



The Nordic Alliance of Artists' Residencies on Climate Action



About NAARCA

The Nordic Alliance of Artists' Residencies on Climate Action (NAARCA) will begin as a 3-year project that brings together artists' residencies from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Scotland to collaborate on research, commissions, institutional change and education around climate action.

Co-devised and co-led by Cove Park, (Scotland) and Saari Residence (Finland), NAARCA will build a long-term network focusing on the climate emergency. The project stems from a common concern about how the environmental crisis is impacting the arts sector, and the ways in which the arts sector is itself responding to the crisis. NAARCA will organise meetings, residencies, workshops, and create an extended network of partners in the artistic, academic and scientific sectors. NAARCA will work towards a white paper, a toolkit, and a set of policies around climate action.

Artists' residencies are exceptional institutions within the arts sector, as they have the opportunity to test, practice, and evaluate new types of behaviour and sustainable lifestyles in a safe environment where private, professional and public life intertwine.

The NAARCA project strives to embed the understanding of the four pillars of sustainability - ecological, social, psychological, and cultural - in all the work we do.

Who We Are

NAARCA brings together seven residencies:

- Artica Svalbard (Norway)
- Art Hub Copenhagen (Denmark)
- Baltic Art Center (Sweden)
- Cove Park (Scotland)
- Saari Residence (Finland)
- Skaffell Center for Visual Art (Iceland)



Photo: First meeting of the NAARCA group, Cove Park, November 2021

Aims and Means

The main focus of the project is to collectively **delineate, practice, monitor, evaluate** and further develop a series of practical actions, both internally and externally, for each institution to test and perform.

Sharing knowledge, experience, expertise, and **co-learning** will be at the centre of the project. We want to radically and effectively change the ways in which our organisations **travel, produce, consume, purchase, reuse, recycle, up-cycle, and dispose**.

We want individual action to influence collective intelligence and vice versa, and we want to **communicate, share, and disseminate** our process and findings, so as to positively influence local communities, transnational communities of interest and the sector as a whole.



Longyearbyen, Svalbard where Artica is based

The project will function at the level of **the organisation, the core residency programme, knowledge production and dissemination, and public engagement**. Each partner will be free to decide, depending on needs, skills and capacity, which elements of the partnership to undertake.

As the network includes large, medium and small organisations, with different remits and scopes of action, the partners won't enforce reciprocity, but rather operate on the basis of infrastructure generosity and asymmetry.

1. Staff Exchanges and Secondments

We will operate a series of staff exchanges and secondments to harness the potential for co-learning and sharing practices and methodologies, to deeply collaborate on finding solutions to the common issues that residencies face in relation to the environmental crisis. Air travel is discouraged and slow travel welcome; residencies will last at least 4 weeks, ideally 8 weeks

2. Residency Exchanges

We will exchange residents from artistic, academic and scientific backgrounds selected to specifically tackle the issues at stake and to push the boundaries of cross-sector cooperation.

3. New Art Commissions

We will commission new art projects from artists working in all forms, nominated and selected by all partners in consultation with an advisory committee. The transformative power of the arts – a value that is at the core of all residencies involved – will be augmented by the artists' interaction with the network at large, at development, production and dissemination stage.

4. New Writing Commissions

We will commission new writing from researchers and activists from all countries involved, and will translate them in all languages involved, in order to foster international dialogue and the real exchange of ideas that maintain access and inclusion at their core.

5. Digital Resources

We will collectively produce and share digital resources and curricula for young people, families, students and teachers that will help disseminate information and influence actions around climate change. These will be produced by the network partners in collaboration with local communities and organisations, who will be actively invited to contribute content and activities.

6. New Podcast Commissions

We will produce a series of podcasts every year, each hosted by a different partner in the form of dialogues between experts and activists. The programmes will be in English so as to be shared globally on all available platforms and operate as a powerful tool that will contribute to the legacy of the project.

7. Eco-sustainability Coordinator

The Eco-coordinator will carry out in-person and digital research visits and exchanges between all partners. The visits will harness the potential for co-learning and sharing practises and methodologies, finding solutions to the common issues that residencies face in relation to the environmental crisis.

8. Shaping cultural and political agenda

Finally, we will contribute to the shaping of the cultural and political agenda locally, nationally and transnationally, harnessing the force that long-term collaboration can bring to each partner's individual struggle for radical change.



Access, diversity, inclusion and intersectionality, will be at the core of the project.

The ethos of the network is such that social, mental and environmental sustainability are completely intertwined and need to be considered as a whole.

We are acutely aware of the lack of diversity within the international discourse around the environmental crisis and the responsibilities of the cultural sector, and we are determined to address the issue. Collaborators, researchers, artists, writers, translators, educators, communicators and all other stakeholders related to the project will be selected also for their non-normative perspectives on the issues at stake.

In summary, we will contribute **replicable positive actions aimed at dismantling discrimination based on race, religion, disability, gender, sexuality, age and socio-economic status** throughout all aspects of the project.

About the Partners

Artica Svalbard

Is a residency and public programme based in Longyearbyen, Svalbard. The purpose of the foundation is to facilitate artistic and cultural activities on Svalbard, and to support the development of Norwegian and international art and culture. Artica offers the opportunity to reside: to observe, participate, immerse, rethink, create and present art from all genres. The foundation aims to raise awareness of and ask questions about the polar regions' relevance to fields such as culture, climate change, ecology, geopolitics, migration and minorities.

Founded in 2016 by the Norwegian Ministry of Culture, Fritt Ord (the Freedom of Expression Foundation) and the Cultural Business Development Foundation of the bank SpareBank1 Nord-Norge. Artica welcomes between 9 and 12 artists and writers a year to Longyearbyen via nominations with our Key Partners: Norwegian PEN, Nordnorsk Kunstmuseum, Office for Contemporary Art Norway (OCA) and the Queen Sonja Print Award.





Art Hub Copenhagen

Art Hub is a facilitating, experimental and network-creating art institution in Copenhagen. We offer residencies for artists, international artistic development programs, interdisciplinary communities and public events, that present and discuss artistic work and research.

Art Hub is for visual artists, for researchers, for collaborators, and for anyone who is curious about contemporary art.

Baltic Art Centre

Is a project-based residency for contemporary art on the island of Gotland in the Baltic Sea founded in 2001. BAC aims to provide an international meeting place in the Baltic Sea Region that brings together artists and organisations regionally and internationally.

We are a small-scale organisation with its office and guest apartment located in central Visby – a medieval UNESCO World Heritage site. Although based in Visby, visiting artists often use the entire island as their extended studio, travelling around to explore, research and connect to different local communities and sites.

By facilitating the artists research and work, BAC strives to be a flexible organisation that follows the artistic process and adjusts its modus operandi to suit specific productions. BAC develops, produces and presents artistic projects together with partners who share our engagement in today's society. By bringing together different methods, artistic practices and knowledge, BAC contributes to the vitality of the art scene and highlights Gotland as an arena for contemporary art.



Photo: BAC building in Visby



Cove Park

Cove Park is a residency centre founded in 1999, located on a 50-acre rural site overlooking Loch Long in Argyll & Bute, Scotland. In the last twenty years, Cove Park's national and international residency programme has hosted over 4,000 individuals working in all art forms, from all backgrounds and at every career stage.

Now under new leadership, Cove Park is moving beyond the boundaries of the traditional 'time, space, freedom' residency, to include an enquiry-based model to encourage cross-disciplinary work and collective intelligence around pressing global concerns. In 2021, Cove Park launched its first enquiry connected to the environmental crisis. This model is founded upon the belief that artistic research is uniquely placed to unpack some of the most acute problems of our times, and that the transformative power of the arts is amplified through collaboration and exchange with other disciplines and sectors – such as those of academic and scientific research, technological innovation, and the creative industries as a whole.

Saari Residence

Maintained by Kone Foundation, is a residence located in Mynämäki in the southwest of Finland, for artists of all disciplines and nationalities. Established in 2008, the Saari Residence offers artists and researchers the opportunity to focus undisturbed on creative work in the scenic surroundings of a rural manor house, as well as possibilities for interaction with other residents.

Residencies are available to individual artists working in various artistic fields; translators, curators and critics; and artistic groups working in all art forms, as well as researchers working under a Kone Foundation grant. From September to April, nine artists and researchers work at the residence for two-month periods at a time. From May to August, the Saari Residence is reserved for intensive group work, when 10 to 18 artists can work in the residency at the same time. Moreover, the residence has its own community artist, who nurtures the relationship between the residence and the local community through artistic means. The Saari Residence strives for sustainability, eco-friendliness and accessibility in all its activities. Through various study groups, discussions and field trips, the residency offers artists and researchers opportunities to contemplate ecological issues and make it part of their work and way of thinking.





Skaftfell

Skaftfell Center for Visual Art was founded in 1998 by a group of artists and art enthusiasts in the small fjord town of Seyðisfjörður in East Iceland. The centre was established in memory of the artist Dieter Roth (1930–1998) who periodically lived and worked in Seyðisfjörður during the last decade of his life. Skaftfell is situated in a grand timber house built in 1907. It contains the gallery, an artist apartment and studio, a bistro, and a small art library and bookstore. Additional residency apartments and the office are located in three other historical houses in the town.

As the regional visual art centre for East Iceland, Skaftfell is devoted to presenting and facilitating contemporary art on an international level. It is running a busy exhibition and event schedule in its gallery, alongside education projects and the residency program.

Skaftfell's residencies offer quiet time and space for independent research, reflection, and experimentation. Artists are encouraged to use their stay for in-depth inquiries into their work processes, to enjoy the magnificent nature of Seyðisfjörður's surroundings as a source of energy and inspiration, and to work at the interface of art and life, embedded in a small but vibrant rural community. The program hosts 15-20 artists annually.

Within the region Skaftfell has an important role as provider of high quality art education for all age groups. Every year the art centre organises and hosts various workshops with students from the Iceland University of the Arts, with primary schools, and with the interested public. In recent years the centre has participated in several international research projects.

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**COVE
PARK**



ARTICA

BAC

Skaftfell

MYNDLISTARMÍÐSTÖÐ AUSTURLANDS
CENTER FOR VISUAL ART

Special thanks to



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KULTURFOND**