

## My Artistic Practice

I'm bringing back wonder for life on earth and creating a lot of trees in the process! My artistic practice focusses on human connection with non-human life, and I'm learning from indigenous and academic teachers. I'm researching methods of storytelling and care for living beings. I wish to incorporate art as community in my practice, showing positive ways humans interact with our environments.

## Activities this semester

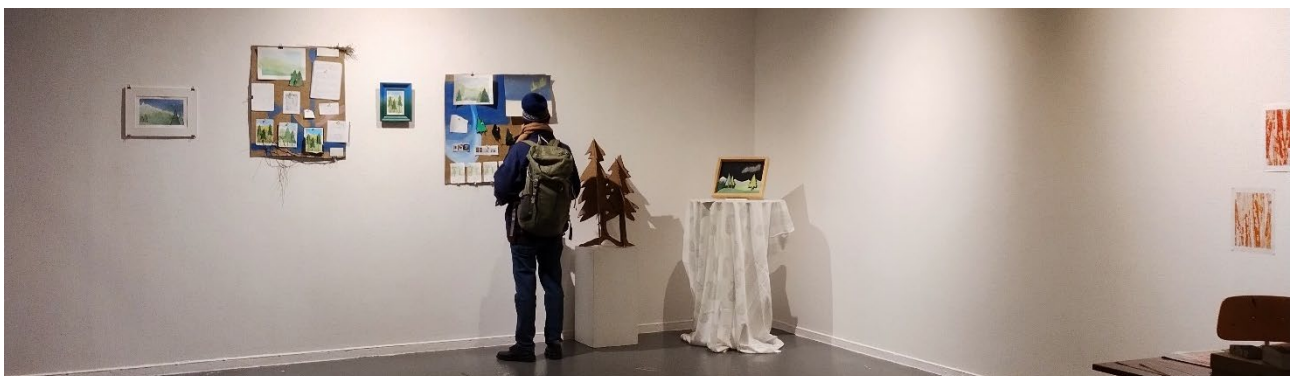
After a chat with Diana, I walked to—and through—forest along the fjord. I created a short comic about the yellow things I noticed. This comic is well-received by audiences: students, advisors, visitors to Galleri KiT and my studio during Trondheim Open. Read the comic and see more photos from the semester here: <https://outspokenimages.com/ntnu/>

I participated in *Grubbel*, a first-year students exhibit in Galleri KiT during Trondheim Open. The exhibit had many attendees, and I received constructive feedback on my artwork. I played with boundaries between frame and artwork: I bought frames from Brukom, sanded them to bare wood, and spray-painted them to match my watercolour collages. I want to keep playing with this method. I'd also like to make my own paper and extend illustrations outside frame borders.



Pieces from this series were exhibited in *Grubbel* and *In Process* at KiT, and Trondheim Open at TSSK

I exhibited in *In Process: the work that goes unseen* in Galleri KiT curated by Magnus Andreas Lumperdean. Attendees at the opening included a visitor to my studio from Trondheim Open. My landscape diorama, watercolour illustrations on foamcore, was well-received and I plan to pursue it further. It's a way to help people slow down, take a deep breath, and notice tiny details and connections. Foamcore has been a fine choice for experimenting. More interesting, I think, is layering watercolour paper. I plan to explore this next semester. Cardboard is another of my mock-up materials for 3D trees.



*In Process: the work that goes unseen*

At our first group exhibit at KiT, *Change*, our group grew salt crystals. We experimented and were met with some success. Fellow students at KiT are open to new ideas, which helps me direct my artistic practice toward the positive ways humans can affect our interaction with environments and other beings.



Experimenting



MFA1s discussed mushrooms with Nabil, prompting a mushroom foraging expedition in the forest of Estenstadmarka near Dragvoll. We documented our rainy-day adventure and plan to display photos during Open Academy. The MFA1s also wrote and recorded spoken word essays about foraging—for mushrooms, ideas, inspiration. We recorded in Erlend's sound studio for a sound installation in the MasterHub during Open Academy. Our small cohort quickly became a tightly knit community.



Erlend hard at work in his sound studio



Art and Common Space explored art and community. In our project, *Waffle for Your Thoughts*, we asked passersby to enter Kunstarken for a free freshly made waffle—in return for writing a thought and sharing it on the wall. I created a logo, printed it on A6 sheets for sharing thoughts, and took photographs. People engaged and it was interesting to hear how difficult it is to find a thought to share!



Food is a good way to create community



Group critiques with Liz and Diana's group gave me ideas to push my comics and illustrations outside the literal box. I enjoyed the method used in our critiques: presenting our artwork without any preamble, receiving feedback before we presented the backstory. I received great suggestions for books, films, & artists to research. I'm currently reading *Braiding Sweetgrass*, *Arts of Living on a Damaged Planet*, *The Mushroom at the End of the World*, and *Naturtro*.

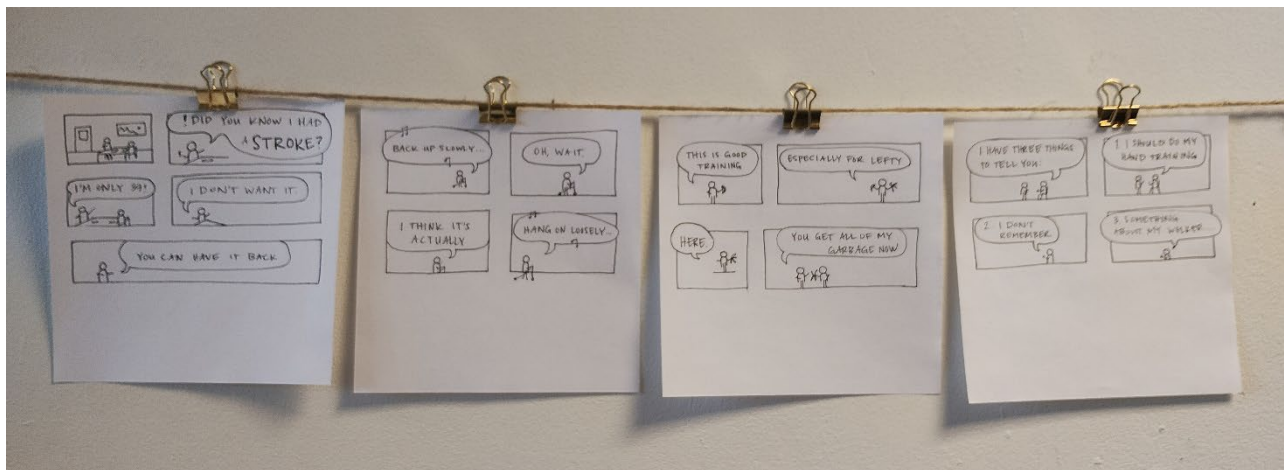
One of my framed watercolour collages was exhibited at TSSK at Trondheim Open Kunstmarked. I applied for the members exhibit in December at Trondhjems Kunstforening but was not selected. I think this was because I mentioned that I could also frame my pieces. I wasn't quite brave enough to submit my watercolour collages with only passepartouts/mats (without frames). Submitting to galleries is new for me, so I tried with what I had ready and learned from the process.

I applied to the *Rare Earths* KUNO course in Abisko and Kiruna. This would be a great opportunity to learn about Sámi culture and contested environments. I'm considering a semester abroad for autumn 2025, somewhere with a focus on responsible ecology and sustainability as cultural practice. My husband and I plan to attend the opening for Nabil's climate justice project at Bodø library on 14 December.

I joined the KUNO course *City out of Sight* here in Trondheim, learning about Solsiden dockworkers from Alexander; walking through *All Roads Lead to Roam* with Jørgen and Clara; and hearing Owen Griffiths' seminar about his art practice in Swansea.

I had deep conversations with visitors to my studio during Trondheim Open. We discussed my watercolour collages in Galleri KiT, my in-process 3D diorama, my comic about sustainability and ecology, and my comics about life after stroke.

## Questions: Where I Think I'm Going



Comics about life after stroke

These comics are a project related to my husband's stroke 18 months ago in New Zealand Aotearoa, where I was a master's student. It's a dramatic story with two brain surgeries there and five months in intensive rehabilitation after our return to Norway. (He's still learning to walk without support since the stroke affected his balance.) While at his first institution here, I created comics about everyday life after stroke to help us both laugh and document his progress. I'm filling in gaps in the story and cleaning up comics. I plan to assemble them into a coffee-table book. I take inspiration from comic artists Tegnehanne, Tom Gauld, Guy Delisle, and Jenny K Blake.

I chatted with advisors about hosting art therapy workshops, but I'm uncomfortable with the idea, mostly because I don't enjoy teaching. One idea that I would consider is guiding a walk through nature, finding a place to absorb what's around us, and creating/sharing artwork based on our interactions.

Scaling up my 3D artwork is a project I debated with students, advisors, and visitors to gallery events and my studio during Trondheim Open. Humans are tiny entities in my watercolour collages, representing the small part we play in a large ecosystem, and is something I'd like to explore more. A vision for my thesis project is a large-scale, interactive 3D outdoor installation.

A combination of ideas—3D trees and intricate watercolour collages—is an illustrated book about a walk in the woods with Sámi, Norwegian, Native American, and English text. I'm in very early dialogue with Helen Murray about this idea: her background is teaching indigenous language and culture at NTNU. I discussed this as pop-up book with people and think it's worth exploring. I'm also in dialogue with a local author to illustrate a children's book. (We met at Cranks. My first local project in Trondheim was to paint a surfboard for Cranks!)



Hand-painted surfboard for Cranks



## Research Project Objectives

I wish to incorporate art as community into my practice. I gain knowledge from Friday seminars, and visiting the Justice Museum with Nabil gave me insight into how those who hold power and control inform history. Learning storytelling as part of culture and community is something I'd like to explore more, with a lens on environmental care.

Mushroom foraging is something I've wanted to do for a long time, and trying it deepened my desire to share stories of interconnected life. I'd like to learn from artists working with local food, under an umbrella of Ecologies of Care. Liz recommended Mateusz Pitala, Monika Razny, and Stephen Barstow as artists to contact, and I plan to start this next semester.



Foraging for mushrooms



and knowledge