

# LET IT GROW

## Did You Hear About 'Revontulet'

The Finnish word 'revontulet' consists of 'revon' and 'tulet', which mean 'fox's' and 'fires' in English respectively. In an ancient folklore of the Northern Finland, there was a mythical animal called 'Tulikettu'. Tulikettu was a magical giant fox with fiery and radiant fur that lived in snowy hills far north. This fox was so precious, which made hunting it every hunters' dream. Hunters believed that whoever could catch the fox would receive all the wealth and fame on the earth.



However, no one could ever catch it because Tulikettu could run as fast as the wind. Every time the firefox ran in the snowy-capped hills, its bushy tail would touch the snow and sending a magical trail of sparks into the sky.



## INTRODUCTION

The Northern Lights in Lapland are always young and full of vitality, which is like all the creatures in the land of Finland that have spirit, energy, life, and their own freedom. My personal experience of seeking the aurora and the Sami's lofty respect for nature brings me a sense of awe and inexplicable feelings about this land. This is a natural paradise that people from the hustle and bustle of the cities can hardly feel and step into. Therefore, I deemed that seeking the northern light is a way to gain an insight into the most authentic natural world. Everything that grows there is flourishing and endless. The beams of light can guide people to find their genuine innermost part. Based on my experience and thoughts, I proposed the concept of the immersive installation 'Let it Grow'.

## Aurora Myths In Different Cultural Backgrounds

Throughout history, aurora borealis has occupied a prominent spot in both mythology and folklore of most indigenous people who live within the auroral Oval.

Those myths and folkloric stories have naturally attracted some imaginations from time to time. For example, in old Scandinavian, the aurora was translated as 'herring flash', which represented large groups of shiny fish swimming and reflecting into the night sky. In Sweden's myths, aurora symbolized good news for fortune. Swedish ancestors believed that the lights were gifts from benevolent gods that brought people with warmth and good harvest. Another legend described northern lights as the glows from the shields and armors of the Valkyrie, female warriors who equipped with helmets and armors, riding crossing the northern sky on their horses. Besides, the lost souls who were figured a lot in Norse mythology also viewed the aurora as the 'Bifrost Bridge', a glowing rainbow arch that guided the souls of the warriors to the final resting place.





## ANIMISM

Till this data, the most ancient belief of Sami until today is still closely associated with animism. In general, animism attributes life to natural elements such as animals, plants, force, and celestial bodies. Each entity has natural phenomena with an animating soul or spirit.

Similarly, according to ancient Sami's contexts, all natural beings are believed to have souls or spirits. The relationships among land, animals, human-beings, plants, stones, and the Northern Lights are related and reciprocal, and they have a connection with each other. Besides, Sami people believe that animals and souls have emotions and consciousness, and that both animals and soul possess ways to act and communicate with the entire environment .



The Orion Belt



Star Trails



The Moon



Fells



The First Snow



The Aurora

A Finnish Sami artist wrote in his poem that "we have lived here from generation to generation ... when they come they will find this land, us, and we are stones, plants, animals, fish, water, wind, earth, sky ... ". Also, the writer Hatt mentioned these relationships in her speech. She stated that "all of nature up there under the Northern Lights in the Lapps'- and it is animated- starry heavens, the stones, the mountains, the trees and the people who live under the earth-all are alive in the Lapp soul".



## THE MOON

Winter in Finland is a magical season. Completely still but mighty, pitch black yet dazzlingly bright. It is enigmatic and merciless, commanding great respect.

The moon watches over Lapland's people in the dark. When the sky is clear, the clean snow reflects the light of the full moon and there is no need for a torch on the fells.



## THE STARS

Edith Sodergran (Finland)

When night comes  
I stand on the steps and listen,  
stars swarm in the yard  
and I stand in the dark.  
Listen, a star fell with a clang!  
Don't go out in the grass with bare feet;  
my yard is full of shards.



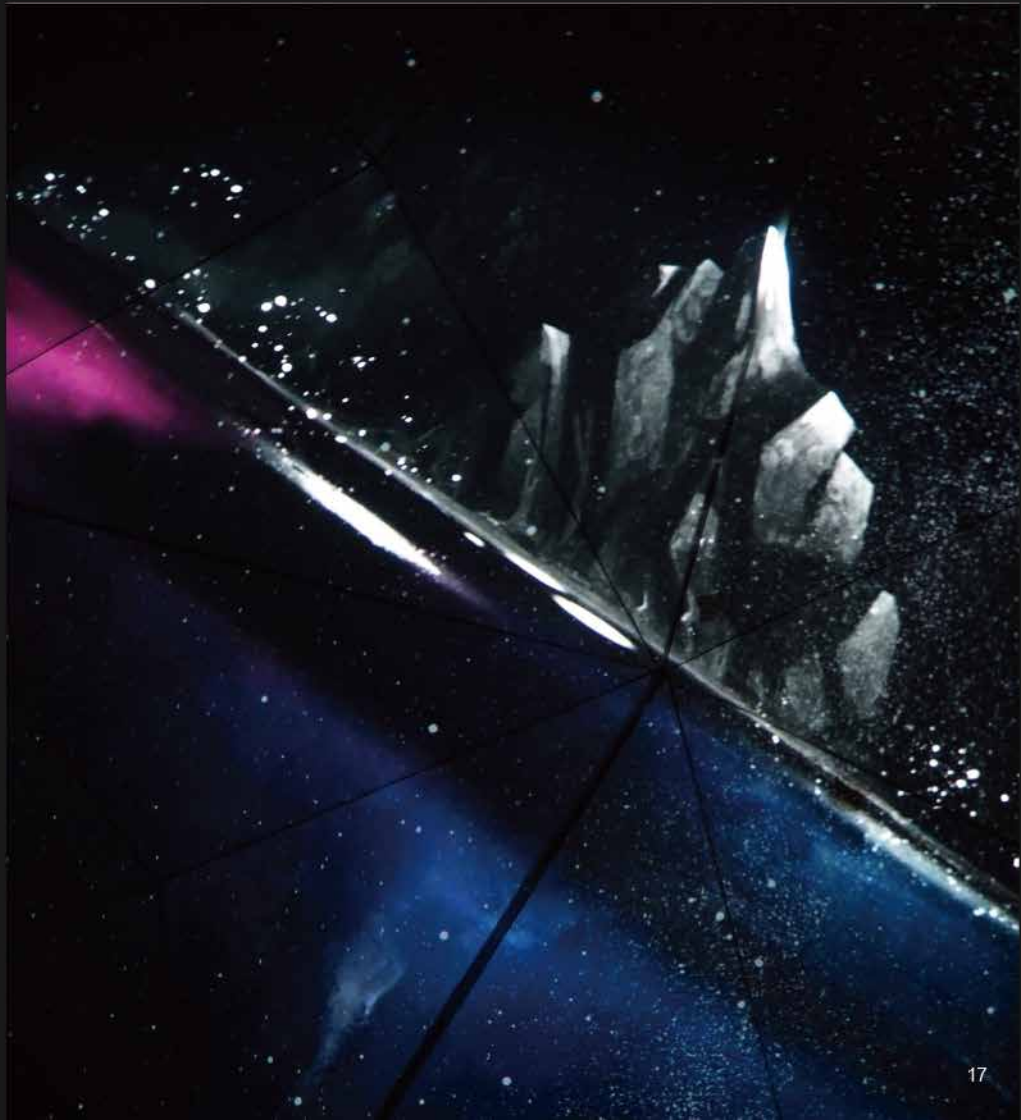
## ORION BELT

Orion is the most magnificent constellation of the day. It is located in the Finnish myth of the celestial equator. These three stars represent Vainamoinen's sickle and Kalefang's sword.

The Orion Belt is a constellation in Orion. It contains three bright stars, ζ(Alnitak) ,ε(Alnilam) , andδ(Mintaka) . Finding the Orion's belt is the easiest way to determine the Orion position in the night sky. At around 9 o'clock in the middle of January each year, when Orion crosses the meridian, it is the easiest time to find the Orion belt.

## FELLS

In the winter, previously inaccessible regions become terrain to be conquered. Snow covers the rocky fells making it easier to move about. Sami' s forefathers believed the fells (tunturit) were petrified giants or whales.



## THE FIRST SNOW

Michaelmas on 29 September is when winter's gate creaks open and the wait begins. Up north, the first snow falls in October and the region has permanent cover by November. The Finnish word for November, marraskuu, contains the word marras, which refers to the top layer of the ground hardened by the frost.

The two-month long polar night (kaamos) begins in November when the sun no longer rises above the horizon. The darkness takes on shades of blue, violet and purple, colors that tame a restless soul. The snow white on the ground is the color of purity. It turns a new leaf in life.



## What causes the aurora borealis?

it is known that there is a correlation between sun spots and the northern lights, with more occurrences during sunspot maximums than minimums. during times of sunspot maximum, the solar wind, a stream of plasma coming from the sun comprising protons and electrons, is powerful and restless. some of the particles brought by the solar wind are trapped by the earth' s magnetic field and follow the magnetic force into the ionosphere and collide with the oxygen, nitrogen and hydrogen gases there.

The red and green colors occurs when electrically charged particles collide with oxygen atoms, various shades of blue when the particles collide with nitrogen molecules. Solar winds can easily reach a speed of 900 kilometers a second.

## AURORA BOREALIS

Go north. In northern Lapland the lights shine about every other clear night between September and March. In southern Finland they are visible on about 10-20 nights a year.

Though they might look almost within reach, auroras form at altitudes of over 100 km. Auroras are caused by electronically charged particles originating from the sun. Multi-coloured displays form when different atmospheric gases are agitated by this solar wind.

The thrill of witnessing the Aurora Borealis is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for many. Some, however, get hooked and can never get enough of the blazing colours in the sky.





## The northern lights can be calm, active or very active

The northern lights can be seen once falls darkness. The display is at its best soon after it starts and again after 9pm, when it features multiple curves, tall beams, often a corona and rapidly moving ripples. At their peak, the northern lights extend to below the belt of Orion or more than 160 degrees.

During a peak outburst, a red color was clearly visible in the west. The display was active for three hours even though its magnificence diminished slightly over time. A lengthy wait was rewarded by an especially fine, photographic display, and bluish beams could still be seen in the morning twilight.

## LET IT GROW IN CULTURES

As complanate materials no longer being regards as the single dependencies to convey information, the continuous fusion and popularization of science, technology, and culture encourage and inspire people to further explore space through artistic expression in the future. We are more immersed in and become part of these artistic works, exploring the connections between people, culture, and nature.

If it is possible, 'Let it grow' is able to inspire many feelings as the installation travel to different regions and be presented to different cultural backgrounds. Inspired by these stories, we break the boundaries between nature and ourselves, and become familiar with the crystallization of wisdom in the process of human getting along with nature, which allow us to imagine beyond the digital effects created by digital technology.



# INSTALLATION SKETCH

