2019 | INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
Indigenous Languages

Taking the South Sami Language back to the banks of the river Vefsna in Mussere/Mosjøen.

THE PATH OF THE LANGUAGE RIVER
GÏELEJEANOEN BALKA – SRÅKELVENS STI –

IN NORWAY, THE SAMI LANGUAGE WAS FORBIDDEN TO BE SPOKEN IN PUBLIC FROM 1880-1959

THE SAMI CHILDREN WERE SENT TO BOARDING SCHOOLS TO BECOME
"GOOD NORWEGIANS" – TO FORGET THEIR LANGUAGE –
THE SAMI SONG "JOIK" WAS FORBIDDEN IN SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES
TODAY THE SOUTH SAMI LANGUAGE IS ON THE UNESCO RED LIST OF LANGUAGES TO BE LOST

1609	The Costal/Sea Sami people at Helgeland, Nordland County, were forbidden to wear their traditional clothing
1720	School for Sami children in Sjøgata, Mosjøen, for 70 – Sami families in this aera. Run by the missionary
1880-1959	Sami language and songs are forbidden in the counties Nordland, Troms and the coast of Finnmark
1997	HM King Harald of Norway declares that the Norwegian state is founded on the land of two peoples Sami and Norwegian

The Gïelejeanoen Balka – The Path of The Language River
is an innovative art project
to take back the forbidden language,
hear its beautiful sounds and thoughts, reclaim its status.
Consept by:
Ada Einmo Jurgensen: research, recordings
Johan Sara Jr. field recordings and soundscape

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAS LENT YOUR VOICES, LANGUAGE AND THOUGHTS TO US AND THE "GÏELEJEANOEN BALKA" - project

Supportet by: The Sámi Parliament (N), The Norweigain Arts Council, Nordland County, Fritt Ord (Free Speech) in collaboration with Helgeland Museum
For: Festspillene på Helgeland og Galleria Kunstfestival

Videolink:

https://vimeo.com/364485870