

V Arctic Art Forum Climate Microchanges

7 — 26 March 2026

The Climate House, Natural History Museum
Sars' gate 1, Oslo

7 March 12.00 Opening of the exhibition *Climate Microchanges*.

14 March 12.00-17.00 Symposium *How to talk about the shared ecological urgency?*

15 March 14.30-16.00 Movie screening and Q&A with artists Ruth Maclennan (UK), Stein Henningsen and Ina Otzko (NO).

Participants: Katie Basile, Margrethe Kolstad Brekke, Isabelle Desjeux, Stein Henningsen, Ketil Isaksen, Kultivator & Marianne Nicholson & members of Dzawada'enuxw First Nation (Charlene Dawson, Dawn Nicolson, Midori Nicolson, Elisha Willie, Melissa Willie), Lotta Lundstedt, Ruth Maclennan, Daria Orlova & Roman Kamilov, Ina Otzko, Nicola Renzi & Mai Britt Utsi, Sara Rylander, Tuula Sharma Vassvik, Gro Ween, Lena Ylipää.

Curators: Ekaterina Sharova, Olga Shirokostup in collaboration with the Natural History Museum.

The Arctic Art Forum is a space for interdisciplinary exchange among art and cultural practitioners started and run by artists from the High North, emphasizing people-to-people collaboration, grassroots involvement, and the articulation of alternative, sustainable narratives through artistic research and knowledge production. Central to the Forum's ethos is the ecofeminist approach and commitment to sustaining dialogue despite the challenging sociopolitical and environmental contexts of the present day.

The previous four editions of the Forum were dedicated to reimagining Arctic art histories through a decolonial lens, interrogating entrenched hierarchies in knowledge production, and addressing pressing issues of care and extractivism, memory and amnesia. The Forum aligns its production with processes of epistemic unlearning, striving to establish dialogues within contact zones. By doing so, it seeks to foster possible and imagined communities that challenge dominant economic, political, cultural and media-produced frameworks.

Functioning as a dynamic meeting place, the Forum integrates exhibitions, performances and discussions, providing a platform for progressive cultural practitioners from the Arctic region and beyond, including Nordic countries and international collaborators.

The Arctic region, historically framed by the rhetoric of progress and innovation, has often been

subject to exploitative economic and military initiatives. These projects, frequently justified under the guise of development and protection, have already resulted in ecological crises and the erosion of cultural heritage of the people living in the North. In response, the Arctic Art Forum advocates for sustainable models of ecological and cultural stewardship.

By fostering a collaborative environment, the Arctic Art Forum contributes to reimagining the High North as a space of resilience, cultural innovation, and ecological consciousness. At the same time, the Forum addresses the urgent question of how to discuss peace in the current global context, as well as the remaining possibilities for dialogue between critical voices and democratic forces resisting authoritarian structures.

We ask:

How could artists mobilise knowledge and skills in their research processes without reproducing the imperialist approach and colonial modernity?

The fifth Arctic Art Forum will take place on 7-26 March 2026 at the Climate House in Oslo, with a focus on climate change in the Arctic and its everyday impact on the lives of people, animals and the fragile ecosystems. The theme refers to the irreversible changes invisible from the capitals where the decisions are being made.

Supported by:

Natural History Museum, Art Council Norway, Nordic Culture Point, ASAD Network of the University of the Arctic, University of Lapland, Umeå University.