

# Uterne - 100 Arrernte Objects

Kristina Tohmo

Helinä Rautavaara Museum, Finland

## Abstract

**A delegation of Arrernte community members from Australia, including cultural elders, an artist and an Indigenous curator, travelled to Finland in summer 2018 for to assess the collection of Arrernte objects, acquired in 1913 by the Museum für Völkerkunde in Leipzig and passed on to the National Museum of Finland.**

**The purpose of the visit was to re arrange the cultural ties between the Arrernte cultural elders and the collection that has been stored in Finland over 90 years. The Arrernte came to tell about the meanings held in these 100 cultural items. An important issue was to plan a culturally safe and sustainable future for this collection, together with the present custodian of the collection, The Museum of Cultures.**

**The visit gave members of the community an opportunity to understand the extend of their cultural footprints which extends into the northern hemisphere. For the Finnish audience the visit gave understanding of the very specific cultural protocol of the Arrernte, considering relationships between people and secret sacred religious objects and art.**

## Keywords

Australia, Aboriginal, Arrernte, Art, Cultural objects, Secret, Sacred.