



Press release

01.07.14

**Welcome to SALT's opening weekend,
29 – 30 August 2014,
at Sandhornøy, Norway !**



Sandhornøya, Bodø, Northern Norway, Arctic Circle
29 August 2014 – 1 September 2015
www.salted.no

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Welcome to the opening of **SALT** – a nomadic initiative celebrating the environment, art and culture of the Arctic region! On **29 August 2014**, at **6pm**, SALT's journey will begin on the beach at Sandhornøy, with a unique experience: Chinese artist **Yang Fudong's** film installation, *The Light that I Feel*.

Touching upon questions around identity, history and the existential challenges of contemporary life, his grand, slow and poetic cinematic language will counter the natural scenery on the Arctic island in an extraordinary way.

SALT's unique setting – a white sand Arctic beach, encompassed by high mountains and the turquoise ocean – is a beautiful, breath-taking stage for the ambitious cultural project's opening programme. During **29 - 30 August**, SALT will present an exciting combination of international, national and local visual and performing artists. With an artistic and musical programme closely linked to the astonishing location and surroundings, visitors will gain an increased awareness of the landscape, its history, present circumstances and future. SALT's opening weekend programme is organized in collaboration with **nyMusikk**.

Following the opening of **Yang Fudong's** specially commissioned, site-specific installation, **Friday 29 August** will see an array of exciting and unique music performances, including American artist and musician **Lonnie Holley**, who will travel from Birmingham Alabama to present one of his unique, improvised concerts, which will use the landscape, surroundings and Yang Fudong's film as starting points.

The night will also feature performances by musicians from the **Arctic Symphonic Orchestra**, the world's most northerly orchestral institution; plus **DJ Are Mokkelbost** and **Ensemble Ylajali**, a 20-piece all-female choir. Ensemble Ylajali will open SALT with an interpretation of the song *Å eg veit meg eit land* ('Oh I know of a land'), written by the Norwegian hymn writer, politician and theologian Elias Blix (1836-1902). Blix was the son of a fisherman from Sandhornøy.

Following the launch night, **Saturday 30 August** will see a second night of music and visuals, including performances by **Biosphere, Wardruna, Slagr and Elle Marja Eira**.

Biosphere is the recording name of the Norwegian musician Geir Jenssen, well known for his ambient techno and arctic ambient styles, his use of music loops and striking sound-sampling from sci-fi sources. An active climber and mountaineer, these experiences provide further inspiration for his work, as well as a source of natural sound samples.

Wardruna use historical instruments such as primitive deer-hide frame drums and horns, together with non-traditional instruments and sound sources such as trees, rocks, water and torches. All of these elements are carefully woven into a rich aural landscape complemented by whispering voices, melodic song and mighty choirs.

Slagr is a trio who bring together the fiddle, cello and vibraphone, to create a fusion that blends meditative chamber music with acoustic, ambient sounds, while **Elle Marja Eira** is a lyricist, singer and joik-artist from Kautokeino. Drawing on her family's background as reindeer herders, Eira will present an audio-visual show, which combines the traditional Sami art of storytelling with a modern expression involving electronic elements and epic refrains.

The weekend will provide the opportunity for visitors to explore the SALT site by day for the first time, including its stunning architectural design, which inspired by traditional Norwegian **fiskehjeller** (fish racks), will house a **sauna**, **amphitheatre-style events space** for live music, parties, talks and screenings, a **restaurant and bar**, and a number of small **lodges**, which visitors can hire to stay in on the beach.

SALT is a unique cultural platform – creative, historical, environmental and communal – that brings together art, architecture, music and food in the Arctic landscape. SALT launches in August 2014, before spending the next few years travelling across the northernmost part of our planet, making stops in Greenland, Iceland, the Faroe Islands, Ireland, Scotland, Spitsbergen, and Alaska.

An ambitious and inspiring concept designed to stir the imagination using the nature and history of the Arctic as the framework for strong arts and cultural experiences.

Whether it's for a day trip, an overnight stay or a lengthier sojourn, SALT will present a continuous arts diary the year round, offering a series of cultural experiences, indoors and outdoors. From site-specific art installations to fireside storytelling, readings, lectures, conferences and debates. From music – including classical and contemporary concerts, club nights, gigs, theatre and experimental performances – to child-friendly events and meditation programmes.

Editor's notes

A more detailed list of artists and performers is available on request.

Further Press Information:

Contact Emma Pettit, Roz Arratoon and Hilary Cornwell at Margaret_ on 020 7923 2861 / firstname@margaretlondon.com for images, interview requests and travel information.

www.salted.no

Facebook.com/SaltArtMusic

Twitter: [@SALT_art_music](https://twitter.com/SALT_art_music)

SALT Philosophy:

For thousands of years people have followed the movement of animals and the seasonal rhythms in the Arctic landscape. Footprints are few. SALT is inspired by and moves in that same Arctic landscape with care and respect.

SALT History:

SALT was conceived in 2010 by acclaimed curator Helga-Marie Nordby and cultural entrepreneur Erlend Mogård-Larsen (Vulkana/ByLarm/Trøena Festival) at the Lofoten International Art Festival (LIAF), a festival for contemporary art that has taken place every second year since 1999 in the Lofoten Islands, just above the Arctic Circle.

As curators for LIAF 2010, Nordby and Mogård-Larsen chose Kuba, a small island outside Svolvær, as the location for the festival. Set in the Norwegian Sea, Kuba provides the best location for drying fish in Norway. The *fiskehjeller* (fish racks) on the island were transformed into venues for art projects, performances, concerts and club nights. The success of LIAF 2010 provided the inspiration for SALT.

Getting to SALT:

Visit SALT by air

A flight from Oslo to [Bodø Airport](#) takes only 80 minutes, and the airport is located 5 minutes from the town centre. Direct flights are also available from Stockholm, Tromsø and Bergen with [Norwegian](#), [SAS](#) and [Widerøe](#).

Visit SALT by boat

[Hurtigruten](#) docks in Bodø – both north and southbound – for approx. 3 hours. A [ferry](#) sails from Lofoten to Bodø, and an [express boat](#) travels from Sandnessjøen, Svolvær and Steigen. Boats from Bodø across to Sandhornøya take approx. 20 – 30 minutes.

Visit SALT by train

The [Nordlandsbanen](#) (Nordland Line) runs from Trondheim to Bodø.

Visit SALT by car

Rv (Route) 80 links Bodø to the E6, the main road through Norway.

Alternatively, the [Coastal Route](#) (Rv 17) hugs the coast a few kilometres to the west.

Staying at SALT:

SALT Njalla

Part of SALT Siida is the genius Njalla (mobile 'tents') which visitors are welcome to drag with you across the beach to find your perfect spot on the beach to set up camp for the night. Designed by artist and architect Joar Nango and developed in partnership with architect Tone Selmer-Olsen, each includes a wood burner and glass ceiling so that whilst snuggling down warm and comfortable for the night, you won't miss the spectacle of northern lights across the sky.

From £89 / 890 KR per cabin night + 290 KR per extra person per cabin.

Hotels & Summer Houses

In addition to the unique Njalla accommodation, there are also many hotels available to stay in close to SALT in the town of Bodø.

SALT Sauna:

The sauna is accessible year round. **£19 / 190 KR including towel.**

SALT Events:

An ongoing programming of events will take place across the year.

Ticket prices from £15 / 150 KR - £75 / 750 KR.

** Please note all GBP prices are based on current exchange rate (at 27.06.14)*