





## About the project

Out of the Metropolis - Art exchange across borders is a three-year project that aims to explore and support insight and innovation in the field of co-creation and circulation of visual art, and in particular contemporary photographic practices, across borders. The project aims to increase possibilities of transnational art production by generating and providing innovative methods of production and presentation of visual art in the peripheries, thus, enabling artists to move, and work outside of major cities. Please find more information in [ootm.com](http://ootm.com)

Out of the Metropolis is initiated as a collaboration between NOUA (NO), Doubledummy (FR) and The Finnish Museum of Photography (FI).

Out of the Metropolis is made possible with the support of the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union.

# Seminar # 1 Bodø

## 26.09.2023 - 27.09.2023

### **About the seminar in Bodø, Norway.**

BUILDING INNOVATIVE MICRO ART INSTITUTIONS IN THE PERIPHERY: HOW & FOR WHOM?

How can we challenge the infrastructure for smaller art institutions in the peripheries to produce ambitious exhibitions and art productions with exchange of artists across borders?

How can we invent virtuous presentation models for art in order to strengthen the influence of the photographic scene internationally?

In recent decades, global developments have reshaped the international art scene, challenging the traditional center-periphery divide. This seminar explores how cultural institutions respond to societal changes and encourages dialogue on new models for presenting visual art with a focus on photography. It also examines the impact of collaborations between small institutions and international artists. The goal is to gain historical insights and address the complex challenges faced by art institutions today.

The seminar aims to open a debate on how cultural institutions (galleries, artist-run spaces, art centers and festivals) emerge or disappear due to political and societal developments like gentrification, equity, financial and ecological developments. The theme triggers not only the development of new models for presenting art or new sites for production of art, it also addresses the function of the art institution - evaluating how micro institutions can bring new models for presenting art. What possibilities do small institutions and international artists in collaboration have to challenge and understand society? What impact does the presented art have on the local audience?

The target audience of the project is micro art institution owners, artists, curators, exhibition designers, institution leaders, festival producers, writers, critics, policy makers and art students.



**PUBLIC PROGRAM SEMINAR**

**26.09.2023**



**SEMINAR :**

BUILDING INNOVATIVE MICRO ART  
INSTITUTIONS IN THE PERIPHERY:  
HOW & FOR WHOM?

**Time: 12.00 -16.00**

**Location:**

**Stormen Bibliotek/Library**

**Storgata 1A, 8006 Bodø, Norway**

12.00 - 12.15

Welcome and introduction of project and participants  
at Stormen Bibliotek.

12.15 - 12.45

Jonas Ekeberg (NO)  
Curator and art critic, Oslo, Norway

12.45 - 13.15

Marianne Hultman (NO)  
Director North Norwegian Art Centre, Norway

13.15 - 13.30

Break

13.30 - 14.00

Krzysztof Candrowicz (PL)  
Co-founder of Fotofestiwal in Lodz, Poland

14.00 - 14.30

Anna-Kaisa Rastenberger (FI)  
Director Finnish Museum of Photography

14.30 - 14:45

Break

14.45 - 15.45

Panel conversation + Q&A  
Participants: Jonas Ekeberg, Krzysztof Candrowicz,  
Anna-Kaisa Rastenberger and Marianne Hultman.

Moderator: Orlan Ohtonen, Curator of Exhibitions at  
the Finnish Museum of Photography.

15.45 - 16.00

Summary + Closing remarks

19.00 - 22.00

Artists Talk x Late Night at NOUA.

# Seminar # 1 Bodø

## 26.09.2023

### **Center-periphery dynamics in Nordic initiatives and institutions of photography**

By Jonas Ekeberg

In this presentation, Jonas Ekeberg will look at the center-periphery dynamic in the establishment and development of Nordic initiatives and institutions of photography. Under what circumstances were these projects and organisations established? Were they dependent on economic and political preconditions, or were they personal initiatives? What has been the interplay between them, in terms of artistic and political positions, and in terms of international dialogue? And, finally, are there any lessons to be learnt from this, that can be useful for cultural producers in today's globalized environment?

### **To dig where one stands**

By Marianne Hultman

With a few examples from past exhibitions Marianne Hultman will illustrate how artists, curators, and institutions use their immediate environment and context as a starting point to engage in relevant cultural exchange and to ask probing questions about the present moment by "digging where one stands". This approach demonstrates a commitment to professional integrity by staying true to one's unique perspectives while contributing meaningfully to global conversations.

### **It's lighter than you think**

By Anna-Kaisa Rastenberger

Rastenberger's talk focuses on the considerations and challenges curators' face today when they work on photo-based projects, and how do they navigate throughout the constantly changing appearance of the photographic medium. Irrespective of the increase in the volume of photographic images and the diversity of the actions performed with them, also the debate on representation is still relevant, and today even more pressing in the light of the ongoing processes of decolonisation in our society at large.

### **Biennales, triennials, festivals and other recurring exhibitions: a challenging subject to define, why to exhibit, what for, and how?**

By Krzysztof Candrowicz

Candrowicz will provide a concise yet enlightening exploration of contemporary photography exhibition models. Drawing from his recent work at Lodz Fotofestiwal, Triennial of Photography and Biennial Fotografia de Porto in Portugal, to numerous capital of culture projects, he will exemplify the intricacies of these institutional dynamics. By delving into the transformative initiatives spearheaded by these cultural events, he highlights the profound impact of these models on rural landscapes. The presentation concludes by sharing Krzysztof Candrowicz's personal journey towards ecology and sustainability, serving as an inspirational call to action for fostering a dedicated commitment to a more environmentally friendly future.

# Guest Speakers

26.09.2023 - 27.09.2023



Jonas Ekeberg (NO) is a prominent curator and art critic from Oslo, Norway. He currently serves as the Head of Visual Art at Arts Council Norway. Ekeberg has a rich history in the arts, having worked as a critic for The Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation and various Norwegian newspapers. He has also held editorial positions for several magazines, curated major exhibitions, and served as the director of Preus Museum, Norway's national museum for photography. Ekeberg's extensive contributions to the arts scene extend to his roles as the chief editor of the Nordic online journal *Kunstkritikk* and as a curator and lecturer, reflecting his deep engagement with the art world. His forthcoming monograph, "Post Nordic – The Rise and Fall of the Nordic Art Scene 1976–2016," is a testament to his expertise and dedication to the field.



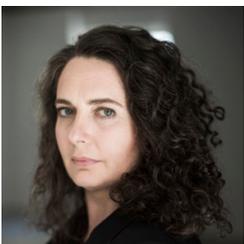
Anna-Kaisa Rastenberger (FI), PhD, works as the museum director at the Finnish Museum of Photography. From 2016 to 2022 she worked as a Professor of Exhibition Studies at the Academy of Fine Arts, University of the Arts Helsinki, being responsible for the MA-program for curatorial and exhibition studies. She has also worked as a chief curator at the Finnish Museum of Photography, and she is the artistic director and co-founder of The Festival of Political Photography. Her special interests are exhibition as a critical practice, feminist curation and running.

# Guest Speakers

26.09.2023 - 27.09.2023



Krzysztof Candrowicz - interdisciplinary curator, sociologist, researcher, project facilitator and activist. Co-founder and member of Foundation of Visual Education and Fotofestiwal in Lodz, former director of the Art Factory and Lodz Art Center (Poland). During 2013-2018 worked as artistic director of the Triennial of Photography in Hamburg (Germany) and since 2018 as curator and collaborator of the Ci.CLO Porto Biennale (Portugal). Krzysztof works internationally as a guest curator and visiting lecturer in numerous organisations, museums, schools, and festivals in Europe. He has been a member of the jury of various projects and art prizes, including the Rencontres d'Arles Discovery Award (Arles, France), the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize, (London, UK), the Historical Book Award, and the Author Book Award (Arles, France), the Prix Pictet (London, UK) and the Robert Capa Award (Budapest, Hungary). Besides being active in visual arts, his interests are rooted in philosophy, social science, anthropology, ecology and natural science.



Marianne Hultman is a highly experienced and accomplished professional in the art world, particularly in the field of curatorial and management roles within contemporary art institutions. Her extensive background in art history, mediation, and curatorial studies, along with her years of experience, showcases her dedication and expertise in promoting and curating art exhibitions. Her involvement in various local, national, and international projects demonstrates her commitment to fostering artistic exchanges and collaborations across different scales. In addition to her work in the art world, Hultman's engagement in the political arena through her involvement with Kunsthallene i Norge showcases her broader perspective on the cultural and societal impacts of small and medium-sized contemporary art institutions. Her engagement in establishing a European network for contemporary art centers highlight her aspiration to emphasizing the importance of small and medium-sized art institutions in the cultural landscape on a broader geographical scale.

# The project OOOTM 2023 - 2025

## **The project aims to explore topics around:**

- Innovative forms of micro art institutions in the peripheries in Europe;
- New and experimental methods for production and presentation of contemporary photography through dynamic art exhibitions
- Transnational mobility and exchange of art between institutions and across borders;
- New forms of collaborations with international artists, curators and exhibition designers.

## **The topics will be explored through:**

- Art-based research through three seminars and roundtable discussions in Bodø/Norway, Helsinki/Finland and Arles/France, that allow us to discuss and share new methodologies with a larger European audience.
- Art productions presented through three exhibitions in NOUA, Norway, by teams of international artists, curators and exhibition designers, exploring new formats of exhibiting art.
- Documenting, reflecting and summarising the findings in an open-source web platform as well as essays and visual documentation in a printed publication - to support future research and artistic development.

Three exhibitions will be produced throughout the project duration, by investigating and challenging the established forms of how photographic exhibitions are produced and presented, and by involving artists that embrace conceptualisation, experimentation and innovation in displaying their work. Through collaborative teams, the exhibitions will embrace spatial architectures for exhibition spaces, building new connections between the audience and the artworks by thinking on exhibition-making as a critical practice. We see art and culture as a motivator and a catalyst for growing and developing small communities. By making art of a high international level available for a larger audience, and by allowing local audiences to experience art in the periphery of Europe, new arenas for dialogue, participation and reflection will be created.

