



Irina Zemtsova, *Professor in Arts and Crafts, Syktyvkar State University*
& the participants of the summer school

Traditional Akan Dolls from Komi

On one of the village days, Irina Zemtsova organized a master class in making Komi dolls known as Akan. Akan denotes a little toy sister or a woman. It also resembles the Finnish word Akka, which means an old woman. In the Komi-zyryansky language, AK vezhan indicates a grandmother. The word Akan, meaning a doll, is formed on the basis of the Komi language. In the class, Irina instructed the participants in the secrets of the Akan and explained the meanings of each part of this very simplistic doll made from leftover materials. The grandmothers in the family usually teach their children and grandchildren to make these dolls. This has helped in passing on traditional knowledge of such handicraft skills.



Installation of 6-8 dolls, 2018
Images: Antti Stöckell 1,
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