

Contrasting Worlds. Lisbet Holtedahl's ethnographic films and her contribution to the development of visual anthropology

An international ethnographic film seminar at the Ethnographic Exploratory of the Department of Anthropology, University of Copenhagen, **26 June 2025, 10.00-16.30.**

Organised by the Nordic Anthropological Film Association (NAFA) in cooperation with the Department of Anthropology and the 'Madam Lisbet' film project



This ethnographic film seminar celebrates the life-long work of one of the pioneers of ethnographic film and visual anthropology in the Nordic countries, Lisbet Holtedahl, professor emerita at UiT The Arctic University of Norway. Lisbet's work has always been affected by contrasts in various senses. Firstly, the contrast between the field sites of her anthropological research in Niger and Cameroun and that of northern Norway. Secondly, the contrast between the academic discipline of social anthropology and the visual arts, exemplified by her film work but also her artistic practices in drawing and painting. Finally, the ways in which her work has resonated with the global changes in general, such as the moves from colonial to neo- and post-colonial realities, and in particular how these transitions have affected so-called North South relationships and in some decidedly awkward cases revealing the profound elements of racism, discrimination and bigotry even persisting in Nordic welfare societies, otherwise well-known for their open-mindedness, tolerance and democratic outlook.

Programme:

- 10.00 Introductory words by Peter I Crawford (General Secretary of NAFA) and Saara Waara ('Madam Lisbet film project)
- 10.15 Screening of examples of Lisbet's film work
- 12.30 to 13.30 Lunch break
- 13.30 Conversation between Lisbet Holtedahl and former students and colleagues
- 14.45 to 15.15 Coffee break
- 15.15 Open discussion of Lisbet Holtedahl's work with Lisbet available for questions and comments.

We would like to invite anyone interested in ethnographic film and visual anthropology, including students and staff from the Department of Anthropology, and would particularly welcome anyone who has been involved in or knows about Lisbet's work, such as former students.

For further information please contact Saara Waara (saara.waara@gmail.com) or Peter I Crawford (peter.crawford@uit.no)