

ICELAND ARTISTS RESPOND TO PLACE

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

New York – The American-Scandinavian Foundation (ASF) has developed an assortment of public programs related to the dynamic exhibition *ICELAND: Artists Respond to Place*, on view at Scandinavia House: The Nordic Center in America Friday, October 10, 2014 through Saturday, January 10, 2015. Programs include a free mobile audio guide of exhibition highlights; exhibition artists and organizers in conversation; an exploration of contemporary Icelandic poetry with celebrated poets and contemporary writers; kid-friendly workshops led by art educators; an Icelandic installment of *Saturday Morning Storytelling*; extended gallery hours with refreshments and new Nordic music; a concert that brings recent music and compositions from Iceland's Við Djúpið Music Festival to American shores; an exhibition-related installation; and a brand-new Icelandic crime mini-series.

Curated by Pari Stave and organized by the Katonah Museum of Art, *ICELAND: Artists Respond to Place* focuses on the rich and complex relationship of contemporary Icelandic artists to the singular geography of their country – one of the most geographically dynamic places on earth.

The exhibition features the work of 11 of Iceland's leading contemporary artists whose works cover a broad range of formal approaches and media, including painting, photography, sculpture, site-specific wall drawings, and video installations. *ICELAND: Artists Respond to Place* includes Birgir Andrésón, Guðrún Einarsdóttir, Olafur Eliasson, Georg Guðni Hauksson, Einar Falur Ingólfsson, Guðjón Ketilsson, Eggert Pétursson, Ragna Róbertsdóttir, Egill Sæbjörnsson, Katrín Sigurðardóttir, and Þórdís Alda Sigurðardóttir.

Please note: To reserve tickets for programs, the public may contact event_reservation@amscan.org or 212.847.9740. Only ASF Members may reserve film tickets: film_reservation@amscan.org or 212.847.9746. Programs are subject to change. For updated information, the public may visit scandinaviahouse.org, [Facebook](#), and Twitter [@ScanHouse](#) | [#IcelandArt](#).

AUDIO GUIDE

Audio Guide

Friday, October 10, 2014 through Saturday, January 10, 2015

Free (no cost except your minutes)

Learn more about *ICELAND: Artists Respond to Place* with your cellphone! Hear the exhibition's artists and curator share their thoughts on several exhibition highlights and walk you through the gallery. Call +1 212.514.0013 to begin the tour.

LECTURES & LITERARY

Uncommon Ground: Artists and the Icelandic Landscape

Thursday, October 9, 6 pm

Free | #IcelandArt

ICELAND: Artists Respond to Place opens with an introductory talk by curator Pari Stave and a conversation between featured artists, including Einar Falur Ingólfsson, Guðjón Ketilsson, Eggert Pétursson, and Ragna Róbertsdóttir, moderated by Pari Stave and critic Gregory Volk.

Beneath the Ice: Contemporary Icelandic Poetry

Thursday, January 8, 2015, 6:30 pm

Free | #IcelandArt

Despite its remote location and small population, Iceland has an extremely vibrant contemporary poetry scene. Through conversation and performance editor Helen Mitsios and translator Sola Bjarnadóttir-O'Connell will introduce four of the country's most celebrated contemporary writers: poets Einar Már Guðmundsson, Didda Jónsdóttir, Gerður Kristný, and poet/song-writer Megas.

About the participants

Sola Bjarnadóttir-O'Connell is a translator and the recipient of The American-Scandinavian Foundation's Leif and Inger Sjöberg Translation Award (2013) for her translation of selected poems by Icelandic poet Gyrðir Elíasson. A native Icelander who has lived in New York for the past 30 years, Bjarnadóttir-O'Connell is pursuing a lifelong interest in bringing Icelandic poetry and literature to an English speaking audience. She is the translator of the forthcoming collection of contemporary Icelandic poetry *Beneath the Ice: Contemporary Icelandic Poetry* (Talisman House, Publishers, 2014).

Einar Már Guðmundsson (b. 1954, Reykjavík) is an award winning and widely translated Icelandic author of novels, short stories, and poetry. He received his B.A. in Comparative Literature and History from the University of Iceland in 1979, after which he moved to Copenhagen for graduate work in Comparative Literature at the University in Copenhagen. A leading voice of neorealism, his poetic diction is a bold attempt to make slang and foreign loan words legal tender in poetry, and to draw images from everyday life.

Guðmundsson's first collection of poetry *Is Anyone Here Wearing the Korona Line?/Er nokkur í kórónfötum hér inni?* was published in 1980 (Gallerí Suðurgata 7). In 1985 he received first prize in a literary competition held by Almenna Bókafélagið, Book Publishers and Book Club, for the novel *The Knights of the Spiral Staircase/Riddarar hringstigans* (Almenna bókafélagið, 1982). The highly acclaimed novel *Angels of the Universe/Englar alheimsins* (Mare's Nest, 1995) received the Nordic Council's Literary Prize in 1995. Director Friðrik Þór Friðriksson's film based on the book premiered in Reykjavík in 2000. In 2012 Guðmundsson was awarded the Swedish Academy Nordic Prize.

Didda Jónsdóttir (b. 1964, Selfoss) published her first book, the poetry collection *A Gathering of Sins and Loose Screws/Lastafans og lausar skrúfur*, in 1995 (Forlagið). She has since published two novels – *Erta* (Forlagið, 1997) and *The Gold in the Head/Gullið í höfðinu* (Forlagið, 1999). Jónsdóttir also starred in *Stormy Weather* by French/Icelandic director Sólveig Anspach, which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in 2003, and received the Icelandic Edda Film Award for Best Actress for her role in the film. Jónsdóttir worked with Anspach again, starring in the director's 2008 film *Back Soon/Skrapp út*, which screened at Scandinavia House in 2009.

Gerður Kristný (b. 1970, Reykjavík) has published poetry, short stories, novels, and books for children. She graduated with a degree in French and Comparative Literature from the University of Iceland in 1992. After a course in Media Studies at the University of Iceland from 1992-93, she trained at Denmark's Radio TV. Kristný was editor of the magazine *Mannlíf* from 1998-2004 and now is full-time writer.

Among her numerous awards are the Children's Choice Book Prize in 2003 for her book *Smart Marta/Marta Smarta* (Mál og menning, 2002), the Halldór Laxness Literary Award in 2004 for her novel *A Boat With a Sail and All/Bátur með segil og allt* (Mál og menning, 2004), and the West-Nordic Children's Literature Prize in 2010 for the novel *The Garden/Garðurinn* (Mál og menning, 2008). Kristný's collection of poetry *A Weak Spot/Höggstaður* (Mál og menning, 2007) was nominated for the Icelandic Literature Prize in 2007; she later won the prize in 2010 for her book of poetry *Blood-Hoof/Bloðhófnir* (Mál og menning, 2010), which is based on the myth about Freyr and the poet's namesake Gerður Gymisdóttir from the Eddic poem *Skírnimál*.

Megas (Magnús Þór Jónsson) (b. 1945, Reykjavík) is one of Iceland's most prolific and controversial artists and has been active since the 1970s. A poet, songwriter, and performer, he is widely considered the father of Icelandic rock and roll. His inclusion in *Beneath the Ice: Contemporary Icelandic Poetry* (Talisman House, Publishers, 2014) is the first time he has permitted his poems to be translated and published in English.

Helen Mitsios is the editor of the forthcoming book *Beneath the Ice: Contemporary Icelandic Poetry* (Talisman House, Publishers, 2014). She is the editor of *Digital Geishas and Talking Frogs: The Best 21st Century Short Stories from Japan* (Cheng & Tsui, 2011) and *New Japanese Voices: The Best Contemporary Fiction from Japan* (Grove/Atlantic, Inc., 2003), which was listed as a *New York Times Book Review* Summer Reading Selection and *New York Times Book Review* Editors' Choice. Mitsios has contributed to publications including *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, and *The Washington Post's Book World*.

Supported in part by the Icelandic Literature Center.

KIDS & FAMILIES

React! Exploring and Responding to New York

Exhibition Workshops with Art Educators

Saturdays, 2 – 3:30 pm, October 18 through November 22, 2014

\$12 (\$10 ASF Members), Series pass: \$68 (\$56 ASF Members); Ages 6 – 11

Enrollment is limited; early registration is strongly encouraged | #IcelandArt

Motivated by *ICELAND: Artists Respond to Place*, children will represent their own “places” and spaces in New York City. Utilizing a variety of media, they will respond to the light and darkness, sounds and silence, construction and destruction, movement and stillness of the city's diverse neighborhoods.

About the art educators

Dr. Amy Brook Snider arrived at the Pratt Institute in 1979. She chaired the Art and Design Education Department for 30 years while also working as a consultant in arts education. As Chair, she received grants for a number of programs promoting art, poetry, and design in the education of public school students. In 2012, she re-emerged as a full professor, teaching, supervising student teachers, and advising thesis students.

Brook Snider's non-traditional approach to the profession is exemplified by the broad range of her interests, i.e., storytelling and children's picture books, self-taught artists, and the integration of design in art education, to name a few.

She has served as Director of Writing Across the Curriculum, and as a representative on the Faculty Council and later, the Academic Senate. She was a founding member of the Initiative for Arts, Community, and Social Change Committee, and served on several committees across schools and departments.

In addition to teaching at Pratt, she has lectured in the U.S., Canada, and Great Britain; designed international and American educational programs; published articles; conducted teacher workshops; curated exhibitions; organized national panels and conferences; and advised a public television station, an architectural firm, and private foundations. Brook Snider has also served on the Board of the Beginning with Children Charter School and was awarded a Fulbright Specialist Grant in 2010.

Caitlin Reller received her B.F.A. in sculpture from the Herberger College of Fine Arts and Design in Tempe, Arizona. Upon graduation she received the Most Outstanding Sculpture Student Award. Reller obtained her Masters in Art and Design Education from Pratt Institute in December 2012. She is a co-founder of and teacher for the Small Hands Workshop, an affordable art program for young children in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. She currently lives in Brooklyn with her husband and child.

Exhibition-related children's programming was supported in part by a grant from The Sonja Foundation.

Saturday Morning Storytelling with the Hans Christian Andersen Storytellers

Saturdays @ 11 am, October 11, November 15, December 13, 2014, & January 10, 2015

Free | Ages 5+

Some of New York's most famous storytellers bring to life exciting tales of mythical creatures and fantastic adventures from Scandinavia and the far North.

Hildur Queen of the Elves & Other Icelandic Tales

January 10, 2015 | #IcelandArt

An hour of trolls, elves, *huldufólk* (hidden people), and the folks they meet with Bill Gordh and his banjo.

Exhibition-related children's programming was supported in part by a grant from The Sonja Foundation.

Saturday Morning Storytelling at Scandinavia House is made possible in part by support from DeWitt Stern Group, Inc.

CONCERTS

Art Afterhours

Tuesdays, 6 – 8 pm, October 21 & November 18, 2014

Free | #IcelandArt

The 3rd Floor Gallery is open late with extended hours once a month. Enjoy new Nordic music, grab a refreshment, and explore the current exhibition *ICELAND: Artists Respond to Place* after hours, while socializing with other art enthusiasts.

Decoda: New Music from Iceland's Við Djúpið Music Festival

Thursday, October 30, 8 pm

\$15 (\$10 ASF Members) | #IcelandArt

For the past three summers, NYC-based ensemble Decoda has been Ensemble-in-Residence at the Við Djúpið Music Festival in Ísafjörður, Iceland. This concert presents a program of new music and recent compositions from the festival,

including Daníel Bjarnason's *Bow to String* (2010), Benjamin Britten's *Phantasy Quartet* (1932), *Dear and Blackbirds* by Ellis Ludwig Leone (2014), *Grunnavík* by Halldór Smárason (2011), and Anton Svanberg's *Quartet* (2011).

About Decoda

Decoda is a chamber ensemble comprised of virtuoso musicians, entrepreneurs, and passionate advocates of the arts. Based in New York City, Decoda creates innovative performances and engaging projects with partners around the world. The ensemble features Meena Bhasin, viola; Owen Dalby, violin; James Austin Smith, oboe; and former ASF Fellow Sæunn Þorsteinsdóttir, cello.

The artists of Decoda have a background of shared training and experience as fellows in the two-year program known as Ensemble ACJW – The Academy, a program of Carnegie Hall, the Juilliard School, and the Weill Music Institute in partnership with the New York City Department of Education. Since its inception in 2011, Decoda's residencies have reached audiences in schools, hospitals, and prisons, as well as in renowned concert halls across the globe.

Recent travels have taken Decoda to Abu Dhabi, Iceland, Japan, Mexico, Germany, Hong Kong, and Switzerland, and in the 2013-14 season, Decoda will present residencies in the United Kingdom and Denmark, along with return engagements in Europe, Asia, and Latin America.

While in residence at the Við Djúpið Music Festival, they have presented concerts, master classes, and seminars, as well as worked with young composers chosen through an international competition, who wrote new works specifically for the group. During the festival, the chosen composers worked on these pieces with Decoda, along with Icelandic composer Daníel Bjarnason, culminating each year in a concert premiering these works on Icelandic National Radio.

Decoda is the resident ensemble at Greenwich House Music School in NYC's historic West Village and its first season included engagements at the Mainly Mozart Festival (San Diego), Bay Chamber Concerts (Maine), Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Germany), Chelsea Music Festival (NYC), Carnegie Kids @ Suntory Hall (Tokyo), Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Festival (UAE), Við Djúpið Festival (Iceland), Programa de Educación Musical Fomento Cultural Banamex & Carnegie Hall (Mexico), and the Performing Arts Center at SUNY Purchase. Since 2011, Decoda has participated in Carnegie Hall's Musical Connections Program, undertaking creative projects at Sing Sing Correctional Facility, Beth Abraham Hospital, and Valley Lodge Shelter.

Decoda's NYC offerings this season include a four-concert series at Trinity Wall Street, the Bulgarian Concert Evenings, the Kosciuszko Foundation, Lyrica Chamber Music Series, DROM, and a debut at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In addition to return engagements in Abu Dhabi and Mexico, new international partnerships bring Decoda to Copenhagen to collaborate with the Danish String Quartet, as well as to the United Kingdom for residencies at the Southbank Centre, the Barbican, the Guildhall School of Music, and in Cornwall.

Decoda was recently awarded grants from Chamber Music America and the Hootie and the Blowfish Foundation for an extended residency in Camden, South Carolina, presenting Interactive Performances at eleven middle and high schools and a creative songwriting workshop with members of the Better Living Incentive Community at Lee Correctional Institute.

Supported in part by Icelandic Music Export and The American Scandinavian Society of New York.

FILM

The Cliff – Depth of Darkness/Hraunið

Wednesdays @ 7 pm & Fridays @ 6:30 pm

December 3 through 12, 2014

\$10 (\$17 ASF Members) | #IcelandArt

When Reykjavík crime detective Helgi Marvin Runarsson (Björn Hlynur Haraldsson) is called in to investigate a suicide case on the Snæfellsnes Peninsula, the case turns out to be far from simple. Pulled into a sinister trail of evidence, Runarsson's own deeply hidden secrets are unearthed. But when his daughter is kidnapped, will he have to turn a blind eye to murder to save her life?

Each episode is 45 min. and in Icelandic with English subtitles.

Episode 1 & 2

December 3 & 5

Episode 1

Directed by Reynir Lyngdal (Iceland, 2014). A well-known businessman, Björn Sveinsson (Magnús Ragnarsson), is found dead at his summer cottage and Detective Helgi Marvin Runarsson is sent to investigate. Initially Sveinsson's death appears to be a suicide, but when further examined, the case becomes more complex.

Episode 2

Directed by Reynir Lyngdal (Iceland, 2014). Björn Sveinsson received several threats the day he died. As a result his death is now being investigated as a murder. For Detective Runarsson pressure is added by his combative new colleague Gréta (Heida Reed). But when a little girl disappears into the lava field, the focus shifts as everyone tries to find the girl before it is too late.

Episodes 3 & 4

December 10 & 12

Episode 3

Directed by Reynir Lyngdal (Iceland, 2014). The tangled web of murder becomes more complicated as Detective Runarsson realizes that the case is bigger in scope than he realized. A pattern of similar murders emerges outside of Iceland and Sveinsson's death threats came from three different sources and large sums of money were withdrawn from his bank account just before he died.

Episode 4

Directed by Reynir Lyngdal (Iceland, 2014). With all professional disagreements between Helgi and Gréta a thing of the past, they work together closely to solve the murder investigation.

But the detective's own secrets threaten to get in the way of solving the case. As he and Gréta come closer to discovering the truth, Runarsson receives a threat that changes everything. In order to uncover the truth, he now has to break the law.

Special thanks to Pegasus Pictures.

EXHIBITION-RELATED INSTALLATION

ICELAND: The Fire Within

Friday, October 10, 2014 through Saturday, January 10, 2015

Award-winning American-Scandinavian filmmaker Eric Heimbold presents a cinematic meditation on the spirit of Iceland, on view in the Victor Borge Hall Lobby of Scandinavia House.

EXHIBITION SUPPORT

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