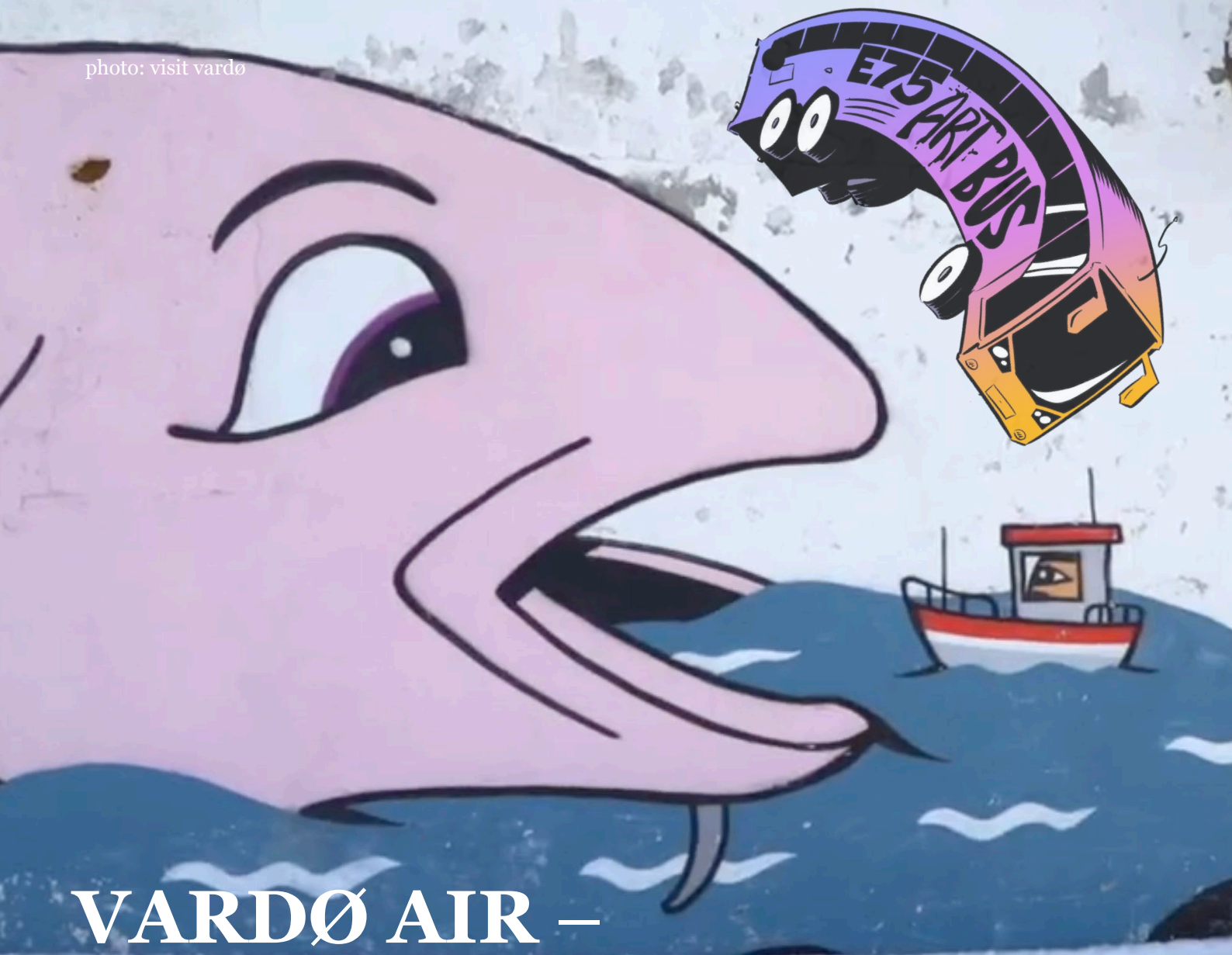


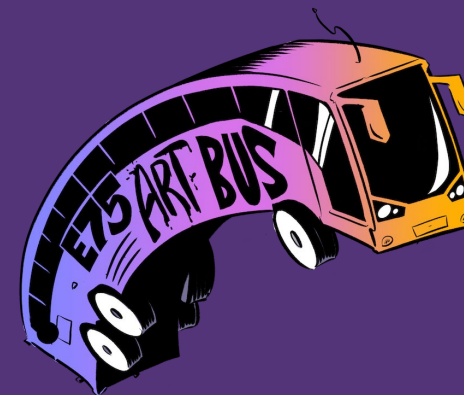
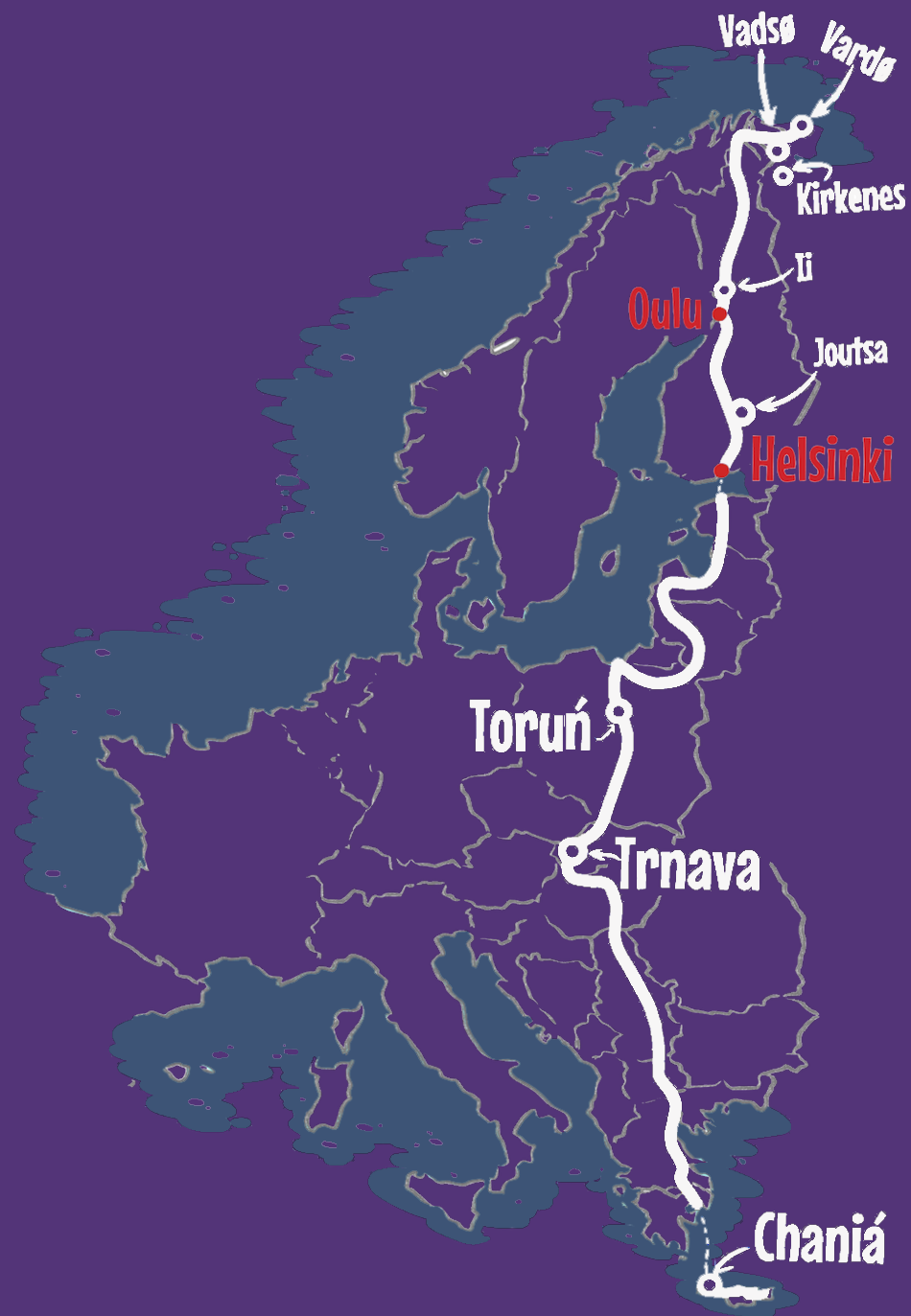
photo: visit vardo



VARDØ AIR –

WELCOME TO THE WORLD'S SMALLEST METROPOLIS





The E75 Art Bus is an art journey exploring the E75 road through Europe. This is a 5 639 kilometer long route that starts from Vardø in Norway and ends at Siteia in Crete, Greece.

E75 Art Vehicles is a project by Artists' Association MUU and the Northern cultural magazine Kaltio. Project is part of the Oulu2026 European Capital of Culture Programme.

The project will host artist residencies together with an international residency network in 2025. The art journey itself along the European E75 route takes place in April-May 2026. The new artworks produced in the project will be experienced along the road and on the bus. The resident artists for the project are selected through an open call.

Roads connect European nations and people to each other. The E75 project creates both new geographical and new mental connections: The art bus unites the Mediterranean to the Arctic Ocean simultaneously with artists from eleven countries to each other and to active people in dozens of communities on the way. On the open call, we create and discover works that reflect upon universal European themes: democracy, giving peace a chance, and possible futures for our continent. In addition, artists can suggest projects pertaining to the technology and history of travel and communication.

VARDØ AIR is the most northerly residency and newest within this European route.



photo: visit vardo



Far to the north, and as far east as you can go, you will find Vardø, Northern Norway's oldest town. Located on an island in the middle of the mighty Barents Sea, Vardø is a community built on fishing and shaped by the fluctuations of the fishing industry.

Today, it is a community with diverse resources and people who want to engage and be engaged.

Vardø AIR is a residency being developed over a three-year period, from 2024 to 2027. Kulturpilot, in collaboration with Komafest, will work to develop Vardø's AIR model, tailored to our local community. For us, it's important to have artists and guests who actively engage with the community and we seek new ways to use interdisciplinary art and culture as a force for community development over time. Interaction and local involvement between the people of Vardø and the visiting artists are essential to us.

As part of our development of Vardø's AIR, we offer accommodation in the historic and cozy Mads Johnsen-bua. The building is connected to the "Brodtkorbsjåene," built during the Pomor era in the 1800s. This was the centre of Pomor trade and today houses the Pomor Museum. Here, you find yourself in the heart of Vardø's rich history and culture. It is soulful, close to the sea, close to birdlife, close to people and near the centre of Vardø. The residence has a kitchen, bathroom, accommodates up to six people and offers a cozy and intimate atmosphere. We will assist in finding suitable studio or workshop spaces and additional local resources, tailored to the needs of each artist. A local resource group will be established to support and collaborate with the artists.

THE WORLD'S SMALLEST METROPOLIS, VARDØ

Vardø Island has about 1,700 inhabitants, and the nearby village of Kiberg, 12 km from Vardø, houses around 200 residents. Everything on the island is within walking distance. You can find local shops, businesses, and public services. The island is connected to the mainland via a tunnel. On the mainland, you'll find the airport, industry, cabin areas and the distinctive Varanger landscape. Public transport options, such as buses and boats, link Vardø to the rest of the world.

Vardø boasts a wealth of resourceful and engaged people who are a driving force in the community, many of whom are active in various local organisations and associations that fill the cultural calendar with events. Throughout the year, there are several festivals in different genres, providing meeting places for both locals and visitors. In Vardø, people show up and help out whenever needed.

The community has always had strong international roots, with Finnish, Sami, and Russian connections. In Vardø, you get close, close to the people, close to nature and its resources, close to the past, present and future. Combined with a rich history, culture, passionate people, and a drive to shape their own community, Vardø is truly a cultural hotspot. Many artists and cultural figures have set their sights on Vardø and fallen in love with the town over the years.

Now, we invite more people to connect art and culture, the local community, and the past, present and future for new perspectives and development. With this, we welcome you to the world's smallest metropolis.





MADS JOHNSEN-BUA



CLOSE TO PEOPLE



photo: Bjørnar Pedersen/Pomorfestivalen 2024



photo: visit vardø



CLOSE TO NATURE









KULTURPILOT

Kulturpilot, the Laboratory for Art, Culture and Local Development, founded in 2006 in Vardø, is a private non-profit foundation. Its purpose is, among other things, to facilitate interdisciplinary cultural activities and community development, which strives to open Vardø to new ideas, engaging people, local resources, art and culture as unifying forces in community-building.

Eva Lisa Robertsen guides Kulturpilot as its daily leader. She has education and broad experience from development, communication, media, fishery, public and volunteer involvement and project expertise. She is also the festival director for Pomorfestivalen and play key roles in other Vardø based festivals.

KOMAFEST

Komafest is an organization that works with art and placemaking projects in communities that live on the edge. They use creative approaches to address these challenges, and aim to inspire people, create arenas for conversations and reflection - and ultimately take action. Komafest takes an interdisciplinary approach and works with artists, craftsmen, architects, culture workers, entrepreneurs, researchers and youth to name a few, with a People First approach. Komafest also runs the film festival, Crossings, in Vardø.

Komafest is run on a daily basis by Brona Keenan, a landscape architect and anthropologist, and Bertine Tønseth, a human geographer and teacher.



VELKOMMEN
TIL VARDØ
INTERNASJONALE
LUFTHAVN!

