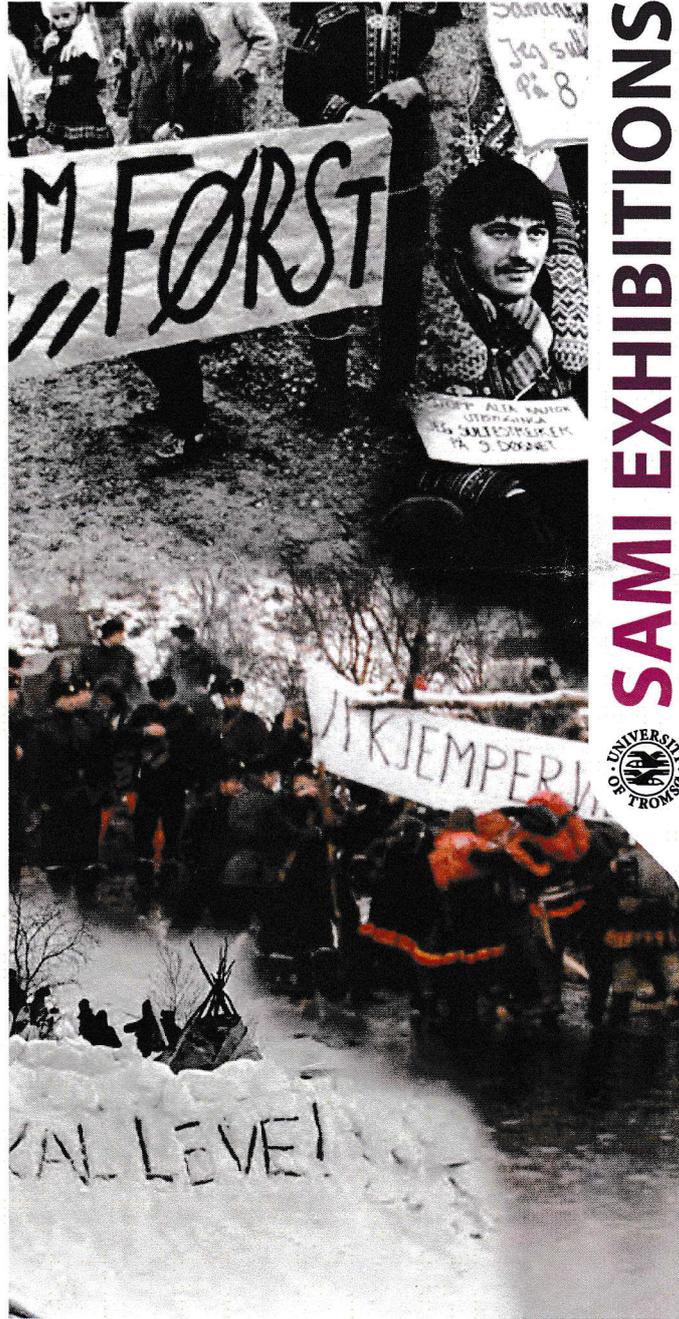
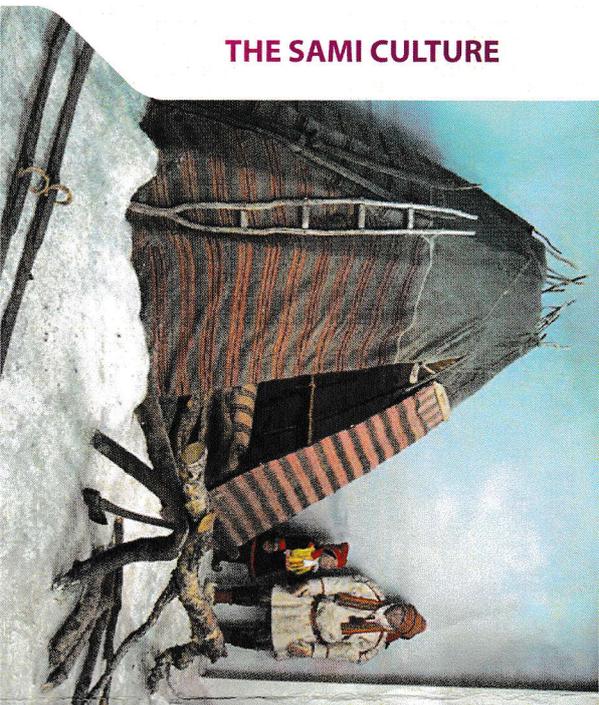




**SAMI EXHIBITIONS**



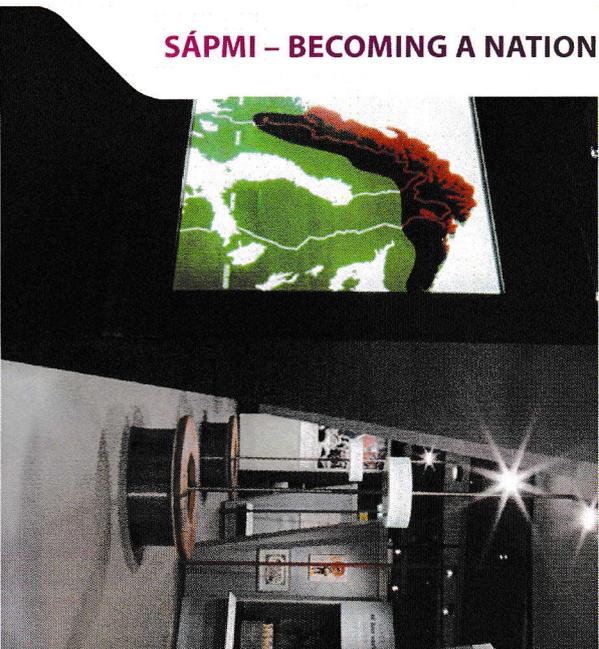
## THE SAMI CULTURE



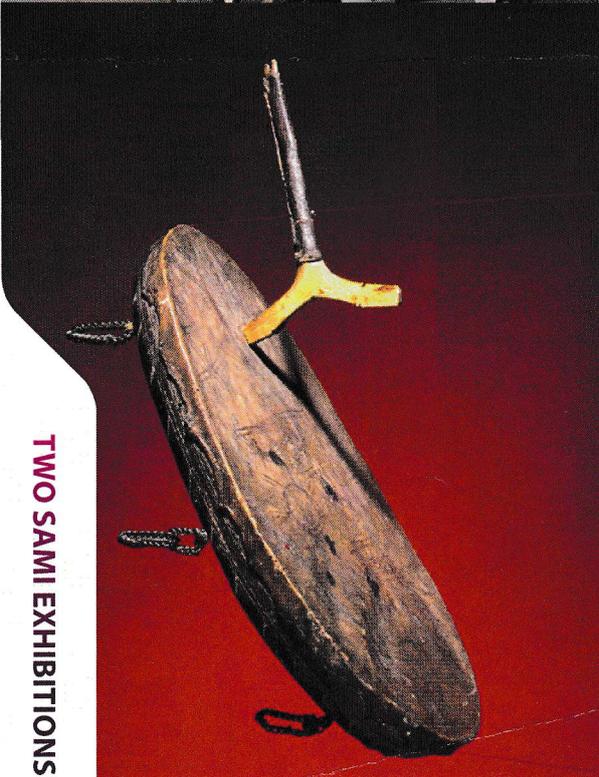
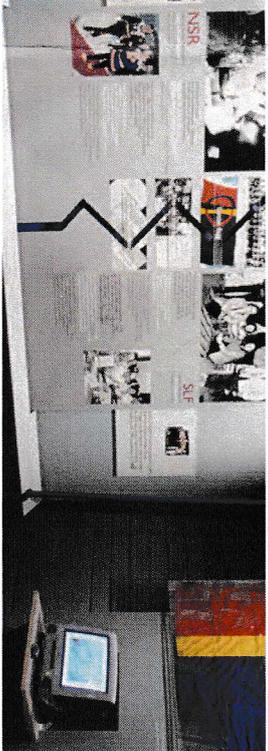
This exhibition opened in 1973. Its purpose was to show that the Sami is a separate people with long historical roots in Fennoscandia. In the 1970's the history and culture of Sami was unknown to most people. The exhibition gives an overview of traditional forms of Sami livelihoods such as hunting and fishing, and emphasises the older form of reindeer pastoralism as it was practiced before the arrival of mechanisation. The displays show Sami cultural traditions: different types of handicraft, garments, religion (shamanism), types of residence, household activities as well as a presentation of traditional Sami music (joik). The variety of objects shows the continuity, variety and uniqueness of Sami culture. Original illustrations by the Sami artist, Iver Jåks, illustrate the various displays.



## SÁPMI – BECOMING A NATION



*Sápmi* is the term Sami use for their own land and nation – a nation without national borders and state, but with common language traditions, and a shared history and culture. The exhibition was opened in 2000 to present what happened to Sami culture and language in the encounter with Norwegian society after WWII and the emergence of a political awakening among the Sami. It shows how Sami – from being a small and scattered population living in the periphery of nation states – have been able to develop a collective identity and interests, as well as establishing themselves as a modern indigenous people. This cultural and political awakening is described through three historical periods (1945-60, 1960-80, and 1980-present) and presented in three rooms. The exhibition also contains three computers with interactive video-interviews with English sub-titles in addition to a slide show of the conflict over the damming of the Alta-River in Finnmark during the 1970-80s. This opened up for a more positive Sami policy by the Norwegian government culminating with the establishment of the Sami Parliament (1989).



## TWO SAMI EXHIBITIONS

It is no coincidence that Tromsø Museum has two Sami exhibitions. The museum built a new exhibition (Sápmi) as the old one mainly presented Sami material culture of the past – particularly that of reindeer herding – and Sami cultural traditions as timeless and unchanging.

The Sápmi-exhibition addresses the Sami reality of today. It presents the emergence of a modern indigenous movement and is intended as a contribution to the present Sami-political debate in Norway. Consequently, Tromsø Museum has two highly *different* representations of Sami culture, made in two highly different phases in the history of the Sami people and the museum. One focuses on *artefacts* and the past, the other on cultural change and present political *processes*. Thus, visitors have the opportunity to compare the two exhibitions as different representations of Sami culture.

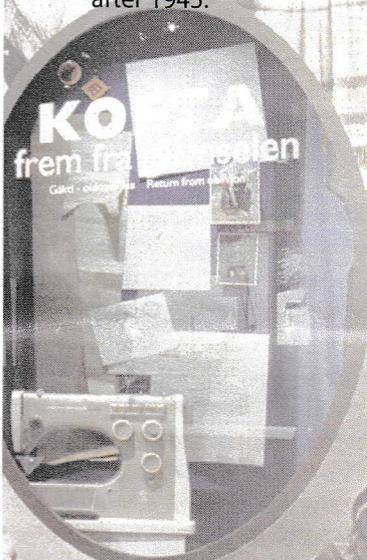
So when you see one of them, think about what you experienced in the other! In this way you may learn not only something about Sami culture and society, but also how museums present other cultures, as well as about how exhibitions develop.

Visit our website: [sapmi.uit.no](http://sapmi.uit.no)



**UNIVERSITY OF TROMSØ UiT**  
TROMSØ UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

Tromsø Museum has two Sami exhibitions. One tells about the cultural traditions of Sami, the other describes the cultural and political awakening among Sami in Norway after 1945.



**Opening hour**  
 Juni - August: 0900 - 1800  
 September - May: 1000 - 1630  
 Mon - Fri  
 Sat 1200 - 1500  
 Sun 1100 - 1600

**Address**  
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