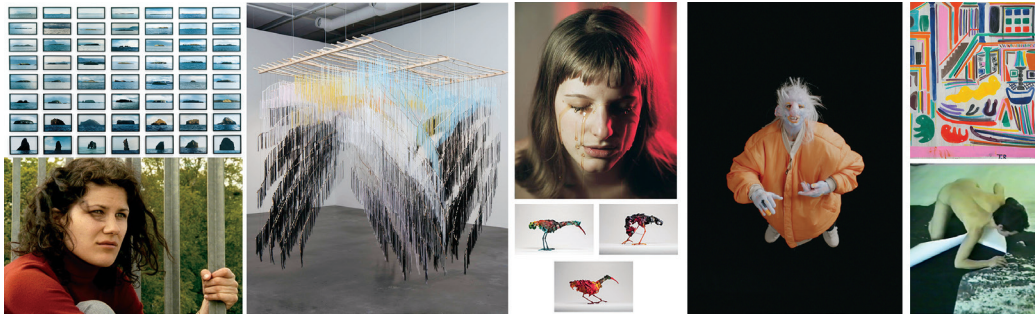


## NORDIC IMPRESSIONS: CONTEMPORARY ART FROM ÅLAND, DENMARK, FINLAND, GREENLAND, ICELAND, NORWAY, AND SWEDEN

An exhibition of internationally acclaimed artists working across a wide array of artistic expressions brings the rich diversity and global character of Nordic art to Scandinavia House



—(Clockwise, left to right): Olafur Eliasson, *The Island Series*, 1997; Outi Pieski, *Crossing Paths*, 2014; Torbjørn Rødland, *Golden Tears*, 2002; Tori Wrånes, *Ancient Baby*, 2017; Tal R, *The Drawing Class*, 2014; Pia Arke, *Arctic Hysteria*, 1996; Nathalie Djurberg, *Birds*, 2011; Eija-Liisa Ahtila, *The Bridge*, 2002/2015

### ***Nordic Impressions: Contemporary Art from Åland, Denmark, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden***

opens at Scandinavia House on **Saturday, February 23**. This new exhibition brings together a wide array of artistic expressions—paintings, drawings, photographs, installations, films, and videos—that reflect the rich diversity and global character of Nordic art. Curated by Phillips Collection Chief Curator and Deputy Director for Academic Affairs **Klaus Ottmann**, the exhibition features works by internationally acclaimed artists such as **Olafur Eliasson**, **Katrín Sigurdardóttir**, **Ragnar Kjartansson**, and **Hrafnhildur Arnardóttir /Shoplifter** from Iceland; Israeli-born Danish painter **Tal R**, Danish art collaborative **SUPERFLEX**, and artists **Jesper Just** and **Per Kirkeby**; Norwegian performance and video artist **Tori Wrånes** and photographer **Torbjørn Rødland**; Finnish artist **Eija-Liisa Ahtila**; Swedish painter **Mamma Andersson** and video and mixed-media artist **Nathalie Djurberg**; Sámi artists **Outi Pieski** and **Britta Marakatt-Labba**; Greenlandic painter, photographer, and writer **Pia Aarke**; and others.

Made across a spectrum of media from locations throughout the Nordic region, the works in the exhibition each offer a different artistic experience while being tied across themes that have held a special place in Nordic culture: both historic themes such as light and darkness, the coalescence of nature and folklore, women's rights and social liberalism; and more current subjects such as climate change, sustainability, and immigration. Drawn from a larger survey at the Phillips Collection in the fall of 2018, this exhibition comes from the work of the multi-year Nordic Cultural Initiative, a collaboration between the Phillips Collection and the Washington, D.C.-based embassies of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden, launched in 2014 to promote the wealth of Nordic artistic talent.

*Nordic Impressions* opens on February 23. It will be accompanied by a range of programming, including “Digital Dynamics,” an opening day event featuring a talk by **Tanya Toft Ag** on the release of her new book and a participatory performance by artists **Lundahl** and **Seiti**; an Armory Week Panel Discussion with artists and curator Klaus Ottmann on April ; and related art workshops for children. This exhibition has been organized in collaboration with The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.

**WHEN:** February 23 through June 8, 2019

**WHERE:** Scandinavia House  
58 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10016

**GALLERY HOURS  
& ADMISSION** Tuesday through Saturday, 12–6 PM, free  
Wednesdays, 12–7 PM, free

## ABOUT THE CURATOR

Klaus Ottmann is Chief Curator and Deputy Director for Academic Affairs at The Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C. and the publisher and editor of Spring Publications. At the Phillips, he has curated the exhibitions *Nordic Impressions: Art from Åland, Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden, 1821–2018*; *George Condo: The Way I Think*; *Arlene Shechet: From Here On Now*; *Karel Appel: A Gesture of Color*; *Hiroshi Sugimoto: Conceptual Forms and Mathematical Models*; *Angels, Demons, and Savages: Pollock, Ossorio, Dubuffet*; and *Per Kirkeby: Paintings and Sculpture*; and oversaw the installation of the Phillips's new permanent installation, a *Wax Room* created by Wolfgang Laib. Dr. Ottmann has curated more than 60 international exhibitions, including *Jennifer Bartlett: History of the Universe. Works 1970–2011*; *Still Points of the Turning World: SITE Santa Fe's Sixth International Biennial*; *Life, Love, and Death: The Work of James Lee Byars*; *Wolfgang Laib: A Retrospective*; and *Strange Attractors: The Spectacle of Chaos*. His publications include *Yves Klein by Himself: His Life and Thought*; *The Genius Decision: The Extraordinary and the Postmodern Condition*; and *The Essential Mark Rothko*. In 2006, he translated and edited Yves Klein's complete writings, *Overcoming the Problematics of Art: The Writings of Yves Klein*, and in 2010 he translated F.W.J. Schelling's *Philosophy and Religion* (1804).

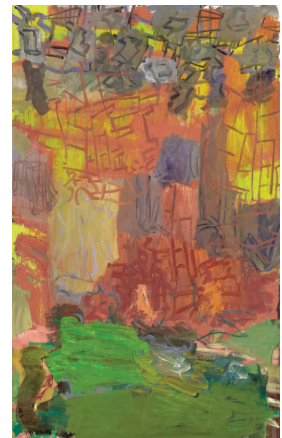


Ragnar Kjartansson, *Me and My Mother*, 2015.

In 2016, Dr. Ottmann was conferred the insignia of Chevalier of France's Order of Arts and Letters. He received a M.A. in philosophy from the Freie Universität Berlin, Germany, and a Ph.D. in philosophy from the Division of Media and Communications at the European Graduate School in Saas-Fee, Switzerland.

## PUBLICATION

The exhibition is accompanied by a major illustrated publication with a lead essay by Dr. Ottmann and contributions from five scholars of Nordic art: Dorthe Aagesen, chief curator and senior researcher, SMK Copenhagen; Kasper Monrad, former chief curator and senior researcher, SMK Copenhagen; Riitta Ojanperä, director of collections management, Finnish National Gallery; Nils Ohlsen, director of old masters and modern art, The National Museum of Art, Architecture, and Design; and Carl-Johan Olsson, curator, 19th-century painting, Nationalmuseum, Stockholm.



Per Kirkeby, *Inferno V*, 1992.

## SUPPORT

This exhibition has been organized in collaboration with The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C. Presentation at Scandinavia House has been funded in part by the generous support of Trond S. Jensen, Henry P. Godfrey and Ginger Schnaper, The Royal Norwegian Consulate General in New York, and The Consulate General of Sweden in New York, as well as the Bonnier Family Fund for Contemporary Art, the Estate of Birgitta Tyra Dill, the F. Donald Kenney Fund for Visual Arts, and the Kronquist Mesaros Memorial Endowment Fund. Additional support for the exhibition at Phillips Collection has been provided by the Mario F. Goldin Charitable Fund, Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation, and the scan | design foundation.

## 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](http://amscan.org)

## SCANDINAVIA HOUSE

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](http://scandinaviahouse.org) | Facebook | Twitter @ScanHouse

*To request visual materials and further press information, please contact:*

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212-847-9727 or [lori@amscan.org](mailto:lori@amscan.org)