

Politics and Politicians in Museum Development



Nation building, Regional Development and the
National Museum Reform in Norway seen from a
region in Mid Norway.

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Europe





Finnmark

Troms

Nordland

Nord-Trøndelag

Sør-Trøndelag

Møre og Romsdal

Sogn og Fjordane

Oppland

Hedmark

Hordaland

Buskerud

Akershus

Oslo

Telemark

Østfold

Rogaland

Vestfold

Aust-Agder

Vest-Agder

Headlines:

- A brief history of the Norwegian museum landscape.
- The extensive museum reform decided by the parliament in 2000.



A brief History of the Norwegian Museum landscape.

- Norway a province, not an empire
- Museums in the nation building
- Open air museums
- Museums as attractions in the tourist business
- 700 museums



The Extensive Museum Reform decided by the Parliament in 2000

- The reform process was built on strong regional (political) involvement
- The reform challenged the sector through the demand that the number of museums should be reduced from 6-700 hundred to about 70
- The incentive was: More money to sector!
- The goal was to establish stronger units professionally, economically and administratively and to establish national networks of museums.
- The battle was hard!



Political Involvement



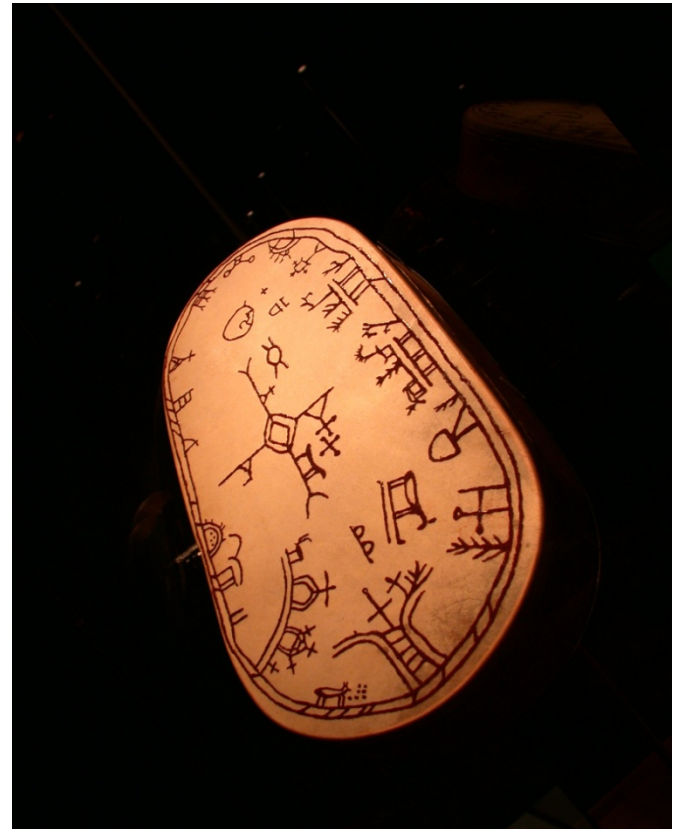
The Result: The Museums in Sør-Trøndelag (MiST)



Museums in a changing Society

The museums as a part
of the society

Museums in a rapidly
changing society



Conclusion 1

Museums are in the middle of the politics and politicians look at museums as an important part of the society and want them to play an active role in creating our future, but museums should be critical and participate actively in the public debate, and state and regional and local authorities should not interfere in the daily operations and the editorial freedom museums have.



Conclusion 2

The museum reform in Norway has been a success. The Museum Community of Norway is in my opinion well equipped to meet 21st century challenges. I have not heard of anyone who wants to return to “the good old days”.



Conclusion 3

The Norwegian Parliament and the government saw the need of a radical change and made the right decisions, but were met by a relatively conservative museums community.



Conclusion 4

Political engagement and the politicians' interest in museum policy and museum development may, as in our case, lead to significant budget increases.



Conclusion 5

Museums played an important role in the Norwegian nation building, and today they are asked to play an important role in the regional development



Conclusion 6

Despite the fact that some believe that politicians want to build museums as personal monuments, I don't think this is a move in the Norwegian Museum development. Politicians understand that old time talk about local and regional identity instead means identity development in a changing society.



Thank you very much! Questions or
Comments?

