



THE CONFERENCE OF THE BIRDS

PROGRAM FOR MEETING

**PROGRAM THE CONFERENCE OF THE BIRDS - PLANNING MEETING
 AiR ENGELØYA, NORTH NORWAY 8th-13th JUNE 2018**

Welcome to this first and shapegiving meeting of *The Conference the Birds*.

In this initial meeting our aim is to meet, share knowledge, inspire each other, brainstorm and plan the project together, concretise and apply for further funding. The planning entails finding a suitable form and structure for the migrating exhibition, making a timeframe and schedule, and attaining the right balance between art/aesthetics, research and outreach/activism in the content.

The partners will also begin to make a list of relevant artists from different disciplines, stories and projects to include. We will add to this and assess as the project moves on and develops.

We also aim to make an active outreach program for children/elders and immigrants and a satellite program to connect interesting bird/art/culture related projects in the Nordic and North Russian region. All the exchange of ideas and information gathered through the meeting will enable us to write well informed funding applications to get the main project up and going from the autumn of 2019.

Being an avid breadmaker and fermenter I suggest we envision the process like the making of a sourdough loaf of bread! The initial day will hence be the first fermentation of the starter-dough. Then we mix all our ingredients, knead the dough, and start fermenting together. Finally we shape our bread, proof, and finally bake and make concrete all our ideas. Eventually we should end up with some tasty and interesting loaves with a diverse, multicultural, and ethereal quality to share.

Welcome to Engeløya!

DATE	PROGRAM	WHERE/WHOM/HOW
8th June	Gathering grains: Evening meal and gathering.	Sjyhågen, Røtnes
9th June	SATURDAY - Mixing the ingredients	Guest studio
8.30-9.00	Yoga with Iván	Guest studio
8.30-9.50	Breakfast self service	Kitchen house
10-10.30	Presentation of our ideas and visions for The Conference of the Birds.	Guest studio: Eva and Heli
10.30-11.45	Mixing the ingredients: Getting to know each other. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing our own field of interest - 10min each. What do I burn for and what can I contribute with? 	Guest studio
11.45-12.00	Coffee/Tea break	Kitchen house
12.00-13.00	More presentations: Heli Aaltonen: Bird-human relationships and the need for entangled empathy. 15 min	Guest studio

	Karoliina Lumma: Avian poetics. 15 min Questions to each other and dialogue.	
13-14	Lunch	Kitchen house
14.00 - 16.00	<p>Kneading the dough: In this phase we will share ideas for how to shape the migrating exhibition. We want to brainstorm and for everyone to contribute to content and shape. Questions to work with in this phase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What and whom to include • How long should each show be and how frequent? • Where - art institution, exhibition halls, community centres or other venues? • Should the content be different in the various places? • Incorporating the outdoors • Satellite projects and how to involve them • How to engage a wider audience? • How to engage research community? • How to engage decisions makers? • Outreach • How to make a solid collaborative platform between researchers and artists? • Language - English or local or both? • Roles of the different members • How to collaborate - collaborative platform • Finding local ambassadors that lays the foundations for the project and anchors it locally 	<p>Guest studio and studio barn or outside if the weather is good!</p> <p>Mindmap & post-it in small groups.</p> <p>“Open space” method with mindmaps & post-it notes in small groups. Presentation of the findings to the whole group.</p> <p>Aim: To clarify ideas</p>
16.00-16.20	Coffee/Tea break	Kitchen house
16.20-18	<p>More kneading of the dough.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspiration from other projects and good ideas to find a good balance, energy and focus • Deciding on places and venues to show, and the route the show would take • Collaborators in the different places • Outreach program with schools and the elderly 	Guest studio and studio barn or outside if the weather is good!
19.00-20.00	Supper	Kitchen house
Evening	Fire gathering and rowing/kayak/canoeing if the weather is good!	
10. June	SUNDAY	
8.30-9.00	Yoga with Iván	
8.30-9.50	Breakfast self service	Kitchen house

10-11.30	Shaping of the loaf: Making ideas more concrete. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dividing areas of responsibilities and different tasks • Setting up timeframes and selecting dates • Organising the budget 	Guest studio
11.30-11.45	Coffee/tea	Kitchen house
11.45-13	More shaping of the loaf: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding - options in all countries and Nordic/Barents funding • Go through options • Crowd funding 	Guest studio
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch	Kitchen house
14.00 - 14.30	Break/ preparation of the presentation	
14.30-16.00	The Conference of the Birds. Sharing with the locals: Short and light presentations to a local audience from some of the participants. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome: Eva Bakkeslett 10 mins • Geir Magne Pedersen – <i>Introduction to the birds and situation in Steigen</i> 15 min • <i>Bird situation:</i> Sergei & Maria Karelian 15 min • <i>Learning from birds:</i> Andris Fågelveiskare 15 min • <i>Art for birds:</i> Ulrika Jansson 15min • <i>Birds and human collaboration:</i> David Rothenberg 15 min • <i>Avian poetry:</i> Karoliina Lumma 10 mins Total: 1h 35mins	Guest studio
16.00-17.00	Coffee/tea/snacks chats with the locals	Guest studio barn
17-19.00	Excursion around Engeløya. Arctic swimming for the hardy.	
19.00	Supper	Kitchen house
11th June	MONDAY	
8.30- 9.00	Yoga with Iván	Guest studio
8.30-9.50	Breakfast self service	Kitchen house
10.00 - 13.00	Proofing: How to make the vision possible? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networks & practical timetable. Documentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catalogue or book? 	Guest studio

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Film • Other ways? <p>Press:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press and writers/journalists to incorporate and follow the project. <p>Public face:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website • Poster • Social media • Research: Articles, scientific publications • Other options? 	
11.30-11.45	Coffee/tea	Kitchen house
11.45-13.00	<p>More proofing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who does what? • What is the time frame? • Deadlines • Dividing responsibilities • Strategy 	Guest studio
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch	Kitchen house
14.00 - 18.00	<p>Baking the bread: Applications - start the process. Divide into groups and work collectively.</p>	Barn
19.00-20.00	Supper	Kitchen house
	Party time with the birds :-)	
12. June	TUESDAY	
8.30-9.00	Yoga with Iván	Guest studio
9.00-09.50	Breakfast self service	Kitchen house
10.00 - 13.00	<p>Baking the bread: Working with applications for different funding bodies.</p>	Coffee/tea/fruit available
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch	Kitchen house
14.00 - 16.00	More application work. Summing up the planning meeting	Guest studio/studio barn
16-16.30	Break coffee tea snacks	Kitchen house
16.30-	Ways forward	Guest studio

17.30		
17.30-19	Beach walk/free time	
19-20	Supper	Kitchen house
20-24	Fire gathering:)	
13. June	Wednesday	
6.30-7.30	Breakfast	Kitchen house
7.30 <i>sharp</i>	Car leaves for boat to Bodø at 07.50 (8 mins drive).	Sergey, Maria, Heli M, Oleg, Heli A.
9.10	Car leaves for bus to Narvik at 10.20 from Tømmernes (45 min drive).	Andris, Karoliina

PRESENTATIONS OF THE TEAM MEMBERS:

Heli Aaltonen



organised international storytelling project e.g. Nordic Voices 2008 – 2011. Heli comes from Turku in Finland and now lives in Trondheim, Norway

Heli Aaltonen is puppeteer, storyteller, drama/theatre pedagogue, and scholar in theatre and performance science. Since 2008 she has been working as Associate Professor in Drama and Theatre in Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim. Her research interest is connected with green drama, environmental theatre projects, community-based performance and storytelling projects, where the focus is eco-social change. Her speciality is Finno-Ugrian mythology, fairy tales, Runo singing and multilingual storytelling. She combines storytelling and poetry with forest walks, where the aim is to connect participants with other earth beings. She has performed in many international storytelling festivals, and



Eva Bakkeslett

I am an artist, filmmaker, curator and cultural activist exploring the potential for social change through gentle actions and subtle mindshifts. My socially engaged practice often combines film, participatory events and workshops. I create spaces and experiences that challenge our thinking and unravel new narratives that bring our attention to the patterns that connect us to the earth as a living organism. In my work I explore ways of reconnecting us to our senses, to other species and to ancient and deeply rooted knowledge that we have seemingly forgotten.

I believe that the abstract, elusive, poetic, aesthetic and imaginary power of art is vital to this reconnection.

My practice has evolved into a cross between aesthetic research, archaeology, ethnographic enquiry and gentle cultural activism. In my work I frequently collaborate with others across disciplines. I show, lecture and perform my work worldwide and my films have been screened in numerous film festivals and art events. In 2009 my film *Alchemy* was shown at MoMA, New York. I co-created and co-curated the interdisciplinary event *Gentle Actions* at Kunstneres Hus in Oslo together with Anne-Karin Jortveit in 2010 and recently co-curated the program *Repair* for ROM for Art of Architecture in Oslo.

I have an MA in Art & Ecology from Dartington College of Art in England, and live on Engeløya in North Norway. There I have created an Artist Residency program and studio to make a platform for aesthetic collaborations and enquiry founded in ecological and interconnected thinking and working.



Ulrika Jansson

Ulrika has a place specific practice. She inquires into how we, based on stories, history, materials and ecology at specific locations, can gain an insight into how we are interconnected with other creatures, people, places and times. Her intention is to contribute to a deeper knowledge in this field and to explore how the human involvement and impact on the biosphere can be more positive. In site-specific installations, sculptures and stop motion animated films, she creates works of art that attract viewers to rediscover their neighbourhoods and explore socio-ecological relationships. Pedagogy and participation often play a central role in her work and she often works in interdisciplinary collaborative projects. The artworks materialise themselves as installations, sculptures, drawings, videos, audio and performance.

Temporary website: <http://ulrikajansson.b-cms.se>

Website under construction: www.ulrikajansson.com



David Rothenberg

David Rothenberg makes music live with the sounds of nature, records music with other species, and writes books and makes films about the process. His books and recordings in the field of interspecies music include *Why Birds Sing* on birds, *Thousand Mile Song* on whales, and *Bug Music* on insects. These works have been translated into many foreign languages and have been the subject of documentary films and radio programs in many countries, including Germany, France, Finland,

Denmark, the UK, and the United States, including the BBC feature-length TV program *Why Birds Sing*.

Rothenberg has also written *Sudden Music*, *Blue Cliff Record*, *Hand's End*, and *Survival of the Beautiful*. As a musician Rothenberg has performed and recorded with Pauline Oliveros, Peter Gabriel, Ray Phiri, Suzanne Vega, Scanner, Elliot Sharp, Iva Bittová, and the

Karnataka College of Percussion. His CD, *One Dark Night I Left My Silent House*, a duet with pianist Marilyn Crispell, came out on ECM in 2010.

Rothenberg is distinguished professor of philosophy and music at the New Jersey Institute of Technology and lives in the Hudson Valley. He has also collaborated with neuroscientists on a series of projects trying to bring musical understanding to scientific methods of understanding animal sounds, and he is working on new ways to visualize animal music as he continues to bring an ever larger assortment of international collaborators together to interact with the sounds of other species.



Karoliina Lummaa

Karoliina Lummaa is a postdoctoral researcher specialized in literature studies and environmental humanities. Currently, she is working in the research project “Messy Worlds” (PI professor Lea Rojola, University of Turku) with her focus on the cultural meanings of waste in contemporary Finnish literature and culture. She is also working for the multidisciplinary environmental research unit BIOS, where she is developing tools for analyzing the cultural aspects of environmental problems and resource scarcity. Lummaa’s publications include research articles and co-edited anthologies devoted to multidisciplinary environmental research, posthumanism and Finnish bird cultures and nature writing. She is the author of monographs *Poliittinen siivekäs. Lintujen konkreettisuus*

suomalaisessa 1970-luvun ympäristörunoudessa (2010, *Bird Politics. The concreteness of birds in Finnish 1970’s environmental poetry*) and *Kui trititii! Finnish Avian Poetics* (2017).



Andris Fågelviskare (Birdwhisperer)

I grew up in a small town in the region of Värmland in Sweden. From early childhood I had a deep desire to connect with animals. I also had the ability to easily absorb information and remember things that I read, heard or observed. As a teenager I began spending all my spare time in the forest, learning the ways of the different animals in the landscape. Often I was out at night stalking deer, moose and wild boar, tracking lynx

and wolves and watching foxes and badgers in their dens. During these years I started learning and imitating the sounds of the different birds I had around me, continuing until today where I can imitate the songs of roughly 130 different species. At the age of 17 I stopped going to school, I had developed a strong feeling of distrust in the society system that raised me, and slowly began my journey of learning to survive in the wild without the comforts of the system. Accompanied by an ever growing understanding of the spiritual truths of nature and humanity’s highly destructive relationship with the Earth. This journey continues until this day.

I am now 26 years old.



Oleg Koefoed

Oleg Koefoed is a philosopher devoted to opening up the art of philosophy to the interwoven complexity of the world. The concept of Action-Philosophy is one of the cores of the agency Growing Pathways (that Oleg founded with Kajsa Paludan in 2016). This "nature relations agency" uses methods combining artistic approaches, philosophy and cultural mapping, with digital participation and network building. Through these tools, the agency assists partners and clients in intertwining strategy with biodiversity, spatial and ecology support actions. (<http://growing-pathways.com>)

Oleg is also engaged in research and writing, through action-research partnerships and through Copenhagen Business School. He is a core member of the international network for culture and sustainability, Cultura21. Blog at Medium: "Action-philosopher".



Heli Mäki-Arvela

Hej, You Conference of the Birds people!

I am a 59 years old visual artist. I work mainly with painting – but have also done stage designs, clothes for theatre, some lighting, installations and sculpting.

In 2016 I graduated from the Turku Polytechnic as Master of Art in Applied arts. With my new degree I have done some community art projects. The last one was in a suburb of my home town, Turku, in southern Finland. We (me and my assistant + a bunch of kids from the neighbourhood) built and decorated about

100 bird houses + some insect hotels and bat houses and hung them on trees in a small park in this suburb. My interest for the Conference of The Birds is in the idea of doing together something good for nature. I hope that we can find some interesting and good solutions for the future where we people can live together with animals in a good relationship.



Sergey Simonov

Sergey Simonov is an ornithologist, PhD of Laboratory for Zoology, Institute of Biology, Karelian Research Centre, Russian Academy of Sciences. During his 12 years of work experience, Sergey has coordinated and successfully realized series of research projects supported by different organizations. Sergey uses traditional methods and actively implements the interdisciplinary approach in ornithology. He collaborates with artists, e.g. he participated in two Art&Science projects last years. In his spare time, he

enjoys creating musical instruments (kantele, guitars, etc.) and gourmet cooking.



Maria Matantseva

Maria Matantseva was born in the family of ornithologists. Since her early years, she annually spent several months in forests living in a tent. She has always loved birds,

wanted to discover wild nature and tried to imprint its beauty in pictures. When she entered the university, she met Sergey, her future husband, and they started studying birds together. After graduating, Maria and Sergey began to work at the Institute of Biology of the Karelian Research Centre, Russian Academy of Sciences. They have participated in many projects on bird behaviour, ecology, trends in numbers, and conservation. To conduct the research, they have visited many places in Russia from the White Sea to the Black Sea and from the Ladoga Lake to the Yenisei River. Together with their little son, they have lived in taiga far away from civilization, driven a half of the country by car, worked in several Nature Reserves and National Parks, and flown over Siberia by little hydroplane. Maria is also curious about cultures and nature of different countries. She has been in more than 20 of them and never parted with her photo camera.



Yulia Medvedeva

Yulia lives and works in Arkhangelsk. In 2008 she graduated from the Northern Arctic Federal University n.a. Lomonosov with a master degree in Cultural Studies. For the last six years, she has been the Director of the *Exhibition Hall of the Union of Artists of Arkhangelsk*. The Union of Artists is the only non-governmental institution in the art field of Arkhangelsk region. Her functions include the organization of exhibitions, artistic and cultural events, conducting excursions and developing a pedagogical program, developing international connections, establishing and coordinating the artist-in-residency program, grant writing and administrative tasks.

Yulia has a vital interest in developing an arena (and eventually a local scene) for contemporary art in Arkhangelsk.

In autumn 2014 Yulia participated in the international art project *Mobile Institute* in cooperation with *Raketa Stockholm*, resulting in exhibitions in Arkhangelsk, the Moscow Biennial of Contemporary Art and in the parallel program of *Manifesta 10* in St. Petersburg.

In 2014 she received a grant by the *Ministry of culture of the Russian Federation* for establishing the International Cultural Center. Activities of this center includes exhibitions, festivals, educational programs (workshops and master classes) and the A-i.R program *ArkhangelskAiR*. An important project within in the framework of this grant was the International forum *Contemporary Art in the European North*, organized in 2014 for the first time, and has been conducted twice since.

Yulia is a founding member from Arkhangelsk for the *High North A-i-R Network*. Since April 2013 Yulia is hosting together with the independent curators Cornelius Stiefenhofer the *Arkhangelsk International Photo Festival* at the *Exhibition Hall of the Union of Artists*.

In June 2015 she and Felix Oldewage, a fellow of the *Kulturmanager* program of the *Robert Bosch Foundation* organized the graffiti festival «CityCanvas» which is based on the premises of the *Exhibition Gallery of the Union of Artists* and brings together young artists working with public art.

In September 2016, Yulia spent two weeks on a curator in residency program in Stockholm, arranged by Intercult.

For several years, Yulia has curated an alternative *Night of the Museum* at the exhibition hall, encouraging interaction between local young members of the artist unions, video artists and performance artists.

Recent international collaborations include the Norwegian-Russian exhibition *I Craft, I Travel Light* together with Nordnorsk Kunstmuseet (2016-2018), the international exhibition and residency project *Migration From A Northern Perspective* with partners in Sweden, Finland and Norway, resulting in the exhibition *MIGratsiya – a Moment in Time* at the exhibition hall. www.arkhangelskair.com

Observer:

In 2018/19 I (Eva) is mentoring the recently graduated Hannah Mjølunes. As she has a clear interest in interspecies work I invited her to our meeting as an observer and contributor.



Hannah Mjølunes

Hannah Mjølunes (1987) creates site specific installations and time based pieces that consider the agency of materials that are often thought to be inanimate, such as minerals, metals, plants and the landscape itself; Subjects that operate on time scale that differ from our own human perception. She uses video to explore her subject, and create immersive installations using large scale projections. In these spaces the visitor is invited to consider a sensory exchange and dialogue with the subject matter. She also performs ceremonies

and events around the serving of nine specific herbs, as part of the Nine Herbs Charm collective.



Frank Ekeberg

Frank Ekeberg is an artist and researcher, primarily concerned with the sonic arts. His work explores issues of ecology, time, space and change. He uses almost exclusively natural sound as source material, and spatial aspects of the sounds and the listening environment are integrated as essential elements of the work. Ekeberg has composed and designed sound for concert performance, dance, film, theater, radio plays and multimedia installations, as well as created real-time, interactive installation systems and sound

sculptures. His work has been presented in festivals, exhibitions and concert series in more than 30 countries around the world, earned several international commissions and awards, and can be found in numerous public and private collections, museums and libraries.

Frank Ekeberg received an undergraduate degree in music from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) before he went on to pursue a master's degree in electronic music at Mills College in Oakland, California, where he studied composition with Pauline Oliveros and Alvin Curran, and a PhD in electroacoustic composition at City University in London, UK, where he studied with Denis Smalley and Simon Emmerson.

VOLUNTEERS:

We have 3 volunteers through the amazing network Workaway who are helping us with cooking and other work during our meeting.

Huw Edwardes-Evans, England

Valentina Peredo, Chile

Iván Rodrigues Contreras, Chile

TRAVEL AND HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS:

Name	Arrival date	Arrival place/pickup	Leaving date	Leaving	Housing
David	7th	Bogøy Boat from Bodø	14	Boat Bodø + plane	Barnstudio
Sergey & Maria	8th	Skjelvareid: Train and bus from Stockholm	13	Boat Bodø + plane	Guestroom
Karoliina Lumma	8th	Skjelvareid, from Narvik		Boat Bodø + plane?	Hut
Heli M:	8th	Bogøy, Bodø Boat	13	Boat Bodø + plane	Hut
Ulrika:	7th	Skjelvareid from Fauske.	13	Buss to Fauske 18.40 from Bogøy	Astrids room
Oleg:	8th	Bogøy from Bodø	13	Boat Bodø + plane	Odins room
Andris	8th	Skjelvareid, from Narvik		Bus and train from Narvik	Yurt
Heli A.	8th	Bogøy from Bodø	13	Boat Bodø + plane	Hut
Yulia	8th	Bogøy from Bodø	13	Boat Bodø + plane	Astrids room
Volunteers: Valentina + Ivan Huw	5th	Boat Bogøy			Guest House Yurt
Young artist: Hannah Mjølshnes	8th	Train from Trondheim Return 16th boat			Caravan
Guest artist: Frank Ekeberg	8th	Train from Trondheim Return 11th boat			Caravan or yurt