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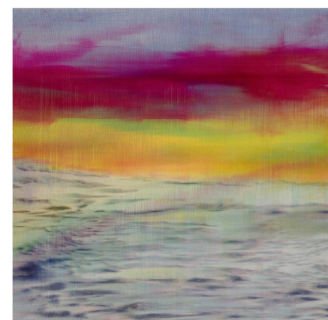


## NARRATIVE THREADS: WORKS BY EIGHT NORDIC ARTISTS

An exhibition of multi-media works by artists exploring Nordic craft traditions through a contemporary lens opens at Scandinavia House on October 14

**New York, NY—**Opening **October 14** at **Scandinavia House: The Nordic Center in America**, *Narrative Threads: Works by Eight Nordic Artists* presents multi-media artwork by Nordic artists, each distinguished by their innovative use of natural, synthetic, and digital materials. Exploring Nordic craft traditions through a contemporary lens, the works in the exhibition engage with material experimentation, and digital technology, with textile design, ceramics, stitching, painting, audio recording, and assemblage offering diverse narrative expressions and perspectives. The exhibition will feature the work of eight internationally celebrated artists: **Margrethe Aanestad** (Norway), **Hrafnhildur Arnardóttir / Shoplifter** (Iceland), **Hildur Ásgeirsdóttir Jónsson** (Iceland), **Hildur Bjarnadóttir** (Iceland), **Astrid Krogh** (Denmark), **Heidi Hankaniemi** (Finland), **Marianne Huotari** (Finland), and **Kristina Riska** (Finland).

Their works on view will explore personal histories and intergenerational discourse, while influenced by ages-old handicraft techniques and cultural traditions. Margrethe Aanestad's abstract drawing and sculpture subtly reference landscapes and the celestial sphere. Hrafnhildur Arnardóttir (known as Shoplifter) works with both synthetic and natural hair to create sculptures, wall murals and site-specific installations exploring themes of vanity, self-image, fashion, beauty, and popular myth, while Hildur Ásgeirsdóttir Jónsson uses silk and dye to create large-scale fabric installations based on the landscape of her native Iceland. Hildur Bjarnadóttir's woven paintings, audio pieces, and large-scale silk installations investigate issues of belonging, ecology, place and cohabitation with animals and plants in Iceland; Astrid Krogh explores the dialogue between natural and artificial illumination when paired with fibers, while Heidi Hankaniemi's practice incorporates the tactile and the performative. Marianne Huotari's distinctive ceramic works weave tradition with contemporary art by applying the classic Finnish textile technique with unpredictable materials. Kristina Riska has been exploring and redefining the traditional tenets of ceramic sculpture since the 1980s with unorthodox, large-scale works inspired by nature and the properties of light and shadow.



Hildur Ásgeirsdóttir Jónsson,  
*Various Landscape #14*, 2023

*Narrative Threads* will be accompanied by a range of programming, including Gallery Tours taking place regularly on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM. Monthly evening adult art workshops that explore techniques and themes presented in the exhibition will be offered by Icelandic teaching artist Melkorka Helgadóttir. Generous support for this exhibition has been received from the Inger G. & William B. Ginsberg Support Fund, the Bonnier Family Fund for Contemporary Art, the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation and the Estate of Tova Borgnine. It will be on view at Scandinavia House through February 17, 2024.

**PUBLIC OPENING:** Saturday, October 14, 2023

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

**GALLERY HOURS  
& ADMISSION** October 14, 2023 through February 17, 2024  
Tuesday through Saturday, 12—6 PM  
Wednesdays, 12—7 PM

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Margrethe Aanestad** (b. 1974, Stavanger, Norway) lives and works between Stavanger, Norway and New York, USA. Her practice encompasses drawing, painting, and sculpture. Aanestad studied fine arts at the Rogaland Art College and graduated with a BA from the University of Stavanger in art history, aesthetic philosophy, film theory & history and cultural management & leadership. Aanestad has exhibited worldwide. Solo exhibitions include those at Abingdon Studios, Blackpool, UK (2019); Kunsthall Stavanger, Norway (2018); Dimensions Variable, Miami, FL (2015) and Open Source Gallery (2013) in New York, NY. She participated in group shows and art fairs in California, New York, Miami, Copenhagen, Tokyo and multiple cities in her native Norway. In 2011, Aanestad co-founded an artist-run gallery, Prosjektrom Normanns. in Stavanger, which she co-directed until its closing in 2020. Aanestad is represented by Yi Gallery, New York.

**Shoplifter / Hrafnhildur Arnardóttir** is one of Iceland's leading contemporary artists, based in New York. Shoplifter represented Iceland at the Venice Biennale in 2019 and her installation *Chromo Sapiens* opened at the Icelandic Pavilion in May 2019 in Venice, Italy. The installation later traveled to Iceland opening at the Reykjavik Art Museum in January 2020. Other recent work includes solo exhibitions at Kulturhuset Stadsteatern in Stockholm, Sweden (2020), The Savannah Collage of Art and Design in Georgia (2020), Kiasma, the Finnish National Gallery (2019), the National Gallery of Iceland (2017), the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles (2017) and the Queensland Art Gallery of Modern Art in Australia (2016). Notable projects and awards include her large window installation created in collaboration with art collective assume vivid astro focus (avaf) for MoMA, Museum of Modern Art in New York (2008), The Nordic Award in Textiles and The Prince Eugen Medal for artistic achievement from the King and Royal Crown of Sweden (2011). Shoplifter is the co-founder of Höfuðstöðin, a new art center in Reykjavik, Iceland, where her installation *Chromo Sapiens* is permanently located. Höfuðstöðin also features a café, bar, design shop and event venue.

**Hildur Ásgeirsdóttir Jónsson** (b. 1963, Reykjavik, Iceland) has a BFA and an MFA from Kent State University. Recent notable exhibitions include those at Hafnarborg Center of Culture and Fine Art, Hafnarfjörður; Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art, Pepperdine University; Carl Solway Gallery, Cincinnati; the Tang Museum, Skidmore College; Reykjavik Art Museum; MOCA, Cleveland; Pocket Utopia, New York; Turpentine Gallery, Reykjavik. Jónsson has received numerous grants and commissions, including The Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation award, The Cleveland Arts Prize, and Ohio Arts Council Grants. She is represented by Tibor de Nagy Gallery, New York.

**Hildur Bjarnadóttir** lives and works in Reykjavík and Flóahreppur. She graduated from the textile department of The Icelandic College of Arts and Crafts in 1992 and finished her MFA degree from the fine arts department in Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York in 1997. She obtained a Ph.D. in fine arts at the Bergen Academy of Art, in 2017. Hildur has held many solo exhibitions internationally and in Iceland including the Trondelag Senter for Samtidskunst, Trondheim; the Reykjavik Art Museum, Kjarvalsstaðir; Bergen Kjøtt, Norway; Kunstnerforbundet, Oslo; Hverfisgalleri, Reykjavik; and Hallgrímskirkja, Reykjavík. She is a professor at the Iceland University of the Arts, Reykjavik.

**Astrid Krogh** was born in Denmark in 1968. Fascinated by the interplay of textiles and light, Krogh explores the dialogue between natural and artificial illumination when paired with fibers. Krogh has worked collaboratively with architects and industrial designers, received government commissions for public works and created commercial artworks for retailers such as Longchamp and Printemps in Paris. Landmark projects include exhibitions at The Central Bank of Denmark in 2015 and commissions for the recently opened Nya Karolinska Hospital in Stockholm. Krogh's clients include Mærsk, Velux and Coloplast, and she has created site specific art installations for the Danish Parliament, Royal Danish Library, Danish State Railways, The Netherlands' National Health Authority, and governmental organizations in Norway. Krogh's work has been shown internationally at design fairs, art galleries, museums and in private exhibitions. She is represented by Hostler Burrows, New York, and Maria Wettergren, Paris.

**Heidi Hankaniemi** was born in Ekenäs Finland, and currently lives in New York City. She received her BA (Hons) Degree in Critical Fine Art Practice from Central Saint Martin's College of Art and Design, London, as well as a Diploma in Fine Arts from Kanneljärven Opiston taidelinja, Finland. Heidi has exhibited throughout Europe and the United States, including at the Moscow Museum of Modern Art, St. Petersburg Metro Museum, and the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art. She took part in the Moscow Biennale for Young Art 2010,



Margrethe Aanestad,  
*The Art Of Landing (Or Leaving) II*, 2021



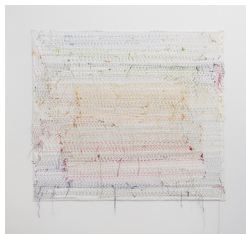
Hildur Ásgeirsdóttir Jónsson, *Various Landscape #15*, 2023



Hildur Bjarnadóttir,  
*Close Union Of Dissimilar Organisms*, 2019



Astrid Krogh, *Seaweed Of The Universe*, 2021



Heidi Hankaniemi,  
*So Many Stories*, 2015

the Pro Arte Festival 2012 and represented Finland as visual artist-in-residence at the Chelsea Music Festival 2015. In 2013 Heidi was featured in *Adress: New York*, a documentary for Yle5, Finland's national television channel. Heidi's work has been featured in *Artnet*, *Vogue UK*, *FJORDS* magazine, *Elle Deco ES*, *Elle Decoration UK*, *Elle UK*, *Architectural Digest*, *Frame*, *I.D.* magazine, *Interview* magazine, *Crystallized*, *Dazed and Confused*, *Marie Claire*, *Hello!*, among others. She was featured in Episode #1 of the documentary series *Adress: New York*, Kaleido Productions/ YleFEM, Finland. She has also been featured in *Art TV*, *with Felicity*, a documentary series that launched in April 2023 on Airline Entertainment networks Worldwide.

**Marianne Huotari** is best-known for her delicate ceramic wall rugs, which she creates at Arabia Art Department Society in Helsinki. Huotari's distinctive ceramic works weave tradition with contemporary art by applying the classic Finnish textile technique with unpredictable materials. Huotari's works have been awarded on international competitions, commissioned to the Finnish State Art Collection and EMMA – Espoo Museum of Modern Art. She's a finalist of Loewe Foundation Craft Prize 2022. Huotari is represented by Hostler Burrows, New York, and Officine Saffi, Milan.

**Kristina Riska** is one of Scandinavia's foremost contemporary ceramic artists and a senior member of the Arabia Art Department Society in Helsinki. Riska is a graduate of the Department of Ceramic Art at the University of Art and Design, Finland, and lives and works in Helsinki. She has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the State of Finland's Suomi Prize in 1995; the Medaglia D'Oro in Faenza, Italy, 1995; a silver medal at the International Ceramic Contest in Mino, Japan, 2002 and an Honorary Award in 2008; and working grants from both The State of Finland and The Finnish Cultural Foundation. Her work has been included in numerous exhibitions worldwide and placed in many public and private collections, including the Design Museum, Helsinki; Saastamoninen Foundation, Finland; Ulster Museum, Belfast, Ireland; and the Gifu Museum, Japan, among many others. Riska is represented by Hostler Burrows, New York.

## SUPPORT

Generous support for this exhibition has been received from the Inger G. & William B. Ginsberg Support Fund, the Bonnier Family Fund for Contemporary Art, the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation and the Estate of Tova Borgnine.

## 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 non-profit 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](https://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](https://scandinaviahouse.org) | Facebook | Twitter @ScanHouse

To request visual materials and further press information, please contact:  
Lori Fredrickson, Director of Communications, Marketing, & Digital at 212-847-9727 or [lori@amscan.org](mailto:lori@amscan.org).



Marianne Huotari,  
*Galapagos*, 2019-2021



Kristina Riska,  
*Beewords 03*, 2022