

THE TOP OF THE WORLD

International Experimental Video Art Festival

OPEN CALL 2027 — EXTRACTION

Longyearbyen, Svalbard | 29–31 January 2027
Submission deadline 14 December 2026

At the edge of the inhabited world, during the Arctic polar night, images emerge from the darkness.

In the heart of the polar night, THE TOP OF THE WORLD transforms the frozen landscape of Svalbard into an extraordinary open-air cinema. Beneath the Arctic sky, experimental moving images encounter snow, silence and darkness, creating an experience where art, nature and audience become inseparable.

EXTRACTION

What do we take? What is taken from us? What remains?

Extraction reaches far beyond the removal of natural resources. We extract energy, information, labour, images, memories and meaning. We draw value from landscapes, bodies, relationships and systems.

Extraction can sustain, transform or exploit. It raises questions of power, ownership, dependency and consequence. Who benefits, and who pays the price?

Svalbard, shaped by centuries of exploration, mining, scientific research and geopolitical interests, provides a compelling setting for these questions.

We invite artists to explore EXTRACTION through poetic, conceptual, critical, abstract or unconventional approaches. From the intimate to the planetary, the physical to the digital, the theme is an invitation rather than a limitation.

THE FESTIVAL

For its inaugural edition, THE TOP OF THE WORLD brings experimental moving-image art into the Arctic polar night.

Across three days, a six-hour programme of experimental moving images will emerge against a vast landscape of snow and darkness.

Open to the local community and international visitors alike, the festival creates a meeting point between contemporary art, people and place.

An encounter between experimental art and one of the world's most extraordinary environments, where the landscape itself becomes part of the experience.

SUBMISSIONS

We welcome experimental video art, performance for camera, animation and unconventional moving-image practices from artists worldwide.

Single-channel works suitable for outdoor projection. Maximum duration: 12 minutes.

Priority will be given to visually driven works without spoken dialogue. Existing and newly produced works are welcome.

Works need not relate directly to the Arctic. No application fee.

Applications must include:

- Video link (with password, if applicable).
- Three still images from the submitted work for digital publication and promotion.
- Artist biography (maximum 100 words).
- Video description (maximum 200 words).

Submission deadline: 14 December 2026

Festival dates: 29–31 January 2027

Send your application to: thearcticpavilion@gmail.com

ABOUT ARCTIC PAVILION

Arctic Pavilion is an independent, artist-led nomadic platform based in Svalbard. Rooted in site-responsive artistic practice, it works from the Arctic outward, engaging with contemporary Arctic conditions and their global implications.

Moving across places, disciplines and perspectives, Arctic Pavilion approaches the Arctic not as a remote periphery to be observed, but as a lived territory and a position from which to look outward. Here, questions of climate, power, sovereignty, extraction, technology and belonging become increasingly visible.

Through artistic collaborations, projects and encounters, Arctic Pavilion creates opportunities for artistic exploration and exchange across different sites and contexts. Upcoming initiatives include publications and the development of a mobile infrastructure to support artistic activities across shifting sites and conditions.

At its core is a commitment to artistic freedom, independence, presence and exchange, and to art as a way of sensing, questioning and understanding realities still unfolding.

Arctic Pavilion was founded in 2023 by artists Ina Otzko and Stein Henningsen.

www.arcticpavilion.org