

AARG

Art and the Rural Gathering

AARG is an annual discussion event addressing current themes in contemporary art and the countryside. The program of the Kunsthalle Seinäjoki is based on countryside and issues and phenomena arising from the urban-rural interface.

AARG 2021 gathering is part of the Gustafsson & Haapojan exhibition *Pigs*, which deals with the poetics and politics of pigs. Animal production and the industrial production and economic exploitation of bodies named animals has an impact on numerous aspects of society and environment. At the same time, production and the work needed for it is moving farther and farther (and more often) onto the borders of the field of vision.

The seminar held together with the Gustafsson & Haapojan exhibition *Pigs* will provide a background of the history and present situation of production in Finland. The law allows to use animals from other species: the agency and selfness of other species have been made invisible and insignificant, so they have become objects. Legislation often favours the economy and the pursuit of profit, but the climate crisis and pandemics may force us into social agreements on a more sustainable basis. The price of intensive production is not only paid by other animals, nature and future generations, but usually also by the people who make their living from it. The most important issue for the survival of human communities is food production. The seminar will also highlight more humane ways to solve it.



Link for watching the gathering, Gathering is held in Finnish.

<https://www.seinajoentaidehalli.fi/aarg-art-and-the-rural-gathering/>

AARG PROGRAM

9/30/2021 at 1.30-4pm

Art Curator

Sanna Karimäki-Nuutinen

Greetings from Kunsthalle Seinäjoki

Writer

Laura Gustafsson, moderator

SPEECHES

Animal Welfare Ombudsman

Saara Kupsala

Animal welfare regulation, farm animals

visibility and consumers knowledge on animal welfare

Researcher of regenerative food economics,
leader of the Invisible Work (Näkymätön työ) research project

Galina Kallio

*Regenerative agriculture - land relations, invisible work
and possibilities and impossibilities of subsistence*

Researcher, teacher / Åbo Akademi,
founder of the publication Global Journal of Animal Law
and the Finnish Animal Rights Lawyers Society.

Birgitta Wahlberg

Fundamental animal rights - what and why

Activist, photographer / Rights to animals

Kristo Muurimaa

*Documentation of legal business through illegal means
- production facilities through candid camera*

FINAL DEBATE

