

ENGLISH

# ART WALK

DISCOVER NUUK  
THROUGH  
THE ART  
IN THE CITY



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### 1. Paintings on the gables of block 10 and 5

**Guido Van Helten and Stéfan Baldursson. 2014**

The paintings on the house ends of the concrete apartments are like Street Art. The art phenomenon conquers and decorates public spaces of the cities without asking for permission. This Street Art was supported by the municipality, but the initiative came from the artists themselves.

Stéfan Baldursson is from Iceland and has created the woman with the polar bear on the house end of block 10.

Guido Van Helten is from Australia and is the artist behind the painting on block 5. It is made from a photograph of a hunter from East Greenland taken by the photographer W. Thalbitzer in 1906. In Nuuk Art Museum a painting of this man called Nujappik is shown painted by Søren "Solo" Nielsen (1874-1948).

### 2. A wall, a stone and a painting - POST & TELE, the post office

**By Jens Thordahl Christensen (B. 1965) 2006**

In the entrance hall of the post office there is a big red mail box placed in



front of a dotted wall. Dots which gathers and scatters. The wall is made of zinc and the dots painted with car paint. The dots are inspired by traditional women's tattoos.

While the artist made the dots, he read the names from a Greenlandic phone book aloud.

The stone in the middle of the vestibule is from Nuuk and has been sand polished. The third part of the decoration is inside the post office. A five meters long painting is hanging next to the desk, inspired by the ice cap and the vast lands in the Greenlandic nature.

### 3. "Fish on its way I & II" - Wall paintings in stairways beneath the TELE Tower

**By Camilla Nielsen (B. 1972)**

A huge swimming redfish is found by the staircase in the back of the small entrance room between the two shops Panasonic and In Fashion.

Take a walk around the building. On the opposite side numerous smaller redfish with huge round eyes are swimming by another stair-



case. Move close to the windows to get a good look at the redfish on their way.

As an art school student in the 1990s Camilla Nielsen saw this red deep-sea fish with its round eyes - often popped out - at the local fish market, which was a neighbor to the Art School in Nuuk. Since then, she has used the red fish as a motive with a line repeatedly, each time trying to simplify it - to shape the lines - until the redfish becomes indistinguishable. Then she returns to the original shape and starts over. Each redfish is different, but the artist uses acrylic paint, water colour and ink to make each of her redfish.



### 4. Exhibitions in Grønlandsbanken

Walking to the top of the hill you pass a white tower with a bird on the façade. It is the building of the bank of Greenland. In their vestibule - both downstairs and upstairs - they have changing exhibitions by contemporary Greenlandic artists. Take a look - most of the works of art are for sale.



## 5. Amisut

By Naja Rosing-Asvid (B. 1966)  
2009

Seeing a group of seals swimming at sea level is called "amisut" in Greenlandic. The seals wind and unwind in the sculpture – swimming together. It was made in connection with self-government replacing Home Rule in Greenland in 2009 where the entire square was inaugurated. The artist behind, Naja Rosing-Asvid, has formal education within architecture. Across from Amisut is the former Hotel Nuuk.

## 6. Hotel Nuuk vestibule

By Anne-Birthe Hove (1951-2012)  
2000

Today Hotel Nuuk is a student hostel. Look through the windows into the entrance hall into the former hotel lobby and bar. The white columns are decorated with copper. The bronze moves in waves around the top of the columns and have different patterns engraved.

If you walk around the corner, there



is a larger window providing a better view of the columns.

Anne-Birthe Hove decorated the hotel lobby and bar in 2001. Three large copper plates called "Night Ravens" (Natteravne – which in Danish is an expression for those who like to stay up at night) and 14 prints on canvas of the mountain Sermitsiaq were on the walls. Today these pieces of art can be seen at Nuuk Art Museum. A huge sand blown glass plate, today lost, separated the room.



## 7. Marks on stones – in front of Katuaq

By Jeppe Gitz-Johansen (B. 1939)

Right in front of Cafétuaq, in the Cultural Centre Katuaq, four stones are lying.

Go over and around the stones to find the engraved marks in different colours. They appear from the stones like ancient petroglyphs or carvings, like the secrets of cave paintings or as a prayer for the sun.

This is not an official decoration. But here they are – as the part of Nuuk you have to look for.



## 8. Paintings – inside Katuaq

By Aage Gitz-Johansen (1897-1977)

Upstairs in the café Cafétuaq, you get the best view of the paintings by Aage Gitz-Johansen. Gitz-Johansen was called Qalipaasorsuaq – the great painter.

He was from Denmark, but fell in love with the Greenlandic and Sapmi cultures. He travelled to Greenland several times, and even lived here in shorter periods. He used the inspiration from mythologies and Greenlandic culture in his art.

Gitz-Johansen plays with lines, with the figures and their relations on the ground or the canvas. The paintings are not telling anything specific about Greenland or Greenlandic culture; the painter was fascinated by the culture, by the human being especially the female figure, by the colours brown and blue – and he uses all this as motives.



### 9. Exhibition // Katuaq

Follow the wall decoration. The aisle in the back of the culture house is used for changing exhibitions. Each summer the students from the Nuuk Art School exhibits their art works.



### 10. Wall decoration – inside Katuaq By Buuti Pedersen (B. 1955)

It is said in a Greenlandic myth that a man fell in love with his sister. When she found out, she took a bit of turf, dipped it in the train oil, set it on fire and ran away. The brother ran after his sister, but didn't manage to light his turf. The brother is still chasing his sister – running over the sky he has become the moon, eternally trying to get to his sister, the sun. Together, the sun and the moon control the tide and the seasons changing.

Above the information and ticket sale counter in the cultural center Katuaq, this myth about the sun and the moon is cast in the concrete wall. The man as the moon is pursuing the sun, the woman, across the curved white wall with stars and outlines of landscapes as the scenery, but always with the same distance between them.



### 11. "Kayak family" – in front of Katuaq

By Isle Hessner (B. 1962)

A group of three standing kayaks are found by the entrance to Katuaq. Sculptures you can sit in or play on – a meeting point or a place to rest.

Isle Hessner works with iron, tree and concrete in her sculptures. Materials often used to build buildings with. Here the iron and the concrete offer a windbreak – a shelter against snow and wind. At the same time the snow and wind works with the iron, giving it its brownish patina.



### 12. Stones – between Nuuk Center and The Culture House Katuaq

By Peter "Kujooq" Kristiansen

Across the café Pascucci, just between Katuaq and Nuuk Center, there is something emerging from the ground – round black polished stones appear in the grass.

Looking closer at the different stones lying around in the grass you will find a fish and other animals carved in the stones.

They are there, but are very easy to miss if you neglect to stop and look down.



### 13. Kaassassuk – by the Government of Greenland

By Simon Kristoffersen (1933-90)

Kaassassuk is the name of a legend about an orphan boy called Kaassassuk. He is humiliated and bullied in his settlement until he meets the Lord of Power.

In this sculpture Simon Kristoffersen shows Kaassassuk's encounter with the Lord of Power. They look in separate directions. In the legend Kaassassuk is flung by the Lord of Power until he gets (almost) unconquerable powers.

The artist has made the Lord of Power heavy, monumental and forceful without a neck, with dilated nostrils, big round eyes with no pupils and with legs ending suddenly like an elephant.

After being flung by the Lord of Power, Kaassassuk is going out into the world, to learn how to use his powers.

The sculpture was made in 1973 in The Royal Danish Academy of Art, and was placed in front of the Rigshospitalet (a specialised hospital) in Copenhagen until 1987, at which point it was moved to Nuuk.



#### 14. The Mother of The Sea - Colonial harbour

By Christian "Nuunu" Rosing (B. 1944)

The Mother of the Sea lives at the bottom of the sea. She rules over all the marine animals. If man is misbehaving, the mischievousness and dirt gets tangled into her hair and that way, she keeps the animals from man to hunt or fish. Then man must send a shaman on the long and dangerous journey down to the bottom of the sea to comb and clean the mother of the sea's hair and sooth her, in order to keep the settlement from starving. Newly combed and clean, the Mother of the Sea has once again released the animals. Sometimes the sculpture is on land, other times in water - depending on the tide.

#### 15. Inussuk

By Niels Motzfeldt 2009

Inussuk the sculpture is called standing with a view to the colonial harbour and the fjord. The Greenlandic



word inussuk means cairn or directly translated "something that looks like human beings". A cairn directs us on our way in the mountains or on the fjord.

The three columns are twisting and leaning against each other united at the top. They columns symbolize the people of Greenland in North, East and West - joining and supporting each other.

It is made of stone, cobber and concrete. The stones in the sculpture are from all over Greenland.



#### 16. Ravens - Apartment buildings on Tuapannguit

By Rikke Diemer

At the top of the apartment towers the ravens are flying from house to house. The many ravens playing over the rooftops belong to the winters in Nuuk, says the artist Rikke Diemer about the ravens on the apartment towers.

The ravens first flight was on the house end of Block Q - a block of concrete apartments out of three and was torn down and replaced by these towers in 2011. With these seven towers the ravens began flying again.

Place yourself at a little distance of the first tower then all the ravens on the 7 towers melt together to an unbroken motive of ravens taking off, flying and landing.

#### 17. Pattern on the front of the City Hall

By Thue Christiansen (B. 1940)

On the front of the city hall you will find a pattern, which is easy to miss.



- the Greenlandic sealskin embroidery where tiny bits of dyed sealskin are sewn into a pattern on kamiks and other pieces of needlework.

When the sun is shining the pattern gleams.

Thue Christiansen - the artist behind the pattern - is also the artist behind the design of the Greenlandic flag.



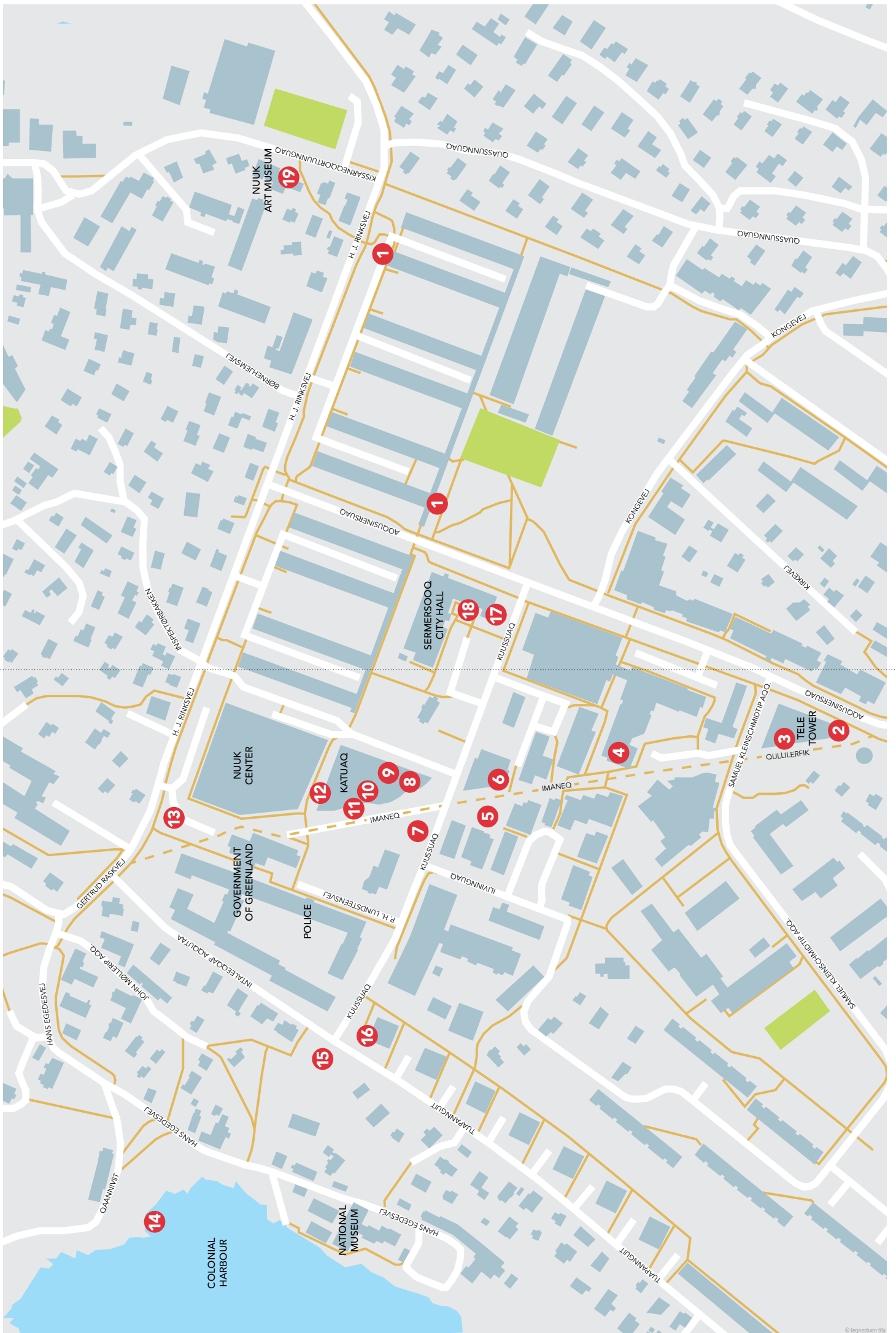
#### 18. A falcon in the courtyard of the City Hall

In the courtyard of the city hall a sculpture hides in the bushes in the corner. The head of a falcon stands on a concrete block with big round eyes you can cover with your hands, with a beak you can stroke and a head you can pad.



#### 19. Nuuk Art Museum

Across the road from the lady with the polar bear on Block 10 you will find Nuuk Art Museum. The museum is founded on the collection of Svend and Helene Junge. The building was given to the municipality in 2005 along with the large art collection. The museum is the biggest collection of art open to the public in Greenland, and houses both historic and contemporary Greenlandic art.



# Nuummi Eqqumiitsulianik Saqqummersitsivik Nuuk Kunstmuseum // Nuuk Art Museum

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## Winter Opening Hours

Thursday 13-19  
Friday – Sunday 13-17  
(or by appointment)

## Summer Opening Hours

Tuesday – Sunday 13-17  
Thursday 13-19  
(or by appointment)

*Colourful Nuuk*

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NUUK KUNSTMUSEUM // NUUK ART MUSEUM