



LUODDA – TRACK

From earliest childhood I have listened to stories old and new. This history of storytelling influences our own relationship to our surroundings, to nature and to our fellow-creatures. I feel they have given me an important link with former generations, while they are vital in preserving the traditions of our Sami culture.

It alarms me to realise that the spate of today's media threatens this verbal tradition. Even the stories which I ought to be handing on to the next generation are gradually fading into my subconscious. In my installation *Luodda (Track)* – comprising glass, sound and video – I recall one of these stories and attempt to give it new life.

Luodda is a story from the early 50s, about my father, on a ski journey of some days' length through fog and snow, in the company of the older Pavva Kallok. The fog becomes so thick and winter-white that my father must keep his eye on the rear of Pavva's skis, as his only bearings. At last he knows that they have reached the Ultevis plateau when he hears Pavva's jojk (singing call) to Ultevis, signifying that all is well. Pavva knows precisely where they are although they can hardly see one another during their journey in such weather.

Sometimes, when skiing in such misty conditions, one has an illusion of being still, while the surroundings seem to be gliding by. And suddenly these two travellers see great, raised animal tracks coming towards them, then passing by – unreal, frightening, unlike anything they had seen before. Bewildered for a time, the two men finally realise that the tracks were not supernatural: they were the footprints of swans, made in deep snow some time ago, and since then becoming raised, enlarged and icy, the effect of partially melting, then freezing hard again. "The odd thing is" said my father one day "that I don't know why on earth we were up there – Pavva and I". Maybe it was just for this, who knows?

In Luodda – Track I have tried to link this story with my own life today, and through a new interpretation aid its path into the future.

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Title	Luodda – Spår
Idea / Producer	Monica L Edmondson
Camera / Editing	Oskar Östergren (oskar&oskarsson)
Audio recording	Brice Jeannin
Joik	»Petter Anu Spiiks vuolle« by Pava Kallok. From the album JOIK,
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