. Every summer we have invited different scientists to join us to share their work with us so that we slowly build up our knowledge about the ecosystem surrounding us, and how we can gradually learn to live more sustainably. Being out in this grand, open landscape, one learns to understand how vulnerable it actually is. They say we know more about the surface of the moon than of our deep oceans. So we invite you to join us this summer at Røst for a four day ocean seminar, where artists and scientists will speak about their research and work which is directly connected to the ocean in one way or another. From the perspective of nature science, political science and a variety of artistic methods and expressions.

## PROGRAM

(Subject to change)

<b>Tuesday 27th</b>	<b>Arrival to Røst.</b> We will have soup ready when you arrive.
<b>18.30 - 20.00</b>	For kids: <b>"The Mysteries of the Sea"</b> by marine biologist <b>Henning Røed</b> and Marie Kaada Hovden. In Norwegian.
<b>Wednesday 28th</b>	<b>At Havly</b>
10.30 - 11.15:	"From petroleum exploration licences at Røst to the ice edge in the North: Political geographies and material practices" by <b>Berit Kristoffersen</b>
11.30 - 12.30:	"Who owns the oceans?" The history of the fisheries and Oil versus fish by marine biologist <b>Henning Røed</b>
13.00 - 13.45	Conversation with local fishermen.
14.00 - 15.30:	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
15.30 - 16.30:	Artist Talk: Whales and Dolphins in the Vestfjord by <b>Heike Vester.</b>
16.45 - 17.45:	Artist Talk: Whale Music and the Pull of the Ocean by <b>David Rothenberg</b>
18.00 - 20.00:	<b>DINNER BREAK</b>
20.30 - 21.30	Concert by <b>David Rothenberg</b> in collaboration with <b>Heike Vester</b>
<b>Torsdag 29.06.17</b>	<b>At Kårøya</b>
10.00 - 13.00	"The Invisible Helpers: Plankton" A workshop where we will collect zooplankton

and study their sizes, shapes, colours, and behavior. Followed by a conversation with marine biologist **Camilla Svensen** via Skype.

13.00 – 15.00:

**LUNCH BREAK**

15.00 – 16.45:

Artist Talk "Conversations i Sáivu" by **Ragna Grønstad**

17.00 - 18.00:

Artist Talk "Wherever the Ocean Takes Me" by **Maja Nilsen**

18.00 – 20.00:

**DINNER BREAK**

20.00 - 22.00

Film screening

### **Fredag 30.06.17**

10.00 – 11.00

"Ocean currents"

11.15 - 12.15

"The air mirrors the sea" By **Tycho-Anker Nilssen**, Biologist specialised on seabird ecology.

12.30 - 13.15

Artist Talk: **Soundscape Røst** 45 min

12.30 – 15.00

**LUNCH BREAK**

15.00 - 16.00

Skype session with artists **Randi Nygård** and **Karolin Tampere**.

16.30 – 17.15

Artist Talk: Bodies of water: **Cal Harben** 45 min

17.30 - 18.15

Conversation between **Elin Már Øyen Vister** and **Cal Halben**

18.30 – 20.30

**DINNER BREAK**

20.30 - 21.30

Film screening

### **Lørdag 01.07.17**

09.00 - 13.00

Seabird Safari departing at 09.00 **NB: If the weather allows it!**

Pack, clean our rooms and departure. Ferry leaves Røst at 14.45 on Saturday.

If you wish to stay longer on Røst we can help you book a room. Tell us when you sign up.

## **ABOUT THE SEMINAR CONTRIBUTORS**

**BERIT KRISTOFFERSEN:** "From petroleum exploration licences at Røst to the ice edge in the North: Political geographies and material practices"

Berit Kristoffersen is a political geographer working as an associate professor at the UiT– the Arctic University of Norway. Her research deals with the interconnection of petroleum politics, climate change and sustainable resource use across scale. The regional focus is on Northern Norway and the Arctic. Currently associated with the Arctic Centre for Sustainable Energy, Berit lives in Lofoten where she also conduct participatory/ethnographic research on present and future challenges of Arctic living, resource use, climate change strategies, environmentalism and politics.

**HENNING RØED:** "Herring in Oil/ Sardiner i olje"

The writer and marine biologist Henning Røed will give a talk about how Norway's economic history meant 1000 years of fish export followed by 50 years of oil exploration. The fish put Lofoten on international maps more than 500 years ago. Can fish and oil drilling co-exist and specially in the Lofoten area?

**HEIKE VESTER:** "Whales and Dolphins in the Vestfjord"

Vester is born in Germany, studied Biology in Berlin and moved to Norway in 1998. She did her Master thesis in Arctic Biology and Physiology at the University of Tromsø and holds a PhD on the vocal behavior of killer whales and long-finned pilot whales in Lofoten. She studies the behaviour and communication of Orcas in northern Norway, and whales and dolphins in the Vestfjord, and founded **Ocean Sounds** in August 2005. [www.ocean-sounds.org](http://www.ocean-sounds.org)

**DAVID ROTHENBERG:** "Whale Music and the Pull of the Ocean"

Musician and philosopher David Rothenberg is the author of *Why Birds Sing*, *Thousand Mile Song*, *Survival of the Beautiful*, and his latest, *Bug Music*. His writings have appeared in at least eleven languages. He has sixteen CDs out under his own name, including *One Dark Night I Left My Silent House*, a duet with pianist Marilyn Crispell, which came out on ECM in 2010. He has played music with whales in Hawaii, Russia, Canada, and the Dominican Republic, and is working on a sound installation for the new Museum of Natural History in Bergen. Rothenberg spent many years working with Arne Naess and wrote *Is It Painful to Think? Conversations with Arne Naess*, a bestseller in Norway. He is professor of philosophy and music at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. [www.davidrothenberg.net](http://www.davidrothenberg.net)

**MAJA NILSEN:** "Wherever the ocean takes me"

Maja Nilsen is a Norwegian artist (1978) based in Berlin and Norway. She has an MFA from Trondheim Academy of Fine Art (2003-2005) and a BA from Trondheim and Dublin.

The work of Maja Nilsen is created from memory and imagination, residing somewhere in the tension between autobiographical reference points and poetically immersed dream worlds. She works in a cross/multimedia manner that mostly results in site-specific projects, collages, sculpture and lately also scenography and costumes.

Nilsen is interested in how people have lived their lives and how we through history have tried to understand the world around us. How do we seek explanations of complex issues and phenomena throughout including science, religion and folklore? Her art tends to expose connectivity with the past, present and future existences. She has been specially occupied by how people relate to nature and how places and scenery affect us. Her own background, which has consisted of fishing families for many generations, has especially preoccupied her artistic practice.

**RAGNA MISVÆR GRØNSTAD:** "Conversations i Sáivu"

Ragna Misvær Grønstad (b. 1984, originally from Bodø in North of Norway) studied printmaking and drawing and received her MFA degree in 2016, from Oslo National Academy of the Arts (KHiO) in Medium- and Material-Based Art, and her BA in Visual Art in 2013 (KHiO).

Misvær Grønstad's main body of work is situated within an aquatic landscape drawn figuratively and expressively, using printmaking techniques such as woodcut and intaglio. Her work is marked by a critical and philosophical voice emanating from fragments of text and contemporary poetry.

Ragna will present her work, reading from her book "Conversations i Sáivu" and introduce you to her processes as an artist, in exploring an imaginary aquatic world, inspired by the Sámi's water with double bottom, Sáivu, and how this became significant for her art. Her practice contemplates our perception of reality and individual emancipation from a timeless perspective. This social critique is anchored in her belief in the positive potential of escapism, and in the force of the imaginary in reality.

**TYCHO ANKER NILSSEN:** “The Air Mirrors the Sea”

<http://www.nina.no/Kontakt/Ansatte/CV.aspx?ansattid=12001>

**ELIN MÁR ØYEN VISTER:** “Soundscape Røst”

Elin Már works with listening, installations, performance, experimental music, sculptural elements, organic matter and text. Their work focuses on the nature / culture dichotomy, climate issues, interhuman relationships, body and gender, approached from a postcolonial feminist, decolonial and queer ecological perspective, where theory and practice are given equal importance.

**CAL HARBEN:** “Bodies of Water”

Calder Harben is a visual and sound artist, Canadian born and currently based in Copenhagen (DK). In 2015 Harben received an MA from Tromsø Kunstakademiet, and a diploma from Nordic Sound Art program. As trans person, their gender is fluid moving beyond a binary of male/female. These liminal experiences inform their exploration of interstices. Harben engages in individual, collaborative and community-based projects on topics of ecology, human/more-than-human, and borders. They approach their work through a lens of queer, decolonial and embodied practises.

Harben will present their recent work Bodies of Water, a research-based project exploring the thresholds of perceptibility, through sound and body. What are the limits of what we can sense? How do things beyond our perception impact onto our bodies? How can we build new understandings between human and the more-than-human? [www.calderharben.com](http://www.calderharben.com)

**ABOUT RØST AiR (Artist in Residence)**

Røst AiR is a avant-garde artist residency situated at Skomvær Lighthouse in Lofoten, focusing on art, ecology and ecological transition. We are a non-profit artist run association organized by a working group consisting of visual artist Jason Rosenberg (US), sound artist Elin Már Øyen Vister (NO) and performing artist Marie Kaada Hovden (NO). For the summer 2017 our residency guests focus their work on natural resources such as water and postfossil energy, organic material, marine ecology, identity and indigenous philosophy and decolonizing thought and action. For more info: [www.rostair.com](http://www.rostair.com)

## **PRACTICAL INFO:**

**PRICE:**

Regular: 3550,- Student: 2950,-

This includes:

4 nights in dormitory + vegan dinner each night.

Everyone should ideally contribute 45 minutes in the kitchen during the seminar. Prep and/or clean-up.

We will live here: <http://www.karoy.no/>

**HOW TO APPLY:**

**Send an email to:** [marie\\_hovden@yahoo.no](mailto:marie_hovden@yahoo.no). with the subject line : “Application ocean seminar”

Also please send a short letter of motivation and please add how you learned about the seminar.

**TRAVEL:**

We kindly ask you to find the most environmentally friendly way to get to Røst. Our policy is to try and take the train as often as we can. The train from Oslo takes a while, but it is a beautiful journey!

Train in Norway: [www.nsb.no](http://www.nsb.no)

The ferry between Bodø and Røst: leaves monday through friday at 17.15 with arrival at Røst 21.00  
<http://ruteinfo.thn.no/no/default.aspx?rnr=82> NB: Be sure to look at the correct timetable: 09.06.17 - 27.08.17

The ferry leaves Røst Saturday at 14.45, Sunday at 20.30 and Monday at 13.00.

If you wish to stay longer at Røst then tell us when you apply. It will be 250,- NOK per night at Kårøya Rorbucamping.

### **BRING:**

Towel and bedsheets.

Rain clothes and rain boots, warm clothes (5 -10 degrees celsius), and house slippers

### **PRACTICAL ABOUT RØST:**

There is one grocery store on Røst where you can get all the food you need for breakfast and lunch. It is about a 20 min walk from where we live to the store. Røst also has some cafés, restaurants and a small kiosk. If we are lucky we can rent some bikes from the hotel.