

# SÁMI *fine arts*

**Dálá SÁMI dáidda –  
SÁMI Contemporary**

14.11.2014–4.1.2015  
Sami Center for Contemporary Art,  
Karasjok, Norway

Please see Tuija Hautala-Hirvioja's article  
about early Sámi visual artists in  
Barents Studies 1/2014



Suohpanterror: Codename, 2013

*The Sámi people are well known for their traditional and colourful handicrafts. What is not so widely known is the role they play in fine arts. This might be about to change.*

Professor Tuija Hautala-Hirvioja from the University of Lapland is one of the curators of the Dálá SÁMI dáidda – SÁMI Contemporary exhibition that is currently travelling in the North. Here she describes some of the main themes that can be seen in the works of art on display. →



Nils-Aslak Valkeapää: Silloin aurinko oli aina luonamme ('Back then the Sun was always with us'), 1975





Looking at the past through the family history.

Continuation of the Sámi Duodji tradition. Outi Pieski has re-created her grandmother's medicinal pine tree. The twigs are made of strands of silk like those used in the fringe of women's traditional scarves.

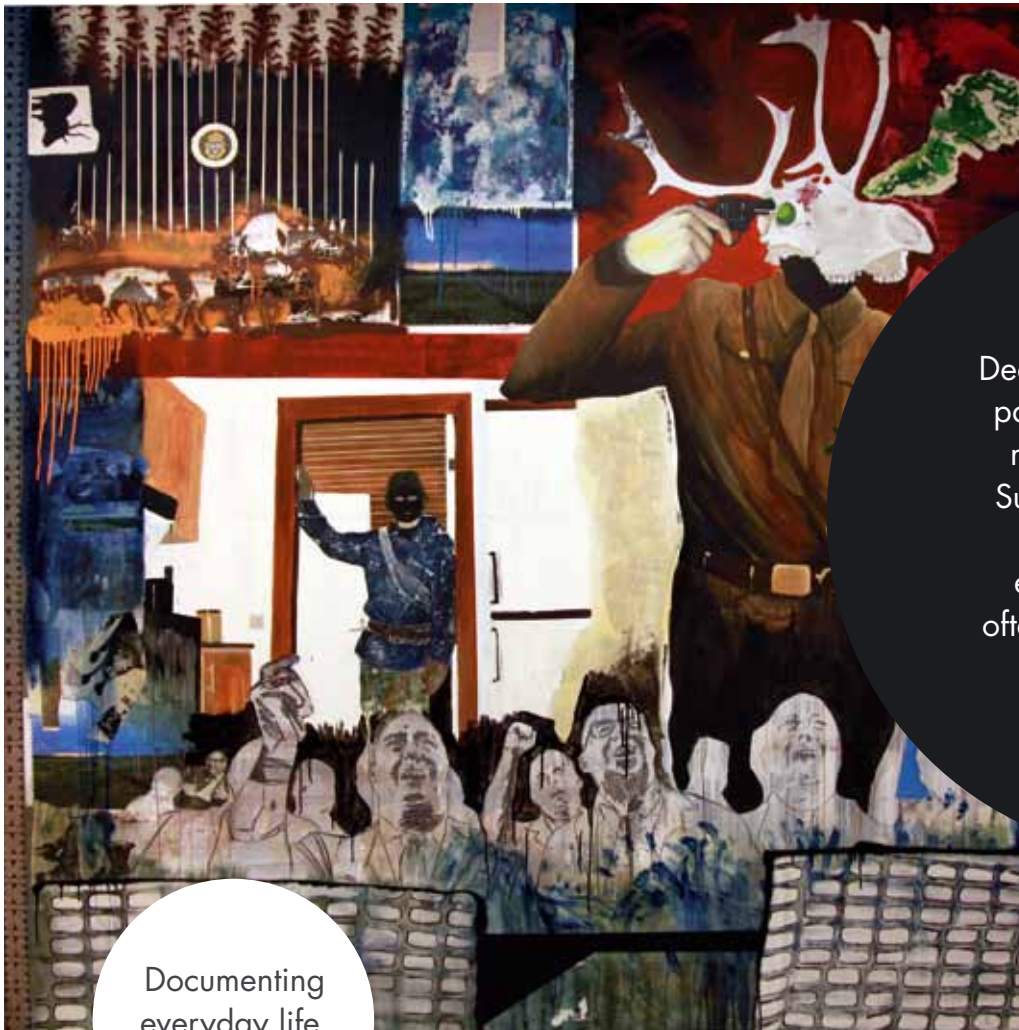
Outi Pieski: Halo, 2012–2013, Photo: Arto Liiti

Handling personal life and emotions through art.

Reflecting on the Sámi identity. Marja Helander lives in two Finnish municipalities that are almost as far from each other as can be – Utsjoki and Helsinki. She often represents the tensions between Western and Sámi culture in her work.



Marja Helander: Trambo, 2014



Documenting everyday life.

Dealing with the colonialist past and threats from the modern world. Anders Sunna lives in Jokkmokk, Sweden. His art is explicitly political and often based on his roots in reindeer herding.

Anders Sunna: Paskarova, 2013