

Nordic Summer University  
*“Art and creative practices as a tool to interpret, redefine and appropriate heritage of the Nordic-Baltic regions” Study Circle*

**Call for proposals to the Winter Symposium  
Creative practices as a tool to work with heritage. Part I. Objects**

9-10 April, Vilnius, Lithuania

We warmly invite theorists and practitioners interested in art, museums, heritage research, interpretation, etc. to the Winter Symposium. It will be focusing on object-oriented art and creative practices related to the Nordic-Baltic regions' heritage. This may include exhibitions, public art, installations and other types of artworks, interpretation of the archives or artifacts, curatorial practices, museum expositions, etc.

Our meeting will last two days, the programme of each consists of two parts:

- 1) theoretical part is formed of participants' proposals
- 2) practical workshops are prepared and conducted by the coordinators

Please find more details of both of them below

**Theoretical part (formed of participants' proposals)**

Participants are invited to propose theoretical reports, case studies, presentations about one's own practice, analysis of artists' works, critical notes, food for thoughts, etc. The duration is supposed to be 20 minutes + 10 minutes for questions and discussions. To maintain a balance between practice and theory, we plan 4 reports per day.

***Possible topics include, but are not limited to:***

***1 Creation of a new art object inspired by heritage, reflecting it, etc.***

This may include questions: how the heritage of the Nordic-Baltic regions is reflected in the work of (non)local artists, different genres features (for example, public art), issues related to interpretation, the role of the artist in the heritage field, etc.

***2 Historical object/document in art space and creative practice.***

This may include issues of the status of a historical artifact in an art space, specifics of the artistic interpretation of documents, examples of curatorial practices and interdisciplinary experiments, etc.

***3 General questions of the intersection of creative practices and heritage studies.***

This may include issues of methodology, opportunities for cross-disciplinary dialogue, problems and challenges, etc.

Feel free to propose your own topics and ideas. It is important for your proposal to be related to the Nordic-Baltic heritage and focus on art practices and physical objects: created, exhibited, interpreted, etc. (as long as the Summer Symposium will be devoted to the processual practices such as performance, theatre etc.).

## **Practical part (prepared and conducted by the coordinators)**

We plan to organize several site-specific workshops dedicated to the place where we are going to meet. It is a historical site in the very heart of Vilnius - the 18 ct. former Augustinian monastery, currently shared between the European Humanities University and the Catholic Ramintoya Parish, it had also been used as a huge warehouse during the Soviet times.

We will explore the space, its history and preserved documents. Thereafter through the practice we will try to refer to the similar questions that we have been asked during the theoretical part. The workshops can result in creative ideas related to the place. For instance, the concept of an art object, the interpretation of an archive, the idea of an exhibition etc. The exact result depends on the participants, their interests, specializations and requests.

## **Participation in the Symposium: deadlines, fees and practical information**

The Symposium will take place at the European Humanities University in Vilnius, Lithuania. The event is open both to well-experienced participants and for the ones who are just starting to get acquainted with the topic. The intended number of participants is 15-20 people. We are planning an offline event but due to COVID-related uncertainties, the coordinators reserve the right to switch the format to online. In this case, we will inform the participants about the changes as soon as possible.

All participants need to pay the NSU membership fee: €10 for students, unemployed and independents, €25 for those funded by institutions or companies. The membership fee facilitates the existence of the Nordic Summer University, which is a volunteer-based organization.

Thanks to NSU support we are able to provide accomodation and meals for the participants.

***To submit a proposal, please fill out this [online form](#) by 20 February 2022***

It should include:

- 1 Your name, contacts and short bio (max. 200 words)
- 2 Indicate if you would like to make a presentation for the theoretical part. If yes, send a written proposal (max. 300 words). This should include a title, a short description of the topic and its format.

### ***Important dates:***

Application deadline - February 23

Respond and confirmation - by February 25

Payment of participation fees - by March 1

Publication of the programme - by March 9

Symposium - April 9-10

Feel free to ask any questions to the coordinator Svetlana Kondratyeva via email [svetlana.kondratyeva.21@gmail.com](mailto:svetlana.kondratyeva.21@gmail.com).

## About the Nordic Summer University

[NSU](#) is a nomadic, academic institution, which organizes forums for cultural and intellectual debate in the Nordic and Baltic region, involving students, academics, politicians, artists and intellectuals from this region and beyond. The backbone of the activities in the NSU consists of its thematic study circles. In the study circles researchers, students and professionals from different backgrounds collaborate in scholarly investigations distributed regularly in summer and winter symposia during a one- or three-year period.

## About the Study Circle:

Our [Study Circle](#) proposes to explore the cultural heritage of the Nordic-Baltic regions using creative practices as the main tool. It combines theoretical and practice-led activities, offering an opportunity to investigate non-textual forms of knowledge and communication towards various questions related to identity, heritage, memory, etc. Art and creative practices, both professional and amateur, are considered in this course as a tool. Firstly, we will try to analyze how the region's heritage is reflected in the works of (non) local artists. Secondly, creative practice might be seen as a way of participation. Since creativity implies subjectivity and different interpretations, it emphasizes the right to one's own opinion and the ability to find a diversity of meanings in one object. And thirdly, it allows us to explore irrational, performative, bodily ways of knowledge.