

Year In Review

Thematic Network on Arctic Sustainable Arts and Design ASAD

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Enhancing the Transformative Power of Art and Design in the North

In 2025, the ASAD strengthened its position as an internationally connected platform for Arctic art and design education, research, and mobility. Through collaborative research projects, experimental educational initiatives, interdisciplinary summer schools, and targeted entrepreneurship development in the arts, the network advanced culturally grounded, ecologically responsible, and socially responsive approaches to creative practice in northern regions. Publications, mobility schemes, and Special Interest Group activities further deepened partnerships across the circumpolar North and beyond, reinforcing ASAD's role in fostering sustainable transformations through art and design.

In 2026 we will continue working for several ongoing projects and forthcoming publications. The third MAST workshop will be hosted by Umeå Institute of Design in June 2026. Design SIG aims to organize several open drop-in calls so that ASAD members with focus on design can get to know each other. We will also participate in the Art Art Forum in Oslo in March and Arctic Arts Summit in June in Umeå.

PROJECTS

- **Lessons of the Land: New Genre Arctic Art and Land-Based Learning** strengthens collaboration between Canadian and Scandinavian partners and advances shared approaches to art education in addressing Arctic ecological, social, and cultural challenges.
- **MAST - Making Knowledge for Sustainable Transformations** explores Indigenous and art-and-design knowing-through-making.
- **Art for Arctic Business and Micro Courses for Arctic Art Businesses** develop collaborative models linking arts education and business training within the UArctic framework
- **Northern Connections** - Engaging young people in rural Arctic societies in building sustainability across borders.

COLLABORATIONS ENHANCED BY MOBILITIES

- **The Design Special Interest Group** made visits, guest lectures, and joint courses with partners in Sweden, Scotland, and Canada.
- **The Visual Art Education Special Interest Group** developed Arctic Art Education across all educational levels and contexts.

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVITIES

- **The Nomadic Hub on New Genre Arctic Art Education (AAE)** promoted culturally, socially, and ecologically sustainable art education in rapidly changing northern regions.
- **The Living in the Landscape (LiLa)** summer school gathered for its sixth edition in 2025, combining online sessions with an onsite programme in Nesna, Norway, and accompanied by an exhibition and catalogue.
- **Advanced Business Planning course** - Art and business students from Finland, Norway, and Iceland collaborated on business plans for art-as-a-service initiatives as part of the Art for Arctic Business project.
- **Lessons of the Land: New Genre Arctic Art and Land-Based Learning** generated community-based activities in Finland, Sweden, Norway, and Canada, advancing Land-Based Learning within art and design.

PUBLICATIONS

<https://www.asadnetwork.org/publications/>



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