



ACRA III

The Alta Conference on Rock Art III: Perspectives on differences in Rock Art.

The Conference will be held in Alta, North-Norway, **15 – 18 September 2015**

Organized by Tromsø University Museum, UiT The Arctic University of Norway and
The World Heritage Center for Rock Art Alta Museum.

ACRA III: FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

The rock art in Alta became a part of UNESCO World Heritage 3rd of December 1985, and in 1991 a new Alta Museum opened inside the premises of the largest area with rock art and prehistoric settlements. The relatively short time from the discovery of the figures in 1973 to controlled visitation and a new museum reflects not only the recognition of the uniqueness of the art itself but also the aim that it should become an asset locally, nationally and internationally. Through the presentation of the rock art in situ, research, conferences and publications, the museum has indeed become a public place to visit and enjoy learning about the area prehistory. In 1993, Alta Museum was voted the European Museum of the Year and their current maintenance, documentation and presentation of the rock art is among the best.

Visit:

<http://www.alta.museum.no> for a general introduction to the museum and activities.

<http://www.alta.museum.no/sider/tekst.asp?side=24> for a short introduction in English.

<http://altarockart.no> for the databases and maps.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3wV2vz9Vy8> for film on youtube

Closely associated with learning is the production of knowledge to understand how the art connected with local communities, contacts and changes in beliefs, rituals technologies through the last 5000 years BC. Rock art is a global phenomenon with an enormous variation in shapes and figures and the research interest is wide and inclusive. In this perspective, two international conferences, The Alta Conference on Rock Art (ACRA) was organized by Alta Museum and Tromsø University Museum in 1993 and 1998, and in 2006 a South African Conference on Rock Art (SACRA) was organized together with the Rock Art Research Institute at University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, in Kimberley, South Africa. The proceedings of each conference were published in separate volumes.

To continue the process of learning and research Tromsø University Museum and Alta Museum are inviting to the third ACRA conference (ACRA III) titled:

Perspectives on Differences in Rock Art.

The focus will be on two main themes:

1. Perspectives on authenticity and presentation.

The issues connected with efforts and choices taken to preserve and present rock art are indeed many sided and complex. There are several levels of negative and positive consequences, from ultimate destruction by construction activities to political/administrative support to preserve, protect, present and maintain site authenticity. Some sites have even acquired the ultimate status as World Heritage.

The session aims to elucidate different problems and solutions facing not only maintaining authenticity but also the role research on understanding rock art has had on the choices taken on e.g. conservation and presentation.

2. Perspectives on differences

The session aims to explain differences observed in rock art through time and space, synchronically or diachronically. Differences can for example be in form, content, space (macro and micro), where explanations might relate to a large variety of factors such as political, societal, beliefs and rituals.

The two sessions will be consecutive



In 2015 it is 30 years since the rock art and the associated settlement sites were inscribed in UNESCO's World Heritage List. In this connection, the conference will honor Knut Helskog whose research was central for including the sites in the World Heritage List and making the rock art in Alta globally known. As such, the conference is also an Emeritus gift from Tromsø University Museum and Alta Museum to Professor Knut Helskog who retired in august 2014.

REGISTRATION

Registration starts immediately.

Registration deadline: 15th of June 2015

Please note that there is a limit on the possible number of papers and the total number of participants.

Registration information:

Full Name

Place of work

Email address

Presenting or not presenting paper

Title of paper and a short abstract

should be mailed to: maar@altamuseum.no ; trude.myrvoll@uit.no

20 minute talks + 5 min questions

Keynote speakers get 45 min + 5 min questions

Official conference language is English

Publication ACRA III

Peer reviewed publication planned published

Manuscript deadline 1st February 2016

Estimated publication 1st February 2017

Conference Fee

Ordinary participants: NOK 1500,-

Students : NOK 1000,-

Includes: reception, coffee breaks, excursions and conference dinner.



ACRA III

Provisional Programme

15. September 2015

1200-1800 Registration at the ACRA desk at the World Heritage Rock Art Centre
Alta Museum

1700 Reception at Alta Museum

1800 Standing buffet and a glass of wine

1900 Talk by Knut Helskog

The Alta rock art – a lifetime of discoveries and research (45 min)

2000 Night-excursion at the UNESCO World Heritage site in Hjemmeluft (1-2 hours)

16. September 2015

0900 - 1230 Session 1: Perspectives on authenticity and presentation.

Lunch

1400-1700 Session 2: Perspectives on differences

Note that the length given the two sessions is flexible and that both might be sub-divided.

17. September 2015

0900 - 1230. Session 2: Perspectives on differences (cont.)

Lunch

1400 - 1800. Excursion to the rock art at Ytre Kåfjord and Amtmannsnes

1900. Conference dinner

18. September 2015

0900-1230 Session: Perspectives on differences (cont.)

Lunch

1400-1700 Session Perspectives on differences (cont.)

1700 Summing up

1730: End of conference

Posters

Posters are encouraged and will be exhibited at Alta Museum or adjacent to the conference hall

Note: A second announcement with details about accommodation and travel will be posted when we can share more info about papers and speakers.

To get an idea about prices on accommodation search the web on hotels in Alta

