

TOMAS COLBENGTON

«No voice – No Nation» / «Keine Stimme – Kein Land»



"Sami glass hut" enamel on glass, videoprojected shadows 147 x 120 x 120 cm 2014

About the artist

–Cultur is deadly, i often think, when i reflect on my childhood upbringing in a small sami village in Tärna, northern Sweden. The public ban of many cultural distinctiveness and language is a global method for colonialism. My motherlanguage, sothern sami, was ban to speach in school up until 1957. In plain word: you got beaten up by the teacher if you spoke it. Also the traditional dress and the song ”jojk” was conciderd ”sinful” by the church and was not alloed in public spaces.

But art and culture is our mutual way to identify ourselves, and to help us in our daily life and to reflect on the past , present and future. Without trying to state any answers, many of this questions is a startingpoint in my artworks. Sami culture is close connected to the nature in nortern scandinavia so the light and landscape is an important part of my work. I belive everybody can relate to the same questions of identity wherever you come from.

Tomas (Tärna, 1957) is sami, the nomadic reindeer-people who lives in the northern parts of Scandinavia. In his works he often refers to sami culture, asking questions about the cultural identity and existence. Tomas explore images, colors and forms based from sami culture and the nordic Scandinavian landscape. He is experimenting with combinations of media and material and has developed a new way to print screen prints in Graal-glas (a type of overlay glass) using images and colors, often working with screen-print on metal, (aluminium, brass, silver) and working with etching and digital art technique. He has been recident artist at KTH Royal school of technilogy, where he has been working with visualization of art. Lectorer in Fine Printmaking at Konstfack National College of Art, Craft and Design Stockholm
Member of the SDS/ Sami artist union



"Sami glass hut" Detail enamel on glass, videoprojected shadows 147 x 120 x 120 cm 2014



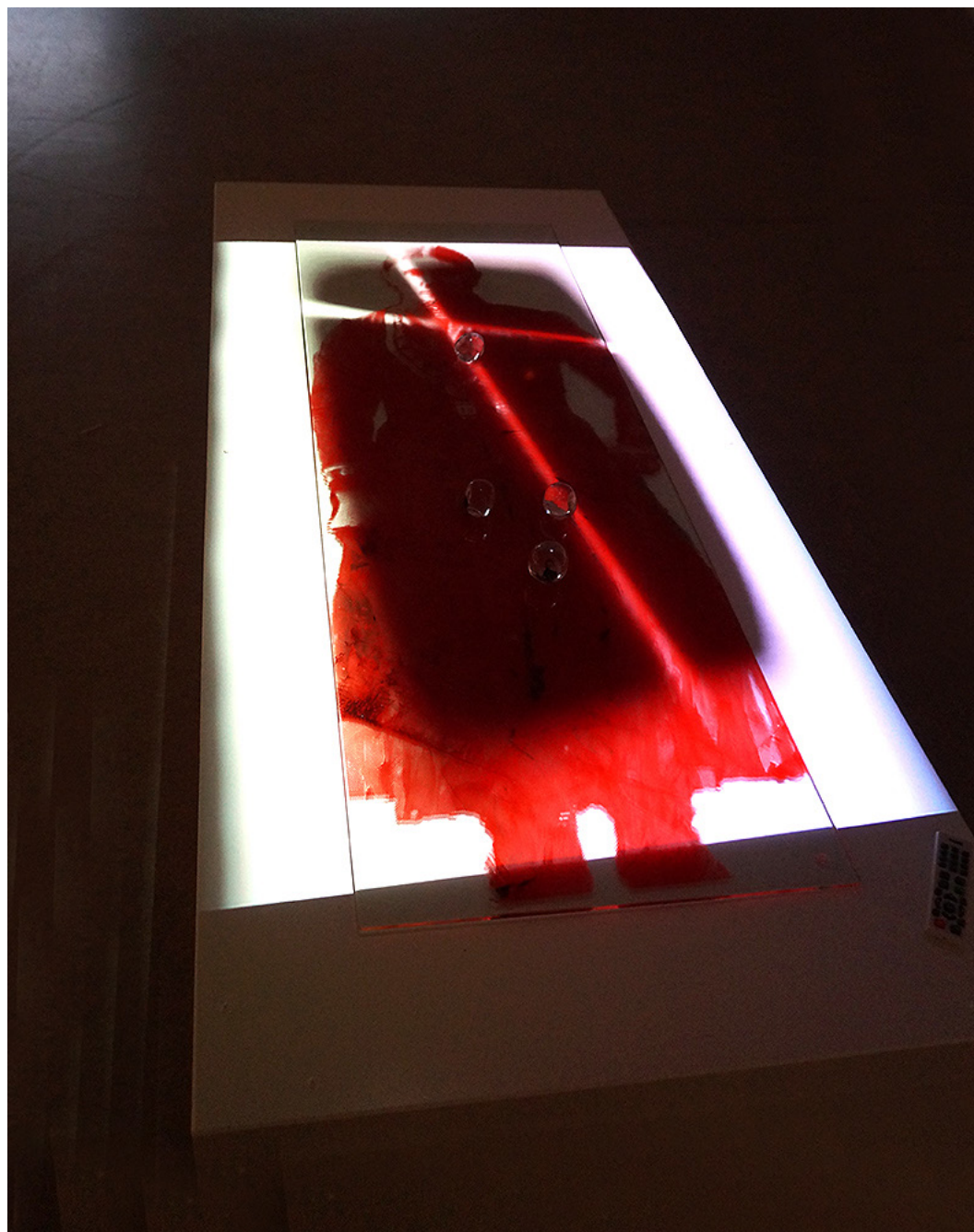
"Maana-barn" Emalj på böjglas. 145 x 50 x 30 cm 2015



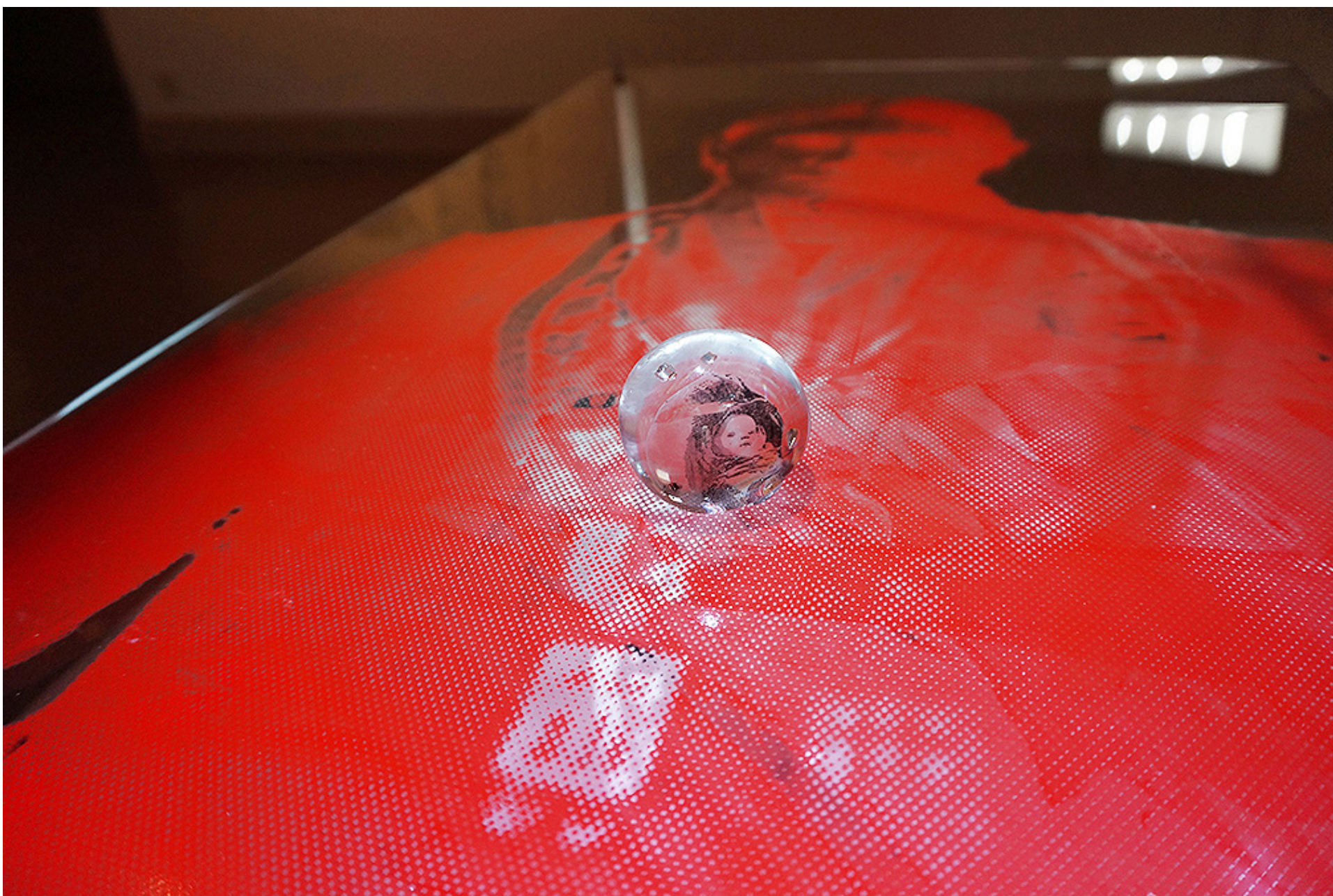
"Please do not speak Eskimo" Graal-glas 16 x 7 x 7 cm 2015



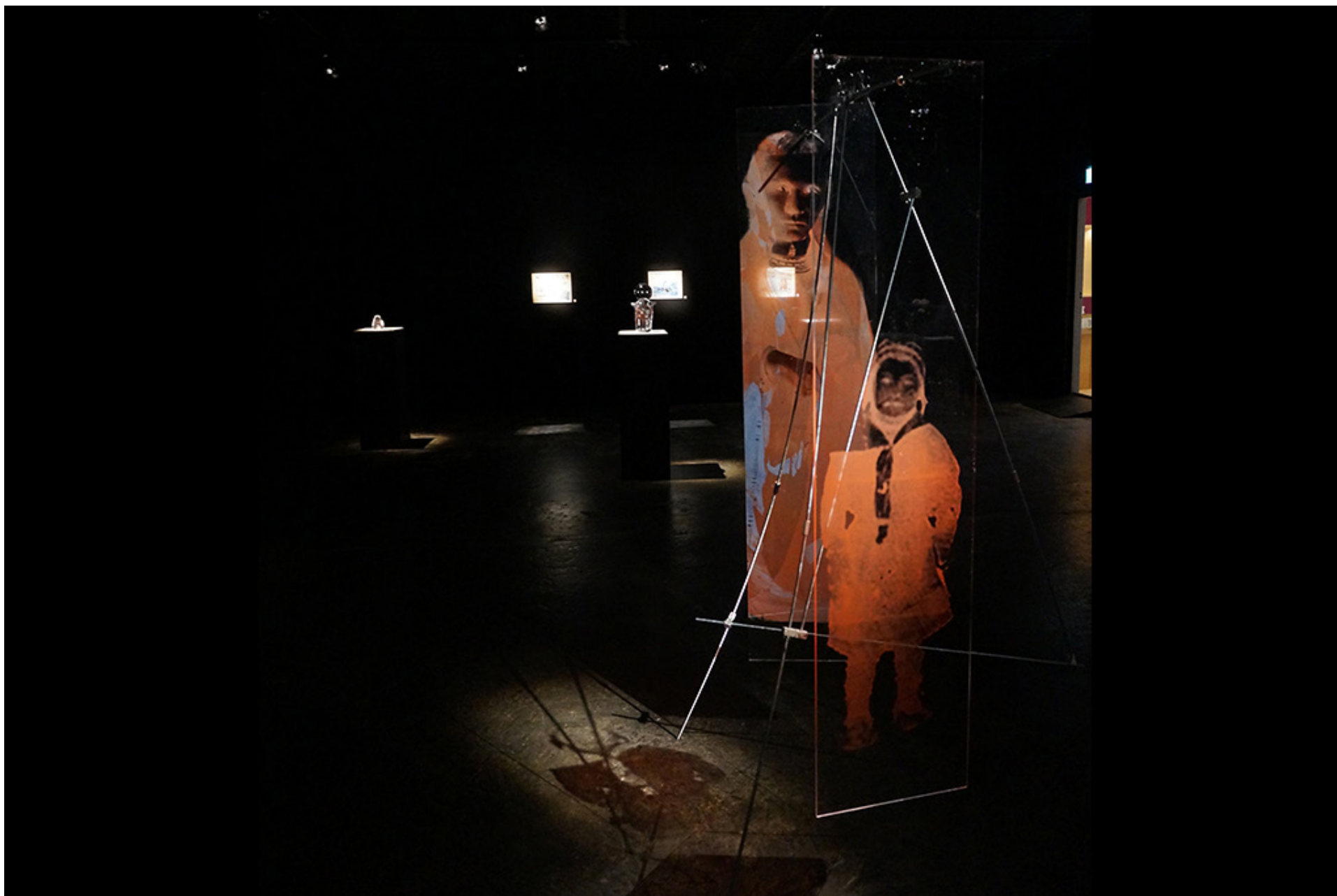
"Please do not speak Eskimo" Graal-glas 16 x 7 x 7 cm 2015



"Kalmebakkte" Detail enamel on glass, videoprojection 80 x 180 x 80 cm 2014



"Kalmebakkte" Detail enamel on glass, videoprojection 80 x 180 x 80 cm 2014



"Suonger, store-room" Detail enamel on glass, steel 200 x 100 x 100 cm 2014



"Neida" Relief glass, enamel , live video 140 x 60 x 20 cm 2014



"The meeting" Oil, screen on aluminium 100 x 120 cm 2012



"The meeting II" Oil, screen on aluminium 100 x 130 cm 2013



"The beaverdam" Oil, screen on polycarbonat glass 100 x 125 cm 2014



"Girl in the forrest" Oil, silverink, screen on polycarbonat glass 100 x 125 cm 2014



"Sami culture" Oil, silverink, screen on aluminium 35 x 45 cm 2014



"Sami culture II" Oil, silverink, screen on aluminium 40 x 50 cm 2014