

AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES YEAR-LONG CELEBRATION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SCANDINAVIA HOUSE: THE NORDIC CENTER IN AMERICA

Special programming in 2025–26 includes landmark exhibitions, concerts, film series, and symposia featuring leading Nordic artists and cultural figures.

New York, NY—This year, the American-Scandinavian Foundation (ASF) celebrates the **25th Anniversary** of **Scandinavia House: The Nordic Center in America**. In recognition of this important milestone for our cultural center, Scandinavia House will present a year of special programs highlighting our history in New York, including two major exhibitions; screenings and talks on critically acclaimed Nordic cinema; lectures, symposia, and concerts with notable Nordic cultural figures; and family workshops and programs.

In the early 1990s, ASF's Board of Trustees had a bold vision: to create a permanent home for ASF that would stand as a lasting manifestation of the close bonds that have long existed between the U.S. and the Nordic nations. Designed by the internationally renowned Polshek Partnership Architects (now Ennead Architects), Scandinavia House opened in October 2000 with a week of festivities drawing more than 5,000 people, including Heads of State and royal personages from each of the Nordic countries. At the opening, His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden described Scandinavia House as "a dynamic, creative, interesting world, so far from home and yet so near," while the *New York Times* labeled it "a gift to the city."



Scandinavia House, NYC (Courtesy ASF)

Since then, Scandinavia House has welcomed more than three million visitors; presented 75 exhibitions, over 2,500 films, concerts, lectures, and arts programs; provided 2,000 programs for children and families; and offered language classes in Swedish, Danish and Norwegian. Notable guests include all the Nordic heads of state for the past 25 years, as well as many members of the Nordic royal families; numerous American political, financial and academic leaders; internationally celebrated artists, musicians, actors and directors; and others. A rich resource for New Yorkers, tourists, Scandinavians and culture enthusiasts from around the globe, Scandinavia House has become one of New York's premiere cultural attractions.

Edward Gallagher, ASF President and CEO since 1996, who guided the planning and construction of Scandinavia House commented: "It was very rewarding to all of us at ASF to see that the cultural center we only imagined 30 years ago became a reality five years later, and continues to thrive and grow. A great deal has happened in the 25 years since Scandinavia House was founded, but its mission — to promote greater understanding and appreciation of Nordic cultures, celebrating our differences and similarities — is more important and relevant than ever before."

The events will kick off with the October opening of ***A Time for Everything — 25 Years of Contemporary Art at Scandinavia House***, a group exhibition of internationally acclaimed Nordic artists who have presented work in our Galleries over the years since its founding in 2000. The breadth of work underscores the vision of the Scandinavia House Gallery as a steward for new and established Nordic voices in the contemporary artistic landscape, and promoting the exchange of ideas and culture between the U.S. and Nordic region. Participating artists include **Torbjørn Rødland, Jesper Just, Simen Johan, Marianne Huotari, Irene Nordli, Louisa Matthiasdottir, Eija-Liisa Ahtila, Hildur Asgeisdottir Jonsson, Margrethe Aanestad, Shoplifter, Olof Marsja, Britta Marakatt-Labba, Icelandic Love Corporation, Thordis Adalsteinsdottir, Cecilia Edelfak, Randi Samsonsen, Ole Brodersen, Pekka & Teija Isorätttyä, Katrin Sigurdadottir, Mamma Andersson, Sara-Vide Ericson, Jeppe Hein, Jan Groth, Olav Christopher Jensson, Outi Pieski, John Savio, Esko Männikkö, and Susanne Wellm.**

Other major events will include a series of colloquia and conversations exploring Nordic influences on American architecture and design; screenings and discussions of outstanding new Nordic films, as well as a retrospective of classics from the last 25 years; a concert series headlined by internationally acclaimed Swedish pianist Per Tengstrand; special lectures offered in cooperation with the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Columbia University; a spring festival for children; and, in spring 2026, a Gala Dinner and Dance with special guests from all the Nordic nations.

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

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

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1. The Scandinavia House exterior in 2000. Photo: Richard Barnes.



2. The stairwell to Volvo Hall featuring lighting by Poul Henningsen. Photo courtesy ASF



3. The Scandinavia House groundbreaking ceremony in 1999 (L-R): ASF President Edward Gallagher, Chairman of the Scandinavia House Committee John Russell, Chairman of the Board Albert Dowden and Chairman of the Building Committee Christian Sonne. Photo courtesy ASF



4. The dedication of Scandinavia House on October 16, 2000 (L-R): ASF President Edward Gallagher; King Carl XVI Gustaf, Queen Silvia and Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden; President Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson of Iceland; Princess Märtha Louise of Norway; Princess Benedikte of Denmark; Kimo Sassi, Minister of Foreign Trade of Finland; Richard Holbrooke, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations; ASF Chairman of the Board Kristján Ragnarsson, M.D.; ASF Deputy Chairman Christian Sonne. Photo courtesy ASF



5. The opening and ribbon cutting for *Luminous Modernism: Scandinavian Art Comes to America*, 2011 (L-R): ASF President Edward Gallagher, Crown Princess Mary of Denmark, King Harald V and Queen Sonja of Norway, King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden and President Tarja Halonen of Finland. Photo: Christine Butler



6. The Children's Center at Scandinavia House. Photo by Linda Haglund/ASF



7. Program with Jake Gyllenhaal at Scandinavia House in 2019. Photo courtesy ASF



8. *Luminous Modernism* in the Galleries at Scandinavia House, 2011—Photo by Eileen Travell