



ARTIST CHERIE SAMPSON TRANSFERS A SIGNIFICANT PERFORMANCE AND VIDEO ART COLLECTION TO THE PORI ART MUSEUM

Media conference: August 23rd 2018 at 11.00, Pori Art Museum

Environmental artist Cherie Sampson (b. 1963 Superior, Wisconsin) transfers a collection of 15 artworks to Pori Art Museum. The collection includes works created in Finland from 1998 through 2013, including both performance and video art works. The gifted collection will be included in the City of Pori Art Collection and a Cherie Sampson archive will be created to complement it.

Cherie Sampson has worked for over 25 years as an interdisciplinary artist in environmental performance, sculpture and video art. She has exhibited internationally in live performances, art-in-nature symposia, video screenings and installations, creating site-based-works informed by the historical, cultural and geographical strata of an environment. Sampson is an associate professor in the School of Visual Studies at the University of Missouri.

All of Cherie Sampson's maternal ancestors come from Finland. Sampson herself came to Finland in 1998 as a Fulbright grantee. During that visit she created the first performances inspired by the boreal landscape as well as the Finnish national epic, *The Kalevala*. *Suon Hengetär* and *blood-line* were among the works in 1998. The first one was performed at the 3rd *International Conference on Environmental Aesthetics* in Ilomantsi in June. The latter, *blood-line*, was a performance and installation presented at Pori Art Museum November 14th 1998.

Since then Cherie Sampson has worked and performed in Finland several times. In 2008, she had a residency at Mekrijärvi Forest Research Station in Ilomantsi, where she created a video-performance, *At the Pole of Heaven*. There she also did preliminary research for the 2009 live performance, *Her Blue Sea Fire*, that was presented at Valamo Monastery at the 7th *Conference on Environmental Aesthetics*. Sampson was awarded a second Fulbright in 2011 during which she worked on the project, *From the Dried-Out Fir Leaked Honey*. A 3-channel video installation carrying the same title was the main piece in Sampson's solo exhibition *Red the Trees & Green the Land*, held at the Pori Art Museum from November 29, 2013 to January 19, 2014. An exhibition catalogue named after the exhibition was published by Pori Art Museum in 2014.

A grant from the University of Missouri has supported Cherie Sampson's preparation of the collection to be gifted to the museum. Lawyer H. Frederick Rusche from Volunteer Lawyers & Accountants for the Arts (<https://vlaa.org/>) has given legal counsel during the process.

Additional information: Chief curator Anni Saisto, Pori Art Museum, +358 44 701 1083, anni.saisto@pori.fi
Media photographs: <http://www.poriartmuseum.fi/eng/media/index.php>