

ENAAK

European Network of
Art Associations and
Kunstvereine

PROGRAM FEBRUARY 20th 2024
Host: The Swedish Association of Art Societies

How to create a contemporary art scene in rural areas

In this webinar, we will meet Gonçalo Marques, one of two founders of Moskosel Creative Lab, and Maria Ragnestam, curator and artistic director of Konstfrämjandet Norrbotten (The People's Movement for Art Promotion Norrbotten). Both work in northern Sweden, the EU's most sparsely populated territory with both rural and urban environments, where the indigenous Sami people have lived for thousands of years. Norrbotten is characterized by both a widespread mountain world and heavy industries, and the distances between different places are tangible, which can be both a challenge and an asset in the creation of a contemporary art scene. Gonçalo and Maria will share their experience from two different angles: Gonçalo on what it's like to start up a new business for contemporary art based on ideas and a strong vision, and Maria will talk about the Luleå Biennale, which is the oldest art biennial in Scandinavia, initiated in 1991 and since 2018 organized by Konstfrämjandet Norrbotten.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Gonçalo Marques, an engineer, and his partner Linda Rehmal, a dance artist, are the force behind Northern Sustainable Futures and Moskosel Creative Lab. Based in the previously unused school building of Moskosel, plus several houses, their vision is a blend of art, nature, and cutting-edge innovation. They are transforming this rural village into a global attractive creative hub where artists can not only live and work but also engage in inspiring collaborations. They strive to cultivate a northern Sweden location that nurtures artistic talent and fosters the fusion of diverse creativity expressions.

Maria Ragnestam is a curator based in Kiruna, Sápmi (Sweden). Since she started Konstfrämjandet Norrbotten 2020 she also leads the work of Luleåbiennalen. She has most recently initiated the nomadic art institution Verdde, that will work to make the Sami presence visible in Norrbotten and contribute to include more Sami perspectives.



Maria Ragnestam
Photo: LKP



Gonçalo Marques
Photo: Simon Eliasson