

Tal till pristagaren – Marianne Folkedotter

NCKs Pedagogical Prize is annually awarded since 2007 to a person or organisation from the Nordic-Baltic countries who has distinguished itself in heritage learning. The prize is a way of bringing attention to the important work that is done all over the region in this growing field.

The person receiving NCK's Pedagogical Prize in 2022 was described in the nomination as not only the first of her kind, but as one of a kind. This year's laureate has been a pioneer within the heritage sector in the way that she has put a focus on the many aspects of storytelling - as an immaterial heritage, as a pedagogical tool in museum and archives education, and as an artform. Last but not least, she has shown how storytelling can be used to open up heritage institutions to their surrounding society and make more people contribute to the stories told and unfolded. I am proud to announce that NCK's Pedagogical Prize of 2022 is awarded to Marianne Folkedotter, storytelling antiquarian at Västerbotten County Museum in Umeå, Sweden. [Här spotlights Marianne så att hon blir synlig för publiken]

Marianne Folkedotter's work is characterised by respect, curiosity, and joy. Being the first storytelling antiquarian in Sweden, Marianne had to break new ground for herself and find ways to integrate storytelling into the museum's work. It is told that it wasn't without tension that she introduced new ways of conveying heritage and history beyond traditional object centred exhibitions. Experimenting with music, performing arts, photography and artwork, Marianne dared the museum to go outside of its comfort zone as well as outside of its buildings. Much of Marianne's work has been done in community centres in the Västerbottnian countryside or at theatre stages in Sweden and abroad. There were complaints in the beginning among her colleagues of her not being in her office at the museum and that you never knew where to find her. However, through Marianne's work the museum has found new ways of being an actor in the community and ground it's work in local contexts and places. Not least through the work with the Storytelling Municipality of the Year, where one municipality each year is put in focus and where the inhabitants get inspiration, knowhow, and settings for telling their own stories in their own places.

It is fitting that the conference theme this year is co-creation because Marianne has since the beginning encouraged others to share their stories and have made it obvious that we all have a story to tell - sometimes you just need a gentle push and someone who listens. Marianne has given a lot of people gentle pushes over the years to stand up and clear their throat. She has been listening as much as she has been telling stories herself.

But rest assured, to tell stories is a craft which Marianne masters well and truly. Those of us who have had the opportunity to listen to her can testify that she grabs your attention from the moment she opens her mouth. As it was described in the nomination: You don't want her to stop talking, and you don't want to stop listening. Through her own storytelling, Marianne has put light on people whose fates seldom make it to the history books. Through persistent digging in archives and through collecting stories from locals she has put together storytelling shows such as the one about Adak-Ulla, a woman who went against all societal norms in the middle of the 19th century. Adak-Ulla made a successful business out of the hard and dangerous

job of being a trading farmer on the long roads between Adak and Mo i Rana in Norway - a typical type of story which may go by unnoticed. Marianne has made it her trademark to put these stories out in the open, and to do so in a spellbinding way.

I am honoured to present you with NCK's Pedagogical Prize Marianne, and I do hope that we will be able to welcome you to Östersund next year for you to tell your story yourself.