

EXHIBITION REIMAGINING THE NORDIC LANDSCAPE OPENS AT SCANDINAVIA HOUSE MAY 6, 2016

Featuring work by contemporary artists Eija-Liisa Ahtila, Simen Johan, and Pentti Sammallahti, among others

OPENING RECEPTION: FRIDAY, MAY 6, 6 - 8 PM

4-12-2016—**Another North: Landscape Reimagined**, an exhibition featuring the work of six innovative contemporary Nordic artists, opens at **Scandinavia House: The Nordic Center in America**, in New York City, on May 6, 2016. The selection of 19 photographs and media installations highlights contemporary Nordic artists that use landscape to limn the boundary between the known and the unknown, reimagining it as a multivalent space at once familiar and otherworldly, visible and invisible. Comprising photographic and video works, the exhibition will explore landscape as a place of complication, rather than revelation, and investigate channels into new ways of seeing. The exhibition will be on view from **May 6 through August 6, 2016** at **Scandinavia House** in New York City.

OVERVIEW

Over the last 15 years, Nordic artists have increasingly elected to use photography and film not as tools to capture “reality,” but rather as means of limning the boundary between the known and the unknown—of reimagining landscape as a multivalent space at once familiar and otherworldly, visible and invisible, accessible and remote. *Another North* will feature photographic and video works by six of these artists—**Eija-Liisa Ahtila** (Finland), **Ole Brodersen** (Norway), **Sigurður Guðjónsson** (Iceland), **Simen Johan** (Norway/Sweden), **Susanna Majuri** (Finland), and **Pentti Sammallahti** (Finland)—and consider the ways in which they investigate, question, and complicate human perception of the natural world, capturing unnoticed or invisible phenomena and quietly hinting at a multitude of spatial and temporal worlds, both constructed and not, just beyond our reach.



Fig 1: Susanna Majuri, *Kultakolikot (Treasure)*, 2009, C-print, Diasec, 35 1/2 x 53 1/4 in., Courtesy of the artist

The exhibition will take on a variety of different approaches to rendering and considering contemporary landscape: Eija-Liisa Ahtila’s *Horizontal*, a 10-meter-wide projection (Fig. 2) of a monumental spruce tree, explores biologist Jacob von Uexküll’s (1864–1944) proposition that different worlds of living beings exist simultaneously, and questions human centeredness, human perception of nature, and the way in which film articulates and shapes perception. Ole Brodersen’s series of large-format photographs, *Trespassing*, invites manmade objects into the landscape in an attempt to unveil the invisible natural phenomena at play in the Norwegian archipelago. Simen Johan’s images (Fig. 3) are intricate digital constructs that confuse

the boundaries between opposing forces like natural and artificial, known and unknown. Susanna Majuri's submerged landscapes (Fig. 1) transform familiar scenes of snowcapped mountains and green marshes into cinematic dreamscapes. Sigurður Guðjónsson's *Veil* renders an invisible wind visible, capturing a gauzy veil of black sand woven by gusts on an Icelandic beach.

And Pentti Sammallahti's intimate, uncanny, black-and-white photographs offer momentary glimpses into a supernatural North beyond our own.



Fig. 2: *Vaakasuora – Horizontal*
Written & directed by Eija-Liisa Ahtila
© 2011 Crystal Eye, Helsinki
Courtesy of Marian Goodman Gallery, New York and Paris



Fig. 3: Simen Johan, From the series *Until the Kingdom Comes, Untitled #171*, 2012. Digital C-Print
© Simen Johan, Courtesy Yossi Milo Gallery, New York

SUPPORT

Another North: Landscape Reimagined is organized and presented by the American-Scandinavian Foundation. The exhibition is made possible in part by grants from the Finnish Consulate General in New York and the Royal Norwegian Consulate General in New York. Additional support comes from the Hilppa Roby Fund for Finnish Cultural and Educational Programs at Scandinavia House.

THE AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN FOUNDATION

The American-Scandinavian Foundation (ASF) promotes firsthand exchange of intellectual and creative influence between the United States and the Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. A publicly supported American nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, ASF has an extensive program of fellowships, grants, intern/trainee sponsorship, publishing, and cultural activities. Headquartered in New York City, ASF has members throughout the United States, and alumni and donors worldwide. For more information: amscan.org

SCANDINAVIA HOUSE: THE NORDIC CENTER IN AMERICA

Scandinavia House was created by the American-Scandinavian Foundation to promote the artistic and intellectual influence of the Nordic countries. As the

leading center for Nordic culture in the United States, Scandinavia House offers enriching programs that illustrate and illuminate the culture and life of the Nordic countries. The diverse programs include exhibitions, film series, concerts and other performances, readings, lectures, language courses, and activities for kids and families. For more information: scandinaviahouse.org | Facebook | Twitter @ScanHouse | #Another North

HOURS AND ADMISSION

The Scandinavia House Gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday, 12 – 6 pm (Wednesday until 7 pm). Admission is free.

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