

## PRESS RELEASE

April 14, 2006



### A Postcolonial Exhibition Project in Five Acts

#### OPENING OF ACT 2 IN NUUK, GREENLAND

APRIL 21 – MAY 14, 2006

*Art Exhibition in Greenland National Museum and Archives*

*April 21 – May 14*

*Opening Friday, April 21, 5 – 8 pm. Press Preview Friday, April 21, 2 – 4 pm*

*Film Program in Silamiut Theater*

*April 21 – May 14*

*Public Hearing in the Teachers' Training School of Greenland*

*April 22 – 23, both days 12 – 5 pm*

Curated by Kuratorisk Aktion (Frederikke Hansen & Tone Olaf Nielsen) for NIFCA, Nordic Institute for Contemporary Art

[www.rethinking-nordic-colonialism.org](http://www.rethinking-nordic-colonialism.org)

#### Debating Independence in Nuuk

What interests does Denmark have in maintaining its authority over home ruling Greenland? Is home rule a form of neo- or voluntary colonialism? What processes of institutional and mental de-colonization has Greenland experienced? These are just some of the questions that will be raised when ***Rethinking Nordic Colonialism's*** second act opens in Greenland's capital, Nuuk, on April 21, 2006. For a period of three weeks, interested audiences can investigate these and other questions further in an art exhibition in the **Greenland National Museum and Archives**, a film program in **Silamiut Theater**, and a public hearing in the **Teachers' Training School of Greenland**. All events are free and open to the public. A warm welcome.

#### Art Exhibition in the Greenland National Museum and Archives

The exhibition takes place in the temporary exhibition gallery of the Greenland National Museum and is titled ***Contested Territories: Representing Postcolonial Interests***. Featuring video, photography, installation, painting, slide show, and a workshop, the exhibition focuses on experiences in contemporary postcolonial societies. Five internationally acclaimed artists and organizations from Greenland, Denmark, Finland, Brazil, South Africa, and the US have been invited to produce new work especially for the exhibition. For a week, they will be in Nuuk to install their projects and partake in the opening events. In various ways, the artists examine the relationship between identity and territory, tradition and modernity,

memory and history writing, dependency and self-determination in postcolonial cultures. The participating artists and organizations are: **Center for Land Use Interpretation** (USA), **Katrine Dirckinck-Holmfeld** in collaboration with **Inuit Youth International** (Denmark & Greenland), **Tamar Guimarães** (Brazil/Denmark), **Marja Helander** (Sámi, Finland) and **Moshekwa Langa** (South Africa/The Netherlands). [Invitation card to the exhibition opening and a full exhibition program are attached]

## Film Program in Silamiut Theater

The exhibition in the Greenland National Museum is supplemented by a comprehensive film program titled **Silver Screen Resistance**. Screened Wednesdays through Sundays in Silamiut Theater, the program features films by acclaimed filmmakers **Stephanie Black** (USA), **Randi Broberg** (Greenland), **Laila Hansen** (Greenland), **Isaac Julien** (United Kingdom), **Alanis Obomsawin** (Abenaki, Canada), **Pratibha Parmar** (Kenya/United Kingdom), **Gillo Pontecorvo** (Italy), and **Paul-Anders Simma** (Sámi, Norway/Sweden/Finland) and reflects four decades of postcolonial cinema. [For exact screening hours, please visit [www.rethinking-nordic-colonialism.org/films.html](http://www.rethinking-nordic-colonialism.org/films.html)]

## Public Hearing in the Teachers' Training School of Greenland

Act 2 also presents a public hearing in the Teacher's Training School. Titled **Debating Independence: Autonomy or Voluntary Colonialism?**, the hearing features five keynote speakers from Greenland, Denmark, The Faroe Islands, United Kingdom, Tanzania, and The Caribbean. During the course of two days, they will debate aspects of self-government and models of autonomy. The hearing will seek to complicate our understanding of dependence and independence in light of class, race, gender, and sexuality. The speakers are: **M. Jacqui Alexander** (Trinidad & Tobago/Canada), **Katrine Dirckinck-Holmfeld** in collaboration with **Humphrey Polepole** and **Ivaaq Poulsen** (Denmark, Tanzania & Greenland), **Paul Gilroy** (United Kingdom), **Høgni Hoydal** (The Faroe Islands), and **Aviâja Egede Lyngø** (Greenland). The hearing is moderated by Director of the Greenland National Museum, **Daniel Thorleifsen**, and audiences are encouraged to share their experiences with the speakers. [For a complete public hearing program, please visit [www.rethinking-nordic-colonialism.org/act2.html#hear](http://www.rethinking-nordic-colonialism.org/act2.html#hear)]

## Previous & Coming Acts

**Rethinking Nordic Colonialism** was launched on March 24, 2006, with the opening of Act 1 in Iceland. During an exhibition and a workshop, a group of eleven international artists, theorists, and activists looked into the widely forgotten history of Nordic colonialism and discussed how this history continues to structure the Nordic societies today. Act 2 takes this discussion one step further by looking into current problematics in contemporary Greenland and other postcolonial societies. In May and June, the project moves on to the Faroe Islands and the Sámi area of Finland, which will host Acts 3 – 4. **Rethinking Nordic Colonialism** is concluded with the release of a DVD Box Set at the end of the year, which documents the entire project and constitutes the project's fifth and final act. In total, the project presents 56 participants from all over the world, who exchange colonial and postcolonial experiences and strategies during the course of the project. **Rethinking Nordic Colonialism** represents a first attempt at writing a comprehensive history of Nordic colonialism and involves *all* the Nordic countries. It is based on extraordinary partnerships between important art and culture institutions in the region and supports the incipient postcolonial studies in the Nordic region.

## Publication

**Rethinking Nordic Colonialism** is accompanied by a free 148-pages User Guide containing a full event program as well as detailed descriptions of all the participants and their contributions. The User Guide is available in all the exhibition venues or can be acquired at [nifca@nifca.org](mailto:nifca@nifca.org). Participant and program information is also available online at [www.rethinking-nordic-colonialism.org](http://www.rethinking-nordic-colonialism.org).

## Act 2 Venues & Admission

Greenland National Museum and Archives, Hans Egedevej 8, 3900 Nuuk, +299 32 26 11, [nka@natmus.gl](mailto:nka@natmus.gl), [www.natmus.gl](http://www.natmus.gl). Tuesday – Sunday, 1 – 4 pm, admission free.

Silamiut Theater, H. J. Rinksvej 35, 3900 Nuuk, +299 32 92 32, [silamiut@greenet.gl](mailto:silamiut@greenet.gl), [www.silamiut.gl](http://www.silamiut.gl). Screenings: Wednesday – Friday, 5 – 7 pm, Saturday – Sunday, 2 – 4 pm, admission free.

The Teachers' Training School of Greenland, C. E. Janssensvej 2, 3900 Nuuk, +299 32 11 91, [ilinnia@greenet.gl](mailto:ilinnia@greenet.gl), [www.ilinniarfissuaq.gl](http://www.ilinniarfissuaq.gl). Admission free.

## Support

***Rethinking Nordic Colonialism*** is realized with financial support from: NIFCA, Nordic Institute for Contemporary Art, Nordic Council of Ministers, The Living Art Museum, Stoðir hf., The Reykjavik Academy, Greenland National Museum and Archives, Teachers' Training School of Greenland, The Faroe Islands Art Museum, The Nordic House in the Faroe Islands, Finnish Railways, The Arctic Centre, The Danish Art Council's Committee for Visual Art, The Danish Arts Council's Committee for International Visual Art, Atlantic Airways Ltd., Embassy of Canada in Finland, Icelandair, Hotel Hans Egede, Svenska kulturfonden, Det Kongelige Grønlandsfond, Arts Council of Lapland, FRAME: Finnish Fund for Art Exchange, Air Logistics Aps, Royal Arctic Line A/S, The Nordic House on Iceland, Hótel Leifur Eiríksson, Dronning Ingrid's Hospital – Central Laboratoriet, Nuuk Værft A/S, U.S. Overskudslager, Danske Veteranbiludlejning, Den Danske Trådvarefabrik, Beredskabsstyrelsen, KNR: Greenland National Broadcasting Company, and more to be announced...

## Info

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