

## Lars Erik Karlsen



(born 29 January 1948 in Trysil) is a Norwegian visual artist.

Karlsen is educated at the Norwegian State Arts and Crafts Industry in Oslo (1969-1973) and has decorated several public buildings. He lives and works in Svolvær. Lars Erik Karlsen (Svolvær) graduated from Statens håndverks- og industriskole (1969 to 1973). He has held numerous solo exhibitions and has participated in several group exhibitions, both in Norway and abroad. Karlsen has had a long career, working both with decorations and as art consultant. Among the decorations are worth mentioning Hurtigruten boat MS Fram and Norwegian Hydro in Harstad. By among others the Norsk Kulturråd, Nordnorsk Kunstmuseum in Tromsø, Festspillene of North Norway, Kunst på arbeidsplassen and the Troms fylkeskommune has purchased his works.

Lars Erik thrives best in his studio or on board of his sailboat. In 2001, he went to Svalbard on board of the boat Sula Bassana. This trip - via Bear Island, Longyearbyen, through the shallow Forlandsundet and until 80° degrees north - is described in a series of pictures from Svalbard.

Lars Erik Karlsen works with woodcut, a technique that has a long tradition. Woodcut laid the foundation for Europe's first "mass communication". His works are figurative, and visualises frequently northern Norwegian landscape or seabirds, such as puffins, but the motives are made up of abstract compositions. This makes Karlsens images lengthy; the figurative main character is approached at a long distance, but as you come closer to the drawing, exciting abstract forms, which build up the artwork, come out of the colourful pictures. Perhaps the woodcut technique helped the artist to reach this peculiar expression - as Lars Erik himself says; this technique sets clear limits on what you can say. In addition, the bright colours helps to give Lars Erik Karlsen`s art a clear signature. The artist makes the entire printing process itself on its Flatdalspresse.

# Single Exhibitions

- 2017. Sareptas Hus, Ballstad, Lofoten
- 2017. Vinterfestuka, Galleri Ofoten, Narvik
- 2015 Mosjøen Kunstforening, Mosjøen
- 2015-2010 Separatutstilling, Lofotakvariet, Kabelvåg
- 2008 [Galleri Lille Kabelvåg](#), Kabelvåg
- 2007 [Hamarøygalleriet](#), Oppeid
- 2007 [Karlsøyfestivalen](#), Karlsøy
- 2006 [Bodø Kunstforening](#), Bodø
- 2006 [Lofoten Kunsthotell](#), Svolvær
- 2005 [Galleri Ryvarden](#), Haugesund
- 2004 [Galleri Svalbard](#), Longyearbyen
- 2004 [Kystkultursenteret](#), Lovund
- 2003 [Galleri Roenland](#), Jevnaker
- 2001 [Galleri Graff](#), Askim
- 2001 [Galleri Nordafør](#), Bodø
- 2000 [Galleri Svalbard](#), Longyearbyen
- 1999 [Andenes Kunstforening](#), Andenes
- 1999 [Ål Kulturhus](#), Hallingdal
- 1999 [Øvre Eiker Kunstforening](#), Hokksund
- 1999 [Lundefestivalen](#), Røst
- 1998 [Galleri Cepeda](#), Stockholm
- 1998 [Atelier Lofoten](#), Svolvær
- 1998 Vandreutstilling Nord-Norge, Sogn og Fjordane
- 1998 [Galleri Apotheke](#), Stokmarknes
- 1997 [Tromsø Kunstforening](#), Tromsø
- 1997 [Galleri Ryvarden](#), Sveio
- 1997 [Galleri Parken](#), Bergen
- 1997 [Galleri Roenland](#), Jevnaker
- 1996 [Galleri Osebro](#), Porsgrunn
- 1996 Lars Lerin og Lars-Erik Karlsen Vandreutstilling [SKINN](#)
- 1995 [Galleri Arctandria](#), Oslo
- 1994 [Jennestad Gamle Handelssenter](#), Sortland
- 1991 Kunstfestivalen Svolvær
- 1989 [Havfuglen](#), Skutvik
- 1988 [Bodø Kunstforening](#), Bodø
- 1987 [Saab.s Konstforening](#), Linkøping
- 1986 [Galleri Lily](#), Narvik
- 1985 [Tromsø Kunstforening](#), Tromsø
- 1984 [Festspillene i Nord-Norge](#), Harstad
- 1982 [Sulitjelma Kunstforening](#), Sulitjelma
- 1982 [Fauske Kunstforening](#), Fauske
- 1982 [Rognan Kunstforening](#), Rognan
- 1981 [Bodø Kunstforening](#), Bodø
- 1981 [Atelier Lofoten](#), Svolvær
- 1981 [Sortland Kunstforening](#), Sortland
- 1980 [Hadsel Kunstforening](#), Stokmarknes
- 1976 [Tråilltampen](#), Hamarøy
- 1975 Røst