

# Presseinformation

## Museum am Rothenbaum

Rothenbaumchaussee 64 | 20148 Hamburg  
Germany | [markk-hamburg.de](http://markk-hamburg.de)

### The Land Has a Mind to Speak. Sámi Horizons

Press Viewing: Thu Sept 7 | 11 am, Registration: [presse@markk-hamburg.de](mailto:presse@markk-hamburg.de)



Film still from the video work "Trambo", 2014 © Marja Helander

Nordic colonialism, rarely addressed until today, refers to the oppression and displacement of the Sámi, whose homeland Sápmi stretches across the northern parts of Norway, Sweden, Finland and the Kola Peninsulas of the Russian Federation. The Museum am Rothenbaum (MARKK) houses one of the largest collections of Sámi art and cultural objects in Germany, acquired in this colonial context. The exhibition *The Land Has a Mind to Speak. Sámi Horizons* will show the interplay of contemporary positions and historical objects from September 8, 2023 to February 25, 2024, and aims to initiate a long overdue change of perspective on the past and present history of the Sámi. Thus, discrimination, land grabbing and environmental destruction are the focus of the contemporary works of Sissel M. Bergh, Annika Dahlsten & Markku Laakso, Marja Helander, Erica Huuva, Britta Marakatt-Labba, Outi Pieski, Katarina Pirak Sikku and Anniina Turunen, which are also expressions of emancipation movements and resistance that continues today.

Prof. Dr. Barbara Plankensteiner, Director of the MARKK: "We were thrilled that the Kunsthaus Hamburg and Hannimari Jokinen invited us to cooperate on this exhibition. We took this as an impetus to take a closer look at our Sápmi collections, which have been consulted by several Sámi delegations in recent years. *The Land Has a Mind to Speak. Sámi Horizons* complements the exhibition shown at the Kunsthaus Hamburg, which opened in June this year: *SPEAKING BACK. Decolonizing Nordic Narratives*. Together, the exhibitions aim to sensitize a Hamburg audience to the until now little-noticed 'Nordic colonialism' and to focus on Sámi perspectives and empowerment movements in art and academics."

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Sámi artists are receiving increased attention in the global exhibition and art world. In 2017, for example, the documenta 14 in Kassel featured artists such as Máret Anne Sara and Britta Marakatt-Labba, along with six other Sámi positions, who received international acclaim. The Nordic Pavilion in the Giardini at the Venice Biennale 2022 was also renamed the Sámi Pavilion and featured Sámi curators and artists for the first time.

While the exhibition at the Kunsthaus Hamburg is primarily dedicated to contemporary artistic positions, the exhibition at the MARKK combines contemporary works by the artists Sissel M. Bergh, Annika Dahlsten & Markku Laakso, Marja Helander, Erica Huuva, Britta Marakatt-Labba, Outi Pieski, Katarina Pirak Sikku and Anniina Turunen with objects that entered the museum primarily in the period between 1910 and 1916. Through the opening of the archives and collections and cooperation with Sámi artists and scholars, these objects have been re-examined and appreciated from a Sámi perspective.

In the context of Sámi self-empowerment movements since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, the re-appropriation of language, the protection of Sámi land and the lifestyle based on reindeer herding play an important role for large parts of the Sámi people. Just as important is their material cultural heritage, in which technological, spiritual and ecological knowledge and aesthetic ideas find expression. With *The Land Has a Mind to Speak. Sámi Horizons*, the MARKK is taking a first step in the reevaluation of the approximately 1300 pieces of Sápmi holdings currently stored in the museum's depots, selected examples of which will be shown in the exhibition.

For the exhibition, the work *Beavvit - Rising Together* (2019) by Outi Pieski has been brought to Hamburg on loan from the National Museum Oslo. Another highlight is the work *Áige mátkosteapmi / A journey in time* (2023) by the prominent Sámi artist Britta Marakatt-Labba, purchased with the generous support of the Stiftung Hamburger Kunstsammlungen.

The Friends of MARKK supported the exhibition with the purchase of a children's cap by Solveig Labba, a silver necklace by Erica Huuva and a silk shawl by Anniina Turunen with the Sámi slogan woven into it: "Mii leat ain dás" (We are still here). The works are three important examples of contemporary *duodji*, Sámi artistic and cultural creation. Two artworks—an installation by Katarina Pirak Sikku and a video work by Outi Pieski were newly created for the exhibition and address historical objects from the MARKK's holdings.

**Dr. Anna-Sophie Laug, curator:** "A special enrichment during the preparation of the exhibition for me was the exchange of ideas and knowledge with the Sámi artists and scholars. I am very grateful to them for sharing their knowledge and thoughts with us. The two artworks created for the exhibition by Outi Pieski and Katarina Pirak Sikku are an intense reflection on the re-appropriation of Sámi cultural heritage."

A diverse program of events and a catalogue will accompany the exhibition. On Sunday, September 10, a theme day of Sámi culture and history will take place at the Kunsthaus

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Hamburg and MARKK between 12 and 6 pm. Information about the program can be found [here](#). Press material and press photos can be downloaded [here](#).

*The Land Has a Mind to Speak. Sámi Horizons* was created in cooperation with Kunsthaus Hamburg. The Kunsthaus Hamburg will host the exhibition *SPEAKING BACK. Decolonizing Nordic Narratives* from June 3 to October 1, 2023.



With the support of the Finnish Institute in Germany, the Royal Norwegian Embassy, the Swedish Embassy and the Friends of the Museum am Rothenbaum e. V.



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