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**SOUNDWISE: Creating Applied Visual Art
Experiences in Lapland**

Pro/Gradu Thesis

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Summary: This research was investigating the methods of Applied Visual Art, through using action research methods and from a participatory perspective, looking at how these practices can be designed and realized. Also, there is an artistic part belonging to this study, which stands for 10% of the research (See Appendix D).

In theory, contemporary Lapland is providing an environment suitable for sustainable design research/prototyping but is also at risk of remaining stigmatized by old divisions of power structures. The practical experiment included the process of networking, planning, facilitating and actively participating (artistically) within projects launched by broader Arctic and international networks.

Community Art has long been practiced at University of Lapland, a dialogue between networking towns and villages, empowering the inhabitants to continue their existence, reproducing local knowledge and values for coming generations.

In 2012, this small-scale action research project was designed and carried out. It included 3 cycles. First, *A Place Called Ii*, focusing on place research and contextual studies. Secondly *RiverSounds Rovaniemi*, was a short course at The Arctic Circle Summer School Summer. Finally, in *RiverSounds Ii* theory was put into practice resulting in art and design installations and 'The RiverSounds Parade.'

In conclusion, this study shows that multisensory art experiences are systematically produced in the area. Applied Visual Art act as the bonding agent between fine art and local culture in the North, at the same time it serves well as a tool useful in contemporary education, cross-disciplinary. Counteractive to the colonization of "peripheral" spaces the local articulation and cultivation of diverse local particularities, is now taking place.

Key Words: *Applied Visual Art, Design-Process, University of Lapland, Environmental Art, Multisensory Experience, Learning Implications*

Other information: Includes an additional CD with extra materials.

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The Story of the Spirit of Log Floating

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“Local Notion” Art Installation at Kemi Art Museum.

Extra Material on CD

1. First and Second Plans for the Trail in Inari
(View Document on Attached CD)

2. Pre-Studies, Extras
(View Document on Attached CD)

3. Sketches RiverSounds
(View Document on Attached CD)

4. Workshop Diary RiverSounds Ii (Shortreview)
(View Document on Attached CD)

5. Grouping Ideas
(View Document on Attached CD)

6. AVA-workshop in Kemi art museum.
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