

REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

Fagradalsfjall!

News: To erupt or not to erupt? Make up your mind!

Kristin Morthens

Art: Jump through the portal to another dimension

Axel Flóvent

Music: He's back and here to folk you up!

We Get Vik!

Travel: Fun and frolick in the rain #YesAllWeather

+ **GIG GUIDE** × **CITY MAP** × **TRAVEL IDEAS** × **FOOD**

REYKJAVÍK

VOLCANO

THE SLEEPING GIANT AWAKENS

All eyes in Iceland, and around the world, are watching for when—or if—a volcano will erupt in Reykjanes. We break down what's happening, what could happen, and what the worst case scenario might look like



COVER ART:

Photo by Art Bicnick taken on location close to Fagradalsfjall on March 7th, 2021.

First



08: VOLCANOS! VOLCANOS!

06: F*ckin Fourth Wave?
06: Elton John, Iceland's New Lazarus



12-13: Erró's Raw Power

18: Axel 'The Folk King' Flóvent Speaks
23: eSports eThrives



31: Eating In A Bus...

28: Eating Fresh Falafel...
27: Anthony Hoang Duy Nguyen Talks Style



EDITORIAL

The Fire Within Us



By the time you are reading this, the volcano in the Fagradalsfjall's volcano system in Reykjanes might very well have erupted. It will

most likely not be a dangerous eruption and will potentially become one of our new famous tourism hotspots: A view that's pleasant for the eye, but life-threatening if you get too close. Should that be the case, the eruption could have very positive effects on the economy, especially when the borders open up again in May, as the government has said will happen, but let's see how that goes. Unfortunately, COVID-19 is still looming and our progress in the fight toward eradicating it from Iceland could disappear quickly if we are not careful.

That said, if and when the eruption goes off in the Reykjanes peninsula, scientists say that we will be entering a 200 to 400 year period of unrest there and we will possibly—and very likely—see more volcanoes in the area within

the next years and decades after. This does not have to be a negative factor, but it will affect our daily lives.

Icelanders have always had a complicated relationship with their home country. Somehow, regardless of where or when, Iceland always looms in the back of our minds. How should we dress before we go out so we don't suffer from the coldness? How are the roads? Are they passable? In a realistic future, we might now have to check a gas forecast following the weather forecast. Do we have to keep our kids inside today? Is a gas mask a smart investment? Will I look like a psychopath with a gas mask? Will our kids look like a northern European version of 'Children Of The Corn'?

It sounds like there's a high price to pay to live in such a beautiful country, but for us, it's not really. Don't forget that Icelanders are incredibly inventive and creative when it comes to solving complicated situations. Icelanders were never better than after the financial crash in 2008. Before that, our small country was catapulted into the 20th century by WW2 and subsequently

built a good awwnd fair society based on education, and above all else, peace. Art is highly appreciated here and we have incredibly talented artists in all genres all over the world.

To summarise, Icelanders have a deep and respectful relationship with their country, nature, and heritage, and this perhaps, above all else, reflects the psyche of Icelanders in the best way. In the past, we've used the difficulties of our country to our advantage—creating one of the most prosperous and egalitarian societies in the world. So regardless of what happens now, Iceland will rebuild and find a new path to success.

So enjoy the fires—when they finally break out—and remember that the same fire burns inside all Icelanders, as well as those that love this harsh island in the north. ☘

Valur Grettisson
Editor-in-chief



John Pearson is a Reykjavik resident who combines writing with professional backgrounds in music, broadcasting, scuba diving, engineering and underwater photography. He loves puns, alliteration and lists that have three things in them.



Hannah Jane Cohen is based out of Iceland by way of New York. She's known for her love of Willa Ford, David Foster Wallace, and other such "intellectuals." Her visionary work is known for expanding the definitions of emotion, introspection, and above all else, taste. Hannah is also the current Drag King of Iceland, HANS.



Polly is a hard-working journalist by day and an enthusiastic ball-catcher by night. A four-year-old dachshund mix with an IQ of a five-year-old human, Polly has been the official Chief Of Morale at the Grapevine for eight months and is a regular contributor to the Grapevine Newscast on YouTube. Woof.



Shruthi Basappa is one of Iceland's most knowledgeable foodies. She's covered local restaurants for years and has also been involved in various food competitions in Iceland, such as Food & Fun and more. By day, she works as an architect at Sei Studio.



Catharine Fulton is a writer and editor who has been involved with the Grapevine for many years, from being our online news editor to staff journalist. She is now our beloved copywriter. Outside of dealing with our writers turning in work late, she also has two extremeley cute kids.



Art Bicnick is an international man of mystery. He moves like a shadow through the subcultures and soirees of Reykjavik, never still, often ghosting the scene in a puff of blue smoke—the exhaust fumes of the elusive, well-travelled Bicnick Mini.



Andie Sophia Fontaine has lived in Iceland since 1999 and has been reporting since 2003. They were the first foreign-born member of the Icelandic Parliament, an experience they recommend for anyone who wants to experience a workplace where colleagues work tirelessly to undermine each other.



Owen Tyrie is a young journo straight out of Cheshire, England. After studying journalism for three years in Leeds, he recently moved to Reykjavik in order to pursue his dream of becoming Icelandic. He's a film fanatic, gaming enthusiast and most of all, ginger. Oh, and he loves tea.



Valur Grettisson is an award-winning journalist, author and playwright. He has been writing for Icelandic media since 2005. He was also a theatre critic and one of the hosts of the cultural program, 'Djöflaeyjan' at RÚV. Valur is not to be confused with the dreadful football club that bears the same name.

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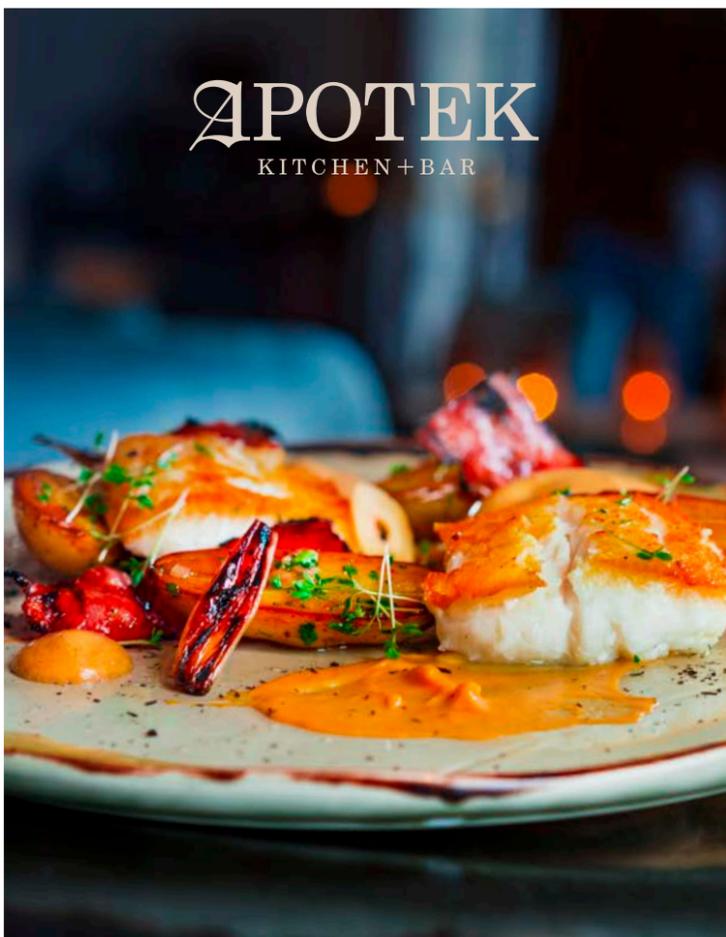


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Geothermal plant in Svartsengi

What Are Icelanders Talking About?

All sound and fury

Words: **Andie Sophia Fontaine** Photos: **Art Bicnick & Antonio Diaz**

NEWS The good news is: for a while there **we stopped talking about the coronavirus**. The bad news is: **we started talking about earthquakes and volcanoes**. Starting with an earthquake swarm that began on the Reykjanes peninsula on February 23rd, people were decidedly worried as tremors with a magnitude greater than 3 were shaking on a daily basis. Much speculation was made as to whether a volcano was about to erupt in the geologically active region, summarily dismissed as pure conjecture. But then on March 3rd, **scientists measured strong indications that an eruption was on the way**. Since then, magma movement has been detected, some of it as shallow as one kilometre beneath the surface, but at the time of this writing, there's been no eruption. Not to worry, though: even if it does happen, it will almost certainly be what is known as a "tourist volcano"—decidedly photogenic eruptions of lava spewing into the air, or slithering along the ground, but no ash cloud, and certainly not anywhere near any populated areas or important infrastructure. And seeing how conveniently close to the international airport it is, who knows? Maybe this will re-boot our flagging tourist industry.

Nowadays, everybody wanna talk like they got somethin' to say, but nothin' comes out when they move their lips, just a bunch of gibberish, and Icelanders act like they forgot about **the coronavirus**. That's right, after all a couple of weeks of reporting "no new domestic cases yesterday," we began to grow smug and complacent. Conservatives began calling out politicians for not lifting the current domestic pandemic restrictions. And then late in the first week of March, **two people tested positive and both of them were outside quarantine**

at the time. At least one person, at the time of this writing, has since been diagnosed, having been in indirect contact with one of the other cases. Worst of all, it seems at least one of those diagnosed attended a concert at Harpa. Fortunately, anyone who's been in even passing contact with these folks has been put in quarantine and has been tested. Another group infection on the way? Possibly. Lifting the restrictions this month? Not bloody likely.

On a lighter note, **COVID-19 vaccinations have been going well**. At the time of this writing, 12,710 Icelanders have received a full round of shots, with another 16,607 awaiting their second doses. Once they do, nearly 10% of the population will be fully vaccinated. According to the government's schedule, **everyone in Iceland should be vaccinated by June**. ☘



Do I still need this if I use lavender essential oil?



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POV: You're getting screened

virus while outside quarantine, and are indirectly connected to a person who tested positive at second screening on March 4th. Contact tracing is also zeroing in on a concert held at Harpa on March 5th.

On March 9th, it was further reported that a pizza delivery driver for Pizzan in Kópavogur tested positive, and all of their co-workers were subsequently put into quarantine. This driver was making deliveries over the weekend before their diagnosis.

Act now

Chief epidemiologist Þórólfur Guðnason declined to say definitively whether or not a fourth wave was on its way. He did say, however, that this recent spate of infections was proof that following guidelines, both domestically and at the border, is the key to eradicating the virus from Iceland.

As it stands now, domestic restrictions are scheduled to be relaxed

ASK A Scientist Q: What Effect Will Rising Sea Levels Due To Climate Change Have On Iceland?



Global warming is on everyone's mind; summers are getting hotter, glaciers are melting and greenhouse gases are filling the skies with smog. Living on a rock in the North Atlantic makes you feel relatively untouchable by the chaos across the world but one day the seas will rise and Iceland will be hit hard. We asked Halldór Björnsson of the Icelandic Meteorological Office how he thinks rising sea levels will affect the country.

"Iceland is rising rapidly in some locations which affects the relative sea level change. In some locations, especially along the south east coast of Iceland the rate of rise is so fast that it is doubtful that these locations will experience any sea level rise.

How much sea level will increase there depends on several things, such as the warming of the ocean, the melt of glaciers and icesheets (in Greenland and Antarctica) and changes to the gravitational field due to the ice melt. The last item is quite surprising to many, but the current size (and mass) of say the Greenland icesheet affects gravity around it in such a way that it keeps sea level higher than otherwise. Once the icesheet melts this effect diminishes with the effect that sea level may drop close to the ice sheet, but rise more elsewhere." OT



A Fourth Wave? That Depends

New infections raise concerns and questions

NEWS

Words: Andie Sophia Fontaine Photo: Visir/Vilhelm

Two new domestic COVID-19 cases were detected on March 8th, according to the latest data from covid.is. Both of them were outside quarantine at the time of diagnosis.

One of those diagnosed was an employee of the grocery store Hagkaup in Garðabær, Visir reports. This person worked stocking items during the

night shift, and was working over the weekend before they tested positive. Due to the nature of their work, they had little to no contact with customers and the entire store has been sanitised.

And then it spread

Two people were diagnosed with the

slightly on March 17th. With this latest outbreak, this is now increasingly unlikely. Þórólfur emphasised the importance of acting quickly to contain the spread before a fourth wave has a chance to form.

LOST IN GOOGLE TRANSLATION

Sir Elton Is Dead! Long Live Sir Elton!

When the team at Grapevine Towers read on mbl.is that Sir Elton John had died, the well-lubricated VineMachine sprang into an immediate response. Just imagine the Mighty Morphin Power Rangers, but wearing plastic viking helmets.

Before you could say "Nikita," news editor Andie had turned out an eloquent obituary

for Pinner's premier piano-man, Valur had donned his black suit (with Polly in matching harness) ready to cast the devastating news to the world, and culture editor Hannah Jane had organised a gala extravaganza tribute performance of 'Goodbye Yellow Brick Road'—all four sides of the vinyl, starring herself—with tickets already on sale.



That girl doesn't hang about.

When we realised that this news was simply a GoogleGaffe™—yet another mistranslation by the world's favourite language-mangling tech-giant—Team 'Vine

found themselves all adrenalined-up with nowhere to go. So following a brisk jog around the block to shake it off, the rest of the day was spent blasting "Candle In The Wind" on the office stereo and wallowing in the relief

that Sir Elton's life hadn't sputtered out like... erm... well, like a candle in the wind.

What had actually happened to Elton was that he had lost weight; nothing more dramatic than that. How-



ever the expression "Elton John hefur lést" could be taken to mean both "Elton John has lost weight" and "Elton John has died"—at least to the linguistically naïve—and that includes the GoogleBot. So on this occasion we're

going to cut it some slack. It's trying hard, after all.

Anyway, thankfully the Rocket Man is still on earth, he's just hefur lést (or a little less hefty). He's Still Standing. Yeah Yeah Yeah! JP

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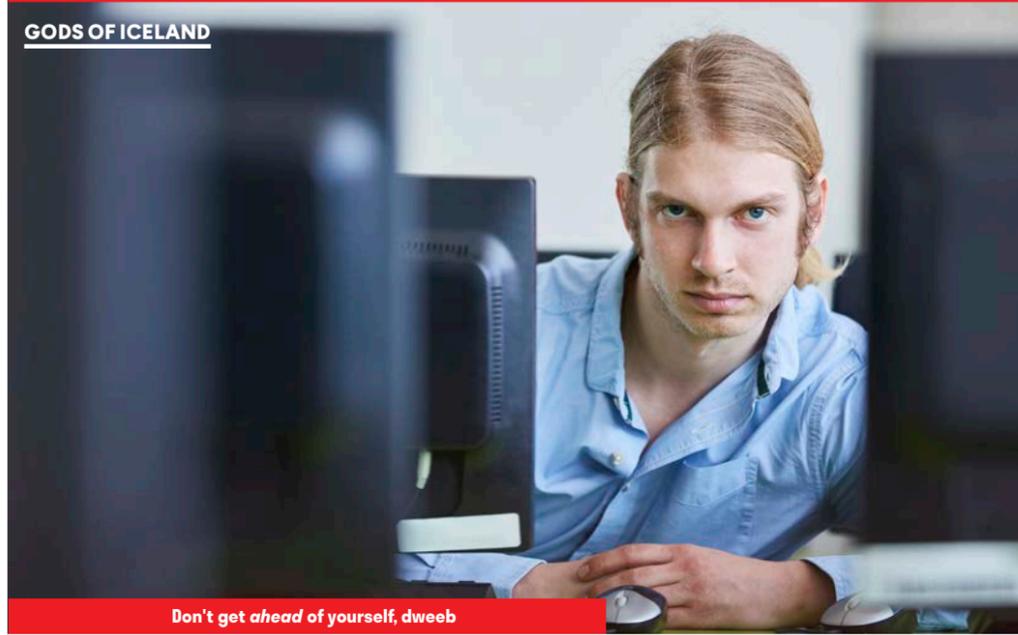


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GODS OF ICELAND



Don't get ahead of yourself, dweeb

Words: Owen Tyrie

Photo: Adobe Stock

Mímir, Bodyless Brainiac

You bet his Reddit Karma score is higher than Ásgarður

Superpowers: Astonishingly clever, very portable

Weaknesses: Lack of body, being a bit of a pushover, being not smart enough to avoid weird prison exchanges

Modern Analogue: That guy on Reddit who knows everything about everything, has 10 PhDs but still gets roasted by everyone in the comments

Upon receiving the task of writing about one of the many gods of Iceland, I was tempted to be as basic as basic can be in selecting my deity. Þór would have been an easy one, same with someone like Loki.

But no, that's not how I roll

In all of my wisdom (of which there is little), I went out of my way to pick a God that doesn't have its own movie or upcoming TV show. So I bring to you Mímir, the god of wisdom and Ásgarður's true 200IQ Reddit user.

u/MimirKnowsBest

Mímir was a water spirit who resided by a well at the bottom of the Yggdra-

sil, better known as the Tree of Life. He was known as the wisest of all the Æsir, so it was here that many of the gods would turn up for advice on which realm to screw over next, and which random mortal needed knocking up.

It was during the war between Æsir and Vanir—which would make a great movie or TV show—that Mimir's fate was revealed. Tiring of endless war, the two races of Gods decided to establish a truce and hostages were exchanged between the two sides; Njörðr and his son Freyr were given to the Æsir, while the Vanir received Mimir and Hœnir.

Upon their arrival in the Vanir homeworld of Vanaheimr, Mimir was appointed to give counsel due to the fact that Óðinn told the Vanir that he was the smartest of all the Gods.

However, Mimir didn't fancy giving lots of advice to the Vanir and often, when asked for his advice, would respond with "Let others decide."

This spelled certain doom for our man Mimir, as the Vanir thought that Óðinn had duped them by not sending the smartest man in all the realms, but merely giving them a careless old dude with seemingly nothing left to live for. And who could blame them? They were dealing with Óðinn, notorious master of betrayal, after all.

The Vanir subsequently took it upon themselves to seize Mimir, cut off his head and send it to Óðinn. So you could say that Mimir would not *beheading* back to Vanaheimr any time soon.

Well ackshually...

For most people, this would be where the story ends. However, we are dealing with immortal gods who are capable of using black magic to bend the universe to their will. So upon receiving Mimir's head, Óðinn used some magical herbs and sang to Mimir to bring him (or rather, his head) back from the dead. Wonder what song he sang... "Staying Alive" perhaps? "Get'Cha Head In The Game"?

Over the next aeons, Óðinn kept Mimir's head close by, seeking counsel from him as he used to back when Mimir had two legs to stand on. The great and mighty Óðinn would even go on to put his own eye in Mimir's aforementioned well-home, believing that the waters would give him divine knowledge. That's one way to keep an eye on all of Ásgarður.

Well, here's a *heads up* now because I'm afraid we are *heading* to the end of Mimir's story, as very little is known about what happened to him after he became Odin's magic eight-ball of sorts. So perhaps it's best if I stop writing here before I get... *ahead* of myself. Sorry, couldn't resist. 🍷

JUST SAYINGS

"Rúsínan í Pylsuendanum"

Ever had a hot dog filled with raisins? Doesn't sound good, does it? Still, Icelanders have the saying "Rúsínan í Pylsuendanum," which translates to "the raisins in the tail of a hot dog." It's sort of a vague way to describe something good or unexpected, and like everything that doesn't make sense or is just plain stupid, we got it from the Danes—our former oppressors. More specifically, it was adopted from a poem

by Danish poet Christian Winther, which we won't mention because we don't want to give any Dane free publicity. Anyway, for some maddening reason, ages ago they used to put a raisin at the end of black pudding sausages, which those savages thought was a sign of true culinary prowess. Apparently, this was an unexpectedly great thing—hence the saying. VG 🍷



In 1,000 years, this photo will be studied as the pinnacle of art

GRAPEVINE PLAYLIST



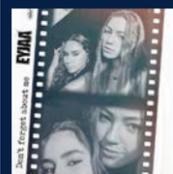
Krummi - Naglar og salt

The moment this song began playing in the Grapevine office, our journalists looked down and found their hands covered in well-worked calluses and arms in that ropey sort of muscle you only get from doing a hard day's work. At the same time, our wives left us for oil barons, the newspaper factory called to say they were closing down, and there was naught to do but sit on our distribution tractors and think about what must be done on the morrow. We'd have to rebuild the paper from hand, thinking only of our lost loves and accompanied only by this Utah Phillips cover. Tis the life for a cowboy. HJC



Ólafur Arnalds - Spiral - Sunrise Session

Ólafur chose the shortest day of the year for these newly-released live sessions, highlighting the idea of a global sunrise; hope for a coming post-COVID dawn. The dizzying helix of the track's intertwining strings and piano, reaching endlessly upwards, will be familiar to fans from the album. But the feel of musicians playing live—together, in a room—reinforces the sense of imminent COVID-conclusion. JP



EYJAA - Don't Forget About Me

Cute stuff!! Say hello to sisters Brynja Mary Sverrisdottir and Sara Victoria Sverrisdottir,

who comprise pop duo EYJAA. Their debut single, "Don't Forget About Me", is a sunny, bouncy, happy-happy pop song that'll make you long for the days of summer where you could lay outside in a bathing suit and sip green juice or something equally aspirational. Tbh, I thought the song was fine until I went to lunch and began subconsciously humming the background vocals the whole time. So yes, it's a certified earworm. HJC



Frid - Woods

Frid's got an interesting dichotomy—her lyrics and melody could easily place her in the tragic love and loss singer/songwriter category ("She scurried away, way into the woods on the run from time/ She felt her wrinkles forming/She must be gone for morning"), while her unexpected low key trap and extreme autotune pull her into that late-night comedown party vibe. HJC



Possimiste - Paradise

Hallelujah! Possimiste has apparently created this sparse, boomy, bluesy, grimey gem to soundtrack our journey to the promised land. Shades of Karin Dreijer and Lykke Li abound here; perhaps Paradise is somewhere Nordic. Let's hope so. With the land to the southwest of Grapevine's offices about to belch hot gas—and the ground beneath us rumbling—we might be making that journey sooner than we had planned. So it would be nice not to have to go too far. But what a tune to take us there!. JP

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The Sleeping Giant: Earthquakes And Volcanoes In Reykjanes

From the current situation to worst case scenarios

Words: Andie Sophia Fontaine Photos: Art Bicnick

By the time you read this, a volcano may have erupted in Reykjanes, Iceland's southwestern peninsula and the home of the Keflavík International Airport. It's also possible that the magma currently moving under the surface of the Earth has retreated, or that it's still moving but hasn't breached the surface yet. At this point, all we have are best estimates. That's just the nature of the science of earthquakes and volcanoes.

While all of Iceland is geologically active, this is a story about Reykjanes, whose name literally means "smoking peninsula", if that gives you any indication of just how active the area is. Here, we examine a timeline that begins on February 23rd, when a series of significant earthquakes began to ripple through the area, culminating in the first signs, on March 3rd, that a volcanic eruption may be on the way. From here, we'll look at best case—and worst case—scenarios. The good news is there's little to worry about. The bad news is things are still up in the air; at least, at the time of this writing.

How active are we talking about?

First time arrivals to Iceland almost always disembark at Keflavík International Airport, and then drive or take the bus on to Reykjavík. Along the way, the first thing you notice are the immense lava fields which stretch all the way to the horizon. You'd be forgiven for thinking that this lava only cooled down moments ago for how fresh it appears, and geologically speaking, it is quite fresh. The area is fed by five volcanic systems—striking considering its relatively small size—and much of the lava we see there today came from the notorious Reykjanes Fires, which lasted from the 10th to the 12th century. In fact, between 1210 and 1240, some 50 square kilometres of this region was covered in lava.

The first indications that we were entering a new period of instability arguably began in January 2020, when a swarm of earthquakes were measured around Mount Þorbjörn, one of Reyk-

janes' many volcanoes. At the time, there were grave concerns that an eruption was imminent, but ultimately nothing came of it and, after a week or so, the volcano fell off the radar. While Mount Þorbjörn is no longer in the current discussion, Reykjanes certainly is.

How it kicked off

In the early morning hours of February 23rd, a 4.3 magnitude quake 7km beneath the surface and 3.6km east of Fagradalsfjall struck. This was followed seconds later by a 5.7 quake near Kellir. Since then, earthquakes of a magnitude of 3 or greater have been a daily occurrence. Reykjanes is geologically active relative to the rest of the country, but the size and frequency of these quakes has raised concerns nonetheless. Not so much in terms of devastation—Icelandic infrastructure, including homes and buildings, are famously designed with earthquakes

in mind, and the safest place you can be in Iceland during an earthquake is indoors—but more in terms of what these events could precede.

On March 3rd, scientists announced that it was increasingly likely that a volcanic eruption was on the way. This was based on GPS measurements and other data points that indicated magma was moving very quickly beneath the surface of the Earth in relatively the same area the earthquakes were centered.

Iceland's earth scientists are normally very reluctant to speculate on the possibility of a volcanic eruption, even in the midst of an earthquake swarm, so just the fact that they were using language such as "increasingly likely" drew international attention.

The quiet science (until it isn't)

The science of earthquakes and volcanoes is normally a quiet affair, some might even say repetitive, the vast majority of the time. This sentiment was echoed by Baldur Bergsson, a specialist in monitoring at the Icelan-

dic Met Office, when the Grapevine tagged along with him to Reykjanes in July 2020.

"My first project was to map out the gas-emitting areas around Hekla, and I don't know how many hours I spent at this," Baldur recalled. "Putting an instrument on the ground, waiting a minute and a half, picking it up and walking ten steps, and doing it again. But now we know where the gas-emitting places are. It just took 22 trips to the summit of Hekla."

Most of his job entails exactly that: laying down instruments, taking measurements, and submitting them to the general data base.

"It's a lot of repetition," he said with a laugh. "But that's science. These readings will probably give the same results as last week, but we'll never know unless we try, again and again and again."

Not so quiet anymore

As readers are aware, the situation is anything but boring right now. The earthquakes and possible eruption in Reykjanes have made international headlines, and many people have been deeply concerned about what this could mean. Eyjafjallajökull is still fresh in people's minds, a volcano which erupted and began to spew a gigantic ash cloud into the atmosphere in March 2010, crippling air traffic across the European continent. For the record, there is no danger of that happening if an eruption happens in Reykjanes—the peninsula tends to have effusive eruptions; mostly lava plumes but very little ash—and there are a few things we can safely predict about what an eruption in the area would look like.

"The volcanic systems here on the Reykjanes peninsula, the eruptions in these systems are fissure eruptions,"

"For us, it's a very long period of time. For the volcano, it's an instant."

Kristín Jónsdóttir, earthquake hazards coordinator at the Icelandic Met Office, told Grapevine's Reykjavik Newscast on March 4th, the day after scientists announced an eruption was now more likely. "It's essentially cracks opening and the magma coming up. There's very little ash. The good thing about this scenario is that, what we've seen so far, is that they're far from the roads and far from the populated areas. So if we model the system of the magma flowing, it is not going to reach the populated areas and it's not going to reach the roads. As the situation is now, from our modelling, this is what we presume."

Þorvaldur Þórðarson, a professor of volcanology and petrology at the University of Iceland, echoed these sentiments in a separate interview with the Grapevine, when asked how scientists determine just how dangerous an eruption may or may not be.

"We use a lot of different tools for that," he said. "First of all, we use geological history and our knowledge of previous events. When we look at any one area, we think in terms of worst case scenarios. When we know that, we start to think about 'OK, what measures do we need to put in place to make sure that people are safe? And what measures can we put in place in terms of response?'"

Þorvaldur cited the eruption of Öraefajökull, describing it as a very explosive eruption. "If you're there, you don't have any response time. So our assessment in that case is, if you suspect there's an eruption imminent, you evacuate the whole place and get everyone to safety. That's quite a dramatic and drastic measure, but that's the best we can do at the moment anyway."

"In Reykjanes, it's quite different, because we know from the history of eruptions here that most of those eruptions are fairly moderate in size, and they're mostly effusive, or lava-producing, eruptions. Our main concern there is not the explosive activity but the lava flow activity. We need to know how much time we have in a lava flow crisis and that, of course, depends on where

the lava comes up relative to populated areas or important infrastructure. In a nutshell, we use the worst case scenario to make sure we have the right response to ensure everyone's safety."

It's a gas

Of course, lava is not the only danger that can arise from an eruption. They also release toxic gases, especially sulphur dioxide, also called SO₂.

"For populated areas around the region where a possible eruption could occur, we do not need to worry [about gas] in particular," Kristín told us. "From our modelling—and again, we are using the models based on the best knowledge of what kinds of eruptions we can expect in the area, and our knowledge from previous eruptions—the gas we are concerned about is SO₂ [sulphur dioxide]. It's not very nice. It can hurt a bit in the throat. The concentrations we can expect here will not be that dense, and also where we are farther away from the lava, it gets diluted. So the most probable scenario is that there will be days where this will be annoying. People with underlying conditions, such as asthma, will have to take care of themselves. Importantly, the Icelandic Met Office will show gas pollution forecasts. It depends on the wind. We'll just have to take it one day at a time."

"For an average eruption of an average duration, the level of pollution could [become] uncomfortable for people," Þorvaldur told the Grapevine. "For a big eruption, it may reach a level where you would have to react to it and move people away from the area. Gas pollution is an issue, but how big of an issue it is really depends on the scenario, and if you have a very long

lasting eruption—which we can have on the Reykjanes peninsula, we've had eruptions there that have lasted many months, years and even decades—depending on your position relative to the event, that may cause major problems. Then again, the likelihood of such events happening in our lifetime is very, very small."

When asked about how an eruption could affect drinking water or geothermal energy—which relies on underground water heated by magma to turn turbines—Kristín also assuaged fears.

"I think all the scientists are looking into this," she said. "Right now, there isn't a great concern about this. The main drinking water does not come from this area."

How can we know?

Despite lurid headlines that you might see elsewhere—such as any particular volcano being "overdue" for an eruption—volcano science is still in large part based on history, predictive models and best estimations. Even with all of our advanced technology, knowing when a volcano may erupt is still not exactly pinpoint accurate. How come?

Þorvaldur uses meteorology as a comparison. He points out that studying the weather began centuries ago, but that the first weather map wasn't published until the late 19th century. This developed into weather forecasts in the 20th century, but it wasn't until the late 20th century that we even began to be able to accurately predict, to the minute, when a storm might touch down in a particular area.

"What we try to do in the field of volcanology is a similar thing; to be able to forecast eruptions," he says. "We started trying to do that in the early years of the 20th century, so we've only been able to work on this for just over 100 years. We don't have daily observations, because volcanoes are not erupting daily. We get very few events that we can actually observe. We have to use remote sensing techniques, using tools that will hopefully give us information on what's happening in the Earth."

It's a bit like trying to measure the movement of clouds based on secondary data.

"Earthquakes are not property of the magma," Þorvaldur continues. "They're a consequence of a stress build up in the crust. We don't see the magma move. You can see the clouds move, and we try to do the same thing [with magma], but with far less clarity. That's one of the reasons why we haven't yet gotten to the point where we can forecast or even predict volcanic eruptions. Each eruption, which is basically our laboratory,



"The experience can be unnerving, because it's not something you can do anything about and the whole earth is shaking, but there's basically nothing to worry about."

is very useful for that purpose. That's why we want to learn as much as we can from each event. We'd like to be able to have such exercises every day, but it's not possible, because nature doesn't work on that timescale."

Another thing to bear in mind are the massive timescales we're dealing with when it comes to volcanoes.

"The timescales of individual systems are different," Þorvaldur says. "Hekla erupts very often. Volcanoes on the Reykjanes peninsula go into this stage of unrest and eruption every 800 years or so, and that period can last some 200 to 400 years. It's episodic. It's not a constant unrest. You can have a period of unrest that lasts for a few months and then it calms down, and you repeat that over a period of two or three decades, and then it goes quiet for 70 or 80 years, and then it picks up again."

"For us, it's a very long period of time," he points out. "For the volcano, it's an instant. It's on a totally different timescale. It's both fascinating and difficult to grasp, this long timescale. Especially when volcanoes, when they actually kick in, then they switch gears and everything is happening one-two-three. When the processes kick in, there are processes happening over milliseconds to determine if you're going to have an explosion eruption or an effusion eruption. This is the challenge of studying volcanoes."

What's the worst that could happen?

Despite assurances from Kristín and Þorvaldur that if an eruption happens, it will very likely not be a devastating event, Þorvaldur was nonetheless quite willing to discuss what the worst case scenario for a Reykjanes eruption could be.

"In terms of danger to the population, let's just make an assumption that we have an eruption site where if lava comes up it will flow towards a populated area," he says. "In terms of Reykjanes peninsula, the worst case

scenario is we would get a very strong fountaining eruption at the very beginning, which would produce lava flows that would move at very high speeds downslope, on the order of 30 to 60 kilometres per hour. In that case, if you look at the peninsula, the distance from an eruption site to a populated area is on the order of five to 15 kilometres. The response time then would be around one to three hours. If you take an average eruption, the response time would be three to ten days or so. But the worst case scenario I'm describing would be a very unusual event. However, even in those cases we would have time to respond. That's the important thing. You may not be able to save a lot of your things, but you would definitely be able to get away from it."

So we would have plenty of time to evacuate people from an eruption area in Reykjanes. But where would these people go?

"It's very unlikely that a fissure will open up and cut off all roads," he says. "There would always be route out. You may have to go the long way around in some cases, and maybe go to Keflavík and that area. Lava is never going to go there. That would be an eruption of dimensions that we have never seen in Iceland. Let's say you were in Vogar or Grindavík, and you get cut off from going towards Reykjavík, you can always go towards Keflavík and you would be safe over there. Of course, we can't rule out that we would have a megaeruption on the peninsula, but that's very, very unlikely. Even then, you would have boats to get everyone out."

Never fear, Civic Protection is here

Rögnvaldur Ólafsson, spokesperson for the Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management, is a part of the team that would be key to these evacuations. In the same Reykjavík Newscast where we spoke with Kristín, Rögnvaldur was optimistic.

"I think we're pretty safe," he said. "We have good modelling and we know what we're dealing with. We know what kinds of eruptions we can have and roughly where. All the infrastructure is designed to withstand these kinds of quakes. We do not expect buildings to

collapse. You might see some fractures in some buildings, but total collapse of buildings is not something we expect to see. The experience can be unnerving, because it's not something you can do anything about and the whole earth is shaking, but there's basically nothing to worry about."

To Rögnvaldur, this is all a part of the job.

"Basically when you break it down, it's the same situation," he said. "You can even compare it to what we do regarding COVID-19. We're quite used to dealing with situations like this. But of course, it's always a challenge [to have this possible eruption site] close to the largest populated area in Iceland. But we haven't seen anything in the modelling or predictions that are great cause for concern. Just like with COVID-19, as soon as we know something we give that information to the public. So you don't have to worry that there's something we're not telling you."

Fund your scientists!

As the situation is now, Kristín says, we're all doing our best with what we have.

"There's a lot of uncertainty at this moment," she told the Newscast. "We have to follow the data and make sense of what's happening. We are doing our best to include the best scientists to work on this and come up with a consensus of the most likely scenarios. But we just have to wait and see."

For his part, Þorvaldur believes the science of volcano prediction will only get better.

"We have to integrate systems that are measuring the geophysical side of things, with petrological measurements, along with volcanological measurements and data," he told us. "It

has to be an integrated thing. Remote sensing might play a very important role in that, especially when we can get better at looking at deformation using satellite based observations. I think satellite measurements, in the end, might be the key to reliable eruption predictions, just like they've been the key to reliable weather forecasts."

One would expect that for a geologically active island nation like Iceland that earth scientists would have all the money they need. When asked if this was the case, Þorvaldur was quite clear.

"Oh, absolutely not. We never get enough funding," he told the Grapevine. "Of course we want more money! The truth is, and it's sad to say as it's true for many other places as well, science is generally underfunded. We appreciate the things that we get and we are generally not complaining too much, but I think society would benefit from investing in scientific research in general because it is the cheapest way of preventing harmful things that may affect us."

Surely members of parliament would want to make sure that volcanologists have all the money we need, right?

"Absolutely," Þorvaldur says. "Earth sciences in general and volcanology in particular have been struggling to get funding over the last five years. There's many different reasons for that, and one important part of that is how they set up who gets funded or not and another part is that we haven't looked well enough after our own interests. There's always two sides to everything. [The current situation] is a good exercise for us in the response time, but is also a good reminder for the community that lives in the Reykjanes peninsula that they do live on an active volcano, and you should take that into account when you're planning things."

All this being the case, perhaps the current situation will remind those holding the purse strings that the earth sciences in Iceland are crucial to our survival. However the current situation plays out, that much should be abundantly clear by now. 🍷

Happening

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LOL: Loft Out Loud

Lofty Ambitions Comedy Night

March 18th & April 1st - 20:00 - Loft Hostel - Free!

Finally, a new comedy night! Yipee! While 2020 had us dying for laughter (and a vaccine), 2021 is here with some actual giggles (and vaccines). Anyway, this twice-a-month comedy series will feature a rotating roster of comedians trying out some longer material for upcoming solo shows. There are limited seats, so make sure to show up early. **HJC**



We <3 Piano Sadboys

Magnús Jóhann Release Concert

March 12th - 20:30 - Harpa - 3,900 ISK

'Without Listening' by Magnús Jóhann was one of those constantly-on-repeat-at-the-grapevine-office albums in 2020. Meandering through a murky area between post-classical, improvisational jazz and dark electronica, you could perhaps call his effort "genre-fluid." Magnús has a deft understanding of sound, transitions and how you can meld them together into endless forms. Now he's finally here with his long-awaited release concert, and so are we. **HJC**



Ich Bin Ein Film-iner

German Film Days

March 12th-21st - Bió Paradís

Bió Paradís in collaboration with the Goethe-Institut Dänemark and the German Embassy in Iceland is back with German Film Days. The lineup of the festival is spectacular, but we're particularly excited to see 'Futur Drei' ('No Hard Feelings'), a story about a young German/Iranian queer who falls in love with a refugee. We'd also recommend 'Als Hitler das rosa Kaninchen stahl', ('When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit'), which describes author Judith Kerr's family's escape from the Nazis. This might be a particularly nice film to see considering Yom HaShoah (the holocaust remembrance day) starts on April 7th this year. **HJC**

CULTURE NEWS



Dýrfinna Benita Basalan, Reykjavík's resident SpiderWoman

Feminist Queer Insect AI Fantasies

Seriously, just go see 'Yes, a falling tree makes a sound (and it has a lot to say)'

Info

'Yes, a falling tree makes a sound (and it has a lot to say)' will be at Kling & Bang from March 27th to May 9th.

Words:

Hannah Jane Cohen

Feature photo:

Art Bicnick

The idea of science fiction as a tool for social progression isn't a new one. For what did 'Frankenstein' do if not criticise the needless discrimination and unbridled hubris of mankind? The art of science fiction has oft been a progressive one, with creators imagining a new reality, often a more egalitarian one, and sharing that vision with the world.

Curated by Helena Aðalsteinsdóttir, Kling & Bang's new exhibition 'Yes, a falling tree makes a sound (and it has a lot to say)' takes this concept into every conceivable lightyear, presenting a series of works inspired by feminist science fiction. Artists showcase reimagined futures, rewrite patriarchal narratives and offer artistic recentrali-

sations of marginalised identities.

Goodbye CEOs, hello aliens

French-Arab artist and poet Tarek Lakhri will present his first short sci-fi film, which is entitled 'Out of the Blue' at the exhibition.

"The starting point was to imagine a world where queer people of colour were at the centre," Tarek told the Grapevine—digitally, as is the custom in these times. "From there, I imagined this whole scenario where aliens are kidnapping all the big CEOs in the world. I like thinking about sci-fi as a place for fantasy, but also queer fabulation, radical imagination and humour."

Tarek's fascination with fantasy came from horror books and shows when he was a teenager, like 'Buffy the Vampire Slayer', 'Charmed' and 'X-Men'. "I was deeply touched by the connection and disconnection between the real world and futurist and supernatural worlds," he continues. He later began to consume authors like Ursula Le Guin, Samuel Delany and the philosopher José Esteban Muñoz, which sparked his future obsession with language.

"Language is a powerful and political tool," he explains. "As a French Arab who grew up in a working-class family, I find power and freedom in the articulation of language, feelings, theory and community-building. Creating new narratives is, of course, a political act: I want to be seen, heard and I want to define myself with my own words."

Welcome the insects!

For Dýrfinna Benita Basalan, the exhibition was also a chance to define herself. But moreover, it was a chance to redefine herself and put her triumphs and traumas into a new light—or a new being.

"I started thinking about the gendering of things, like the spear and penetration, and from there I started to think about insects," Dýrfinna says. "The spider has always been this feminine creature. Like when you think about the Black Widow, you think of a female who has sex with a male and then kills it."

This led Dýrfinna to re-evaluate her own personal relationship with insects, which has always walked the line between friends and enemies. "I used to give spiders names and carry them around like friends," she says, laughing. "But then, I have also been eaten alive from the inside by worms. I had parasites and I was hospitalised."

To actualise this dichotomy, Dýrfinna's been welding her own spider web as well as small sculptures and drawings that will, as she emphasises, "infest" the rest of the gallery space.

"Infestation is a very vague word, it just means everywhere," she concludes. "It's been really intuitive."

Bread & porn

Intuitivity was also the base for Brokat Films' contribution. The duo behind it—Sasa Lubińska and Joanna Pawłowska—will exhibit a video art piece, an installation and a video game.

Brokat's game is a choose-your-own-adventure enterprise. "Joanna did the script. You know those games with the flat characters on a flat background with text?" Sasa asks. "It's used mostly for romance games." She laughs. "There was only one game of this genre that I played and it was gay porn."

Joanna smiles. "I remember playing those games in Poland as a teenager. It was the time in my life when my sexuality started to blossom, so it was very exciting," she explains. "We're returning to that time. It's putting characters in these everyday situations—they go to the bakery to buy bread, to a party, from planet to planet and then meet aliens. You know, life as it is."

"Brokat is just expressing ourselves," Joanna concludes. "So the exhibition clicked very well because Brokat films is, at its core, our own planet, our own space—a safe space—where we can be who we are and enjoy it fully." 🍷



Brokat Films, probably talking about Raëliism



Tarek Lakhri's 'Out of the Blue'. Courtesy of the artist and VITRINE London/Basel.

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Lukas Bury's 'Lithuania, My Fatherland!'

The Raw Power Of Pop Baroque

Erró's energy flows through Icelandic art in a new exhibition

Words: John Pearson Photos: Art Bicnick

The name Erró is often followed by the phrase "Iceland's most famous artist," a custom which can leave the uninitiated perhaps feeling a little under-informed, or even philistine. For Erró's work isn't given the unmissable civic prominence awarded, say, to Miró or Gaudí by Catalonia.

Thankfully the Reykjavík Art Museum is perfectly placed to bring the unenlightened into Erró's warm glow, given that it possesses over four thousand pieces of his work. The newly-opened 'Raw Power' exhibit displays a selection of these alongside work from 15 other Icelandic artists, encouraging the viewer to draw comparisons, discover connections and witness Erró's influence on the collective creativity of his native culture.

Physically separate, creatively connected

Erró left Iceland as a young man to study art, eventually relocating to New York in 1964 where he befriended pop-artists Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol, and began to develop his own style of painted collage appropriation. Later on, he ventured back across

the Atlantic to find himself appropriated by European creative culture, eventually becoming subsumed by French art history while residing in Paris.

Birgir Snæbjörn Birgisson—Reykjavík artist, and erstwhile technician at the Reykjavík Art Museum—curated 'Raw Power' at the request of his former employer. He remembers being lectured on Erró when he was an art student in France.

"I was studying in Strasbourg at the time," he recalls. "They were covering the French art scene, and Erró was mentioned. By chance, the professor remembered that I was in the class, and pointed out to the class that actually Erró was Icelandic. And that told me how embedded he was in the French art scene."

Art philosopher Arthur Danto once described Erró as "bringing pop art into its flamboyant baroque," a description which further cemented his place in the continental European tradition.

This appropriation by other cultures—and Erró's absence from Iceland for most of his life—have perhaps tended to foster the perception of a remove between the artist and his homeland.

"I never felt that the separation was at his request," says Birgir. "I mean, he regularly gives his works to the City of Reykjavík. When the decision was made to house his archive here and have a permanent show, maybe the separateness comes from that. Maybe it's because mixing him with other artists was never an option, until now."

The chance for 'Raw Power' arose when the museum announced similar shows focussing on Icelandic painter Jóhannes S. Kjarval, and Icelandic sculptor Ásmundur Sveinsson. The Erró exhibit completes this triptych.

"I think Erró has influenced us all, even though we don't want to admit it."

"I had pointed out the idea behind 'Raw Power' to the museum a few times, and I'm not the only one," Birgir points out. "Hopefully this exhibition will open up the chance for more Erró shows tackling narrower themes, such as politics."

Iggy Pop art

The show is named after a small post-pop-art collage produced by Erró in 2009, featuring an appropriated cartoon depiction of Detroit musician Iggy Pop. Fittingly then, the title of the exhibition is itself an appropriation. 'Raw Power' is the title of the

third album released in 1973 by Iggy and his band, The Stooges, a record that was hugely influential on punk and in the lyrics of which Iggy famously claimed the title "world's forgotten boy". It was Kurt Cobain's favourite album—a love shared by Birgir.

"It didn't start with the title, of course, but the title came soon and it hit the tone," he reflects. "Power is something I'd say that we all relate to when we think of Erró's work, and the rawness is maybe the extra spice to it."

Juxtaposed with Erró

The work of the fifteen chosen artists in Raw Power is interspersed with that of Erró himself, arranged in ways that encourage the viewer to make connections and draw threads between pieces.

The presence of Erró's 'The Tomato Soup' in the exhibition makes a clear connection to arguably the world's most famous piece of pop art—Warhol's 'Campbell's Soup Cans'—and is a reminder of Erró's role in that scene. Erró produced his own soupy opus the year after his partner-in-appropriation Warhol put his cans on display, cheekily re-appropriating an appropriation. Erró draws attention to a piece created and currently displayed on the other side of the Atlantic, serving up a reminder of his lack of concern with concepts of artistic nationality.

Dórdís Aðalsteinsdóttir's 'Shrimp Cocktail' is hung next to Erró's 'The Tomato Soup'. The works are connected in an uncomfortably visceral way through the naked, pink shellfish of Dórdís' work echoing the exposed human

intestines laid bare by Erró.

Seafood is one of Iceland's cultural touchstones and, in addition to Dórdís' shrimps, fishy motifs are repeated around the room. Pieces by Helgi Þorgils Friðjónsson and Arngrímur Sigurðsson—depicting blue lobsters and cephalophilia, respectively—both echo the cycle of human and piscine death portrayed in Erró's painting 'Green Mother'.

Icelandic diaspora

Reflecting the idea of an Icelandic creative diaspora, a couple of decades ago Icelandic artist Sara Riel went to Germany. 'Mausfrau'—one of her contributions to 'Raw Power'—represents her time dodging the polizei as a tagger in Berlin. She now divides her time between Reykjavik and Athens, but even during her Berlin period Sara's connection to her homeland remained strong.

"I don't ever not want to be an Icelandic artist," Sara explains as she sits in the Greek sunshine. "That's why I moved back to Iceland from Berlin. I wanted to write this into my own cultural history."

When asked about Erró's influence, Sara says that the generational gap between the master and the younger artists creates more of a remove than any geographical situation.

"I think Erró has influenced us all," she suggests, "even though we don't want to admit it. He's like a grandfather to us, which makes him something of a distant character."

Lukas Bury, another 'Raw Power' artist, is a new Icelandic with Polish-German roots. His self-

portrait 'Lithuania, My Fatherland!' sees him dressed in a traditional Icelandic sweater, surveying an Icelandic landscape.

The title, etched into the painting in Polish, is from a 19th century poem by Adam Mickiewicz. The poem touches on the notion of national borders—and identities—shifting due to politics and conflict. Mickiewicz considered himself to be Lithuanian, but from a modern perspective he would be Belarusian.

"But then Mickiewicz wrote in Polish," Lukas expands, "and he is a national poet of all of those countries. So already his artistic identity is pretty complex."

To connect Lukas' work with an overtly political aspect of Erró, Birgis places it next to 'United Army', one of Erró's appropriations of Maoist propaganda.

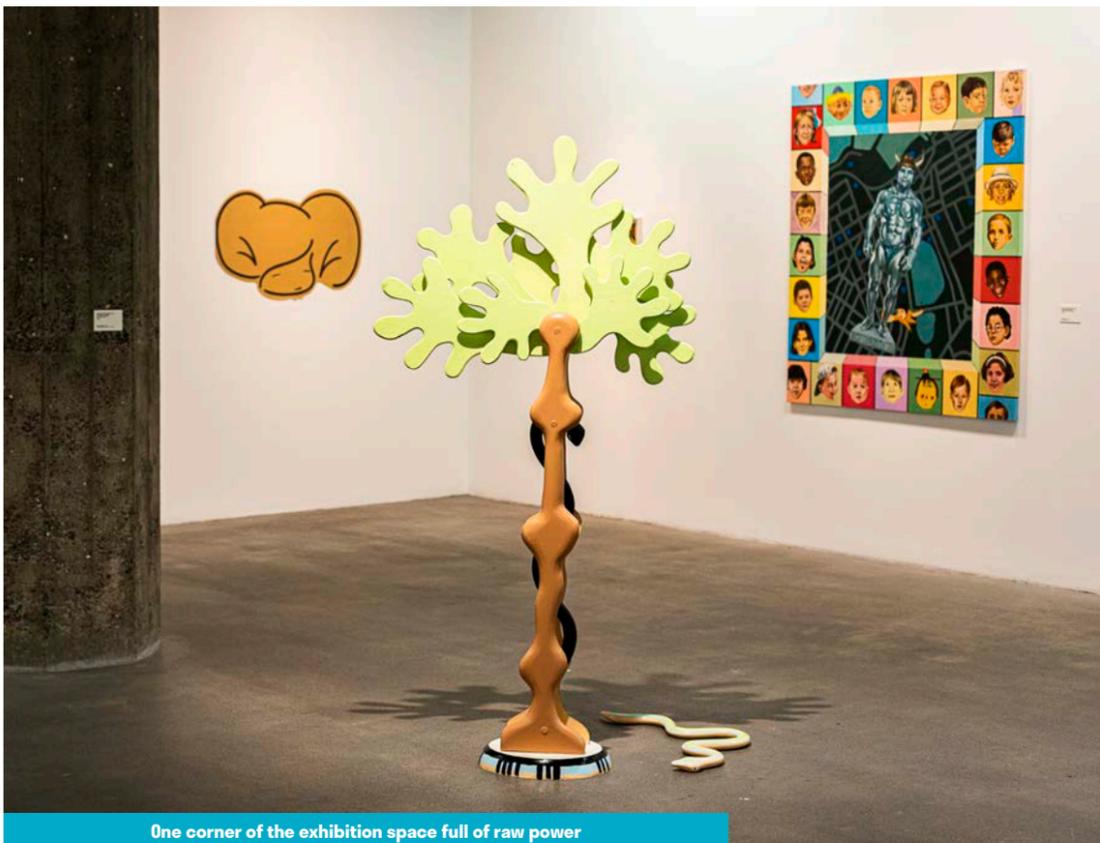
"This is about creating, or re-writing, history through painting," Lukas says of the connection between the works. "Mao is visiting Venice; something that never happened. But it is something that could have happened if world history had gone a different way."

Erró—the world's acclaimed artist

Iggy Pop may lay claim to being "the world's forgotten boy," but through 'Raw Power' Erró reinforces his legacy as Iceland's most globally-recognisable artist. Having said that, his blazing the trail for an Icelandic creative diaspora renders such definitions redundant. Erró's energy, power and influence extend beyond descriptions of nationality to exist universally. ♡



Lukas (left), Birgir (right) and Erró (behind)



One corner of the exhibition space full of raw power

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Where To Get Your Grapevine Tattoo

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Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen** Photo: **Art Bicnick**

The last few years have seen a boom of tattoo parlours around Reykjavík. In fact, there's now so many that we literally don't have the space to feature them all here, which we sincerely apologise for. That said, here's a diverse selection of what this city offers. (Email that GV ink to grapevine@grapevine.is)

Íslenzka Húðflúrstofan

Ingólfsstræti 3

This classic shop caters to all styles, with a roster of artists that serve up everything from realism to new-school and more, all done beautifully. We'd particularly recommend the hand-poked pieces by **Habba (@habbanerotattoo)**, Reykjavík's resident witch-stave-runic genius. Not only are they gorgeously ornate in that straight-out-of-800-AD-way, but they might save you from evil spirits.

White Hill Tattoo

Laugavegur 25

For illustrative, watercolour and similarly bright and ethereal works, head to White Hill. The one and only **Marlena (@marle-**

na_sweet_hell, formerly of Sweet Hell) is a master of this stuff, who you can trust to give you jewel-eyed animals surrounding by flowing pastel clouds or other enchanting things like that. That said, we'd particularly like to compliment **Hrefna Maria (@haria_art)** on the gothic blackwork she's got going on. As an (internally) goth magazine, her devotion to the darker arts must be celebrated (sullenly).

Street Rats Tattoo

Hverfisgata 37

Runner-up for our Best of Reykjavík 2020 award for Hidden Gem, Street Rats Tattoo is the personal playground of **Kristófer, a.k.a. Sleepofer Tattoo (@sleepofertattoo)**. He does that sort of full-on thick traditional shit that never goes out of style. Think naked ladies, skulls, snakes and spiderwebs. You know, devil-may-care things that make you look cool.

Valkyrie Tattoo Studio

Fiskilóð 31

First off, this studio no doubt has the best

view of any in Reykjavík so we'd love to offer to switch offices with them. Second off, this is another place that runs the gamut of styles beautifully. It's notably a great place for nerds, as they have a dedicated artist **Joel (@geeks_ink)** who does, as you could guess, geeky shit.

Black Kross

Hamraborg 14a, Kópavogur

A really, really, really good place for old school. Actually, the artists there do everything well, but their old school is particularly *chef's kiss*. In my experience, people who like Black Kross are weirdly culty about it—like they only get tattooed there and go a lot and just really love it—so watch out, they might be putting something in the ink. (For legal reasons, that's a joke.)

Memoria Collective

Hverfisgata 52

Another place that does most styles and does them really well. That said, **Balli's (@balliagnars)** got some particularly stellar neo-traditional and **Deborah Lilja (@treespirits.tattoo)** just started serving up some anime stuff which we—an office stacked to the brim with untranslated manga—love. We must also shout out the black and grey work of **Emii Dun (@emii.dun.tattoos)**, who has tattooed the author of this article many times. No favouritism here, folks.

Bleksmiðjan Tattoo & Piercing

Kringlan 7

Located next to Kringlan, Bleksmiðjan is an-

other fan favourite. **Ingi (@bleksmidjan.ingi)** is a go-to for colour-realism, which you don't see a ton of in this country. Also, notably, Bleksmiðjan has some amazing piercing people (**@bleksmidjan.piercing**) who can do everything from smilies to dermals. No word as to whether or not they can install a \$24 million pink diamond in our forehead, though.

Apollo Ink

Síðumúli 3

Apollo Ink is probably the number one place for black and grey realism in Reykjavík, considering most of the artists here specialise in it and just do it really fucking well. **Adrian Chou's (@adrian.chou.art)** surrealist take on the style is particularly trippy, but seriously, Jesus Christ, everyone here is just really good ain't they? Isn't realism supposed to be super hard? Where did they find these people?

Reykjavík Ink

Frakkastigur 7

The one. The only. No doubt a downtown institution by this point, Reykjavík Ink is a tried-and-true locale that has been serving the local community faithfully for 13 lucky years. Pro-tip: They get really fantastic guest artists, so keep an eye on their Instagram to see who's coming over.

Irezumi Ink

Laugavegur 69

Great location. Classic team. Takes walk-ins daily. That's kind of like the golden trio for a good ole' tattoo parlour, yeah? If you need an even sweeter deal, they are also now offering 20% off big black and grey arm pieces for March. So you really have no excuse do you? I mean it's downtown for God's sake.

Also Check Out:

- **Aura Reykjavík:** The new studio on the block. We're excited to see what 2021 holds for them.
- **Ritual Tattoo:** Another great bunch that seems to get some truly unique guest artists. Follow on Instagram (**@ritual_tattoo_ice-land**) to keep up.
- **After 6 Tattoos:** Kind of a supergroup collective featuring **@uglybrothers**, **@sleeplessinrvk**, **@mottandi** and **@kocane_wayne**. Message on Instagram to talk about your groundbreaking ideas.
- Other various Instagrams to follow: **@thorsttattoo**, **@hopingnopolice** and wow there are so many people right now please don't be sad if we forgot anyone. 🌟

Note: Anyone who gets a Grapevine tattoo gets a free year subscription to the Grapevine and an article dedicated to them. We'd prefer it in that blackwork-with-red-lines we know you're lusting after right now. E-mail for designs.

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March 12th—April 8th

In Your Pocket



Reykjavík Map

Places We Like

Best Of Reykjavík

Perfect Day

Dance, jive & have the time of your life



Words: John Pearson
Photo: Art Bicnick

Margrét Rán

Margrét Rán Magnúsdóttir is most often found fronting *Vök*, Iceland's premier purveyors of lucid-dream pop, but she also makes music for films. Margrét's beautiful, visceral soundscapes underpin 'A Song Called Hate', the powerful *Hatari-Eurovision* documentary which recently got its cinematic release. Here's how Margrét's perfect day in Reykjavík would be spent.

Breakfast in Birkenstocks

First thing in the morning, I would wake up to beautiful sunshine through my window. My cat, Emma, would be cuddling me, which she never does in real life. Then I would put on clothes and my Birkenstocks, walk to the kitchen and make a delicious pour-over coffee and oatmeal banana pancakes, while listening to Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong. I would, of course, enjoy this nice morning with my girlfriend, Bryndis. I love these slow tempo mornings!

Mid-morning music

I tend to be more creative earlier

in the day, so mid-morning I'd go to my studio in Hafnarfjörður. There, I'd work on something exciting—probably a *Vök* song, because I'm finishing the album right now—that I can feed off the next few days. I'd listen to it over and over again, until I can't stand it. I love that!

Lunchtime life-chats

It's lunchtime and I'm feeling quite social. I'm in love with a place called Von Mathus, which is by the sea downtown in Hafnarfjörður. So I'd go over there, meet up with friends, get the fish of the day and talk about life. Then I'd jump over to Café Pallett—which is in the same building—get takeaway coffee and drive to Hvaley-rarvatn for a nice walk in the sun.

Artisanal afternoon

I keep day-dreaming about building something out of wood, like a dinner table or something. I don't know anything about carpentry, but I want to be able to do it! So I'd go to my fantasy wood workshop where I'm surrounded by all this crazy beautiful wood and I would build myself a

table. And my best friend, Svanhildur, would be there. She's been battling cancer, so she would be totally healthy and cancer-free. And we would just be laughing hard because obviously we're amateurs, and don't know shit about woodwork.

Hot night, cold mojitos

Later on I'd go to the lovely Sóllir Yoga, where I've been doing mind-blowing hot yoga classes. Then I'd head on home to Hafnarfjörður and take a long hot and cold shower, after which it would be time for me and Bryndis to pack our bags. We'd put Emma in the car and go for a quick delicious pizza at Flatey in Garðabær, where I would get my favorite tartufo pizza. As it's my perfect day, Emma would get to sit at the table with us! Afterwards we would head to my summer house in Grímsnes where my family would already be mixing the mojitos. Then we'd end this perfect day by blasting music on the summerhouse porch, dancing in the heat of the night! So that would be my perfect day. It's a really good one—and a long one! 🍷



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Venue Finder

Venues	Museums & Galleries
ART67 Laugavegur 67 F7 Open daily 9-21	The Penis Museum Laugavegur 116 F8 Open daily 10-18
Austur Austurstræti 7 D3	Ásmundarsalur Freyjúgata 41 G6 Open Tue-Sun 8-17
American Bar Austurstræti 8 D3	Aurora Reykjavík Grandagarður 2 B1 Open 09-21
Andrými Bergþórugata 20 G6	Ásgrímur Jónsson Museum Bankastræti 7 E4 July 8-Sep 1, Mon-Fri
B5 Bankastræti 5 E4	Berg Contemporary Klappargata 15 E5 Tu-F 11-17, Sat 13-17
Bió Paradís Hverfisgata 54 E5	The Culture House Hverfisgata 15 E5 Open daily 10-17
Bravó Laugavegur 22 E5	The Einar Jónsson Museum Eiríksgrata 05 Open Tue-Sun 10-17
Curious Hafnarstræti 4 D3	Exxistenz Bergstaðast. 25b F4
Dillon Laugavegur 30 E5	Galleri List Skipholt 50A H10 M-F 11-18, Sat 11-16
Dubliner Naustin 1-3 D3	Hafnarborg Ströngata 34, 220 Open Wed-Mon 12-17
English Pub Austurstræti 12 D3	Hverfisgalleri Hverfisgata 4 D4 Tu-Fri 13-17, Sat 14-17
Gaukurinn Tryggvagata 22 D3	i8 Gallery Tryggvagata 16 D3 Tu-Fri 11-18, Sat 13-17
Hard Rock Café Lækjargata 2a D3	Kjarvalsstaðir Fókagata 24 H8 Open daily 10-17
Hressó Austurstræti 20 D3	Ásmundarsafn Sigtún Open daily 10-17
Iðnó Vonarstræti 3 E3	Reykjavík City Library Tryggvagata 15 D3 Mon-Thu 10-18, Fri 11-18, Sat-Sun 13-17
Kex Hostel	Reykjavík City Library Tryggvagata 15 D3 Mon-Thu 10-18, Fri 11-18, Sat-Sun 13-17
	Árbæjarsafn Kistuhúfur 4 Open daily 10-18
	The Settlement Exhibition Baldursgata 12 D3 Open daily 9-18
	Reykjavík Museum of Photography Tryggvagata 15 D3 Mon-Thu 10-18, Fri 11-18, Sat-Sun 13-18
	Saga Museum Grandagarður 2 B2 Open daily 10-18
	Stígurjón Ólafsson Museum Laugarnestangi 70 Open Tu-Sat 14-17
	SÍM Hafnarstræti 16 D3 Open Mon-Fri 10-16
	Tveir Hrafnar Baldursgata 12 G4 Open Fri-Sat 13-16
	Wind & Weather Window Gallery Hverfisgata 37 E5

Vital Info



Useful Numbers

Emergency: 112
On-call doctors: 1770
Dental emergency: 575 0505
Taxi: Hreyfill: 588 5522 - BSR: 561 0000

Post Office

The downtown post office has moved to Hagatorgi 1, open Mon-Fri, 09:00–17:00.

Pharmacies

Lyf og heilsa, Egilsgata 3, tel: 563 1020
Lyfja, Laugavegur 16, tel: 552 4045
and Lágmúli 5, tel: 533 2300

Opening Hours - Bars & Clubs

Bars can stay open until 23:00 on weekdays and weekends until further notice.

Opening Hours - Shops & Banks

Most shops: Mon-Fri 10-18, Sat 10-16, Sun closed. Banks: Mon-Fri 09-16

Swimming Pools

Sundhöllin, the downtown pool at Barónsstígur, is an indoor swimming pool with hot tubs and a diving board. More pools: gpp.is/swim
Open: Mon-Thu from 06:30–22. Fri from 06:30–20. Sat from 08–16. Sun from 10–18.

Public Toilets

Public toilets in the centre can be found inside the green-poster covered towers located at Hlemmur, Ingólfstorg, by Hallgrímskirkja, by Reykjavík Art Museum, Lækjargata and by Eymundsson on Skólavörðustígur. Toilets can also be found inside the Reykjavík City Hall and the Reykjavík Library.

Public Transport

Most buses run every 20–30 minutes
Fare: 480 ISK adults, 240 ISK children.
Buses run from 07–24:00, and 10–04:30 on weekends. More info: www.bus.is.

A



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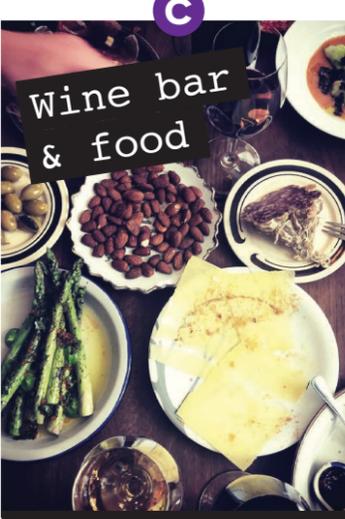
Himalayan



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C

Wine bar & food



VINSTÚKAN
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The Map

Get the bigger, more detailed version of The Reykjavík Grapevine City Map at your nearest hotel or guesthouse, with selections from our Best-Of awards, vital info, downtown bus stops and a wider view of the city.

Dining

1. Plútó Pizza

Hagamelur 67, 107 Reykjavík

Love pizzas, but don't think they're quite big enough? Why not dive into an 18 inch pie from Plútó Pizza? Or, if that sounds a bit much, opt for their slice and drink deal; and when we say "slice", we're still talking about a quarter of a pizza here—you won't go hungry.

2. Duck & Rose

Austurstræti 14

Duck & Rose is the hip and happening place that opened across the street from Apótek last May. The new cafe serves light fare influenced by French and Italian cuisine. With neon signs and roses on the walls, the chic cafe is certainly inspired by romance. Try the duck pizza. Their vegan rigatoni is also orgasmic.

3. Fjallkonan

Hafnarstræti 1-3

Named after the female personification of Iceland, Fjallkonan is located smack-bang in the middle of downtown, and caters to locals and tourists alike. For the Icelandic-cuisine-curious, there is a platter of whale, lamb and puffin. For those who are just looking for a great selection of fresh meat, fish and vegetarian options, Fjallkonan does these well, also. The veggie burger, double-cooked fries, and beetroot and feta dish come highly recommended.

4. Café Babalú

Skólavörðustígur 22

A staple for all Reykjavíkingur, Babalú offers comfort food for folks on a budget as well as a Star Wars themed bathroom (seriously). Their chilli will fill your belly, and there's a vegan carrot cake sure to tempt you back for repeat visits. Unpretentious and bubbly, tuck yourself into a booth downstairs or squirrel yourself away for a quiet tête-à-tête over tea upstairs. And try the vegan carrot cake, we beg you.

5. Deig

Vegamótastígur 4

It's hard to make any promises about availability at Deig due to the bakery's love of innovation and surprising flavours. The good news is that you'll rarely see a misstep there as all of their stuff is amazing. Stop by, and Deig'll fix you up with a chocolate cake cruller, crème brûlée doughnut or some other

fried delight. But if you get a chance to taste their glazed, almost cakey, lemon poppy seed doughnut—leap on it like a werewolf...

6. Osushi

Tryggvagata 13

Also called "The Train", Osushi's most intriguing feature is a conveyor belt that runs around the entire restaurant delivering a buffet of authentic Sushi straight to your table. It's the perfect place to try new dishes on appearance alone and see if they strike your fancy.

7. Hlemmur Mathöll

Hlemmur Square

They got it all, folks: Bahn mi, Napoli-style pizza, fish tacos, lamb specials, Michelin-quality high end cuisine, coffee, and even fucking gelato now. Yup, this food hall is a one-stop-shop for literally everything in Reykjavík's beloved bus station. It's also one of Grapevine's favourite places for a first date, in case you're like, in the market for that.

8. Fine

Rauðarárstígur 33

Did you know that the Chinese kanji for fine recalls that of rice/meal? This proper Sichuanese restaurant packs a wallop of flavour, heat and textural delight in each of their selections. The simply stir-fried hot and sour potato matchsticks and vegetables are exactly the kind of subtlety that has been absent from Chinese cuisines in these parts and puts to rest doubts that this is only a fiery spicy cuisine. Other must-tries are the beef in hot oil, yu-shiang chicken.

9. Yuzu

Hverfisgata 44

Headed up by the owners of beloved clothing store Húrra Reykjavík, Yuzu is an artisanal burger shop with an Eastern twist. Stop by for their lunch deal, which features a choice of burgers, with fries and spiced mayonnaise for 1,990 ISK. They've also got a kimchi chicken burger—not part of the lunch deal—which sounds deliciously intriguing. Real-talk: Yuzu's condiments converted two previously mayo-averse Grapevine staffers.

10. Höllabátar

Ingólfstorg

If you can't decide between chicken, beef, shrimp, teriyaki or veggies for your munch, stop by Höllabátar, where they serve up literally anything you can imagine on a hero sub. Most famous for their sauce—which is,

admittedly, fantastic—Grapevine's recc is the Sýslumannsbátur with extra cucumber. Intend to have a drunk gorge on your Hölli in the comfort of your bed before falling asleep on a sauce-covered pillow? Carry that beautiful sub like a newborn child in your arms.

11. The Cocoo's Nest

Grandagarður 23

Nestled in a refurbished fishing hut in Grandi, The Cocoo's Nest is a cosy and airy cafe, offering California-casual brunch, lunch, and dinner, with an Italian twist. With large windows and light wood throughout, this is perfect for a lazy Saturday get-together or an afternoon 'aperitivo' after work. If you are in that part of town, head over for a warm-up.

Drinking

12. Vinstúkan Tíu Sopar

Laugavegur 27

The charming basement bar focuses on natural wines as well as wines from smaller producers and lesser-known regions. They have twelve bottles open at any one time, and the selection changes daily, so you truly never know what you're going to get.

13. Aldamót Bar

Kirkjutorg 4

Taking over the famed Klaustur place, this cosy spot is the perfect mix of classy and relaxed. It's become a favourite of our Culture Editor in the past months with socially distance-safe tables and table service. This place has got a bright and boozy future.

14. Kiki Queer Bar

Laugavegur 22

IT'S OPEN! Yup, Kiki is a love-it-or-hate-it situation, but if you're looking to dance to the greatest hits of the past 30 years, it won't disappoint. Even though right now there is no dancing, they are re-opening up with tables, small drag shows and other queer entertainment. RuPaul bless.

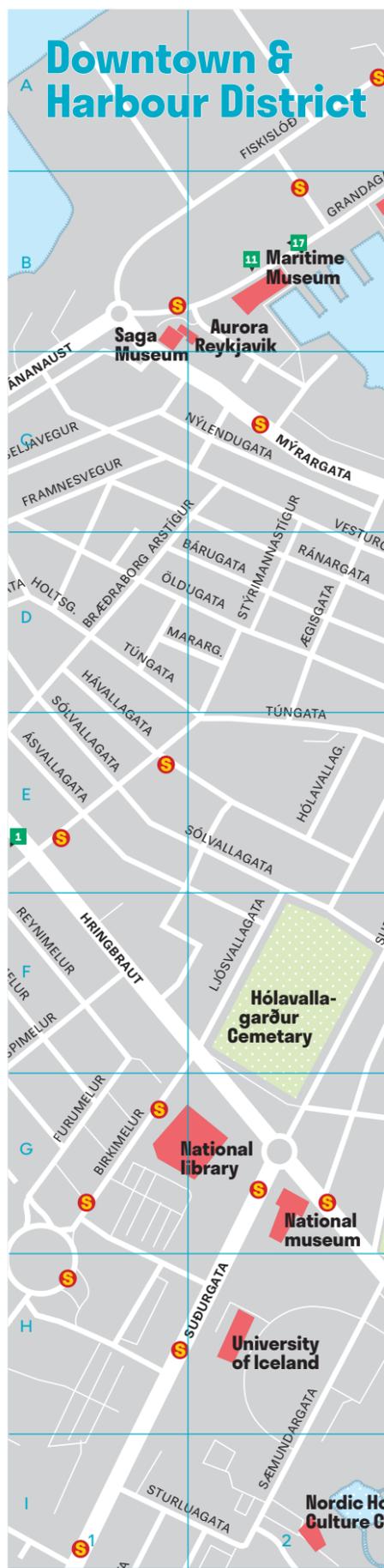
15. Miami Bar

Hverfisgata 33

With a sharp aesthetic that's miles ahead of any other joint in town, Miami serves up pure vice with a splash of cosmopolitanism and a dedicated ping-pong room in the basement. If that's not enough, they also offer Cuba Libre on draft. So sit back, drink, and you'll feel just like you're in 'Scarface'—minus the massacres and mountains of cocaine.

16. Mengi

Óðinsgata 2



Mengi's concert room is more white cube than dive bar. The programme encourages new collaborations and experimental performances, so even if you know and love the work of the musicians you're seeing, you might be treated to something brand new on any given night.

17. Luna Flórens

Grandagarður 25

Part flower-child, part spiritual and with a whole lot of whimsy thrown into the mix, this cosy and hand-crafted bar is so intimate it makes you wanna spend the day musing about geodes, lunar cycles and tarot card readings. You can do all this and more while sipping on their excellent house cocktails and an excellent slice of vegan cake. Go for an after work

E

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New In Town ☆



Hringekjan
Pórunnartún 2, 105

Hringekjan translates to 'carousel' and it's an apt name for the new spot, because to say this vintage store has a 'rotating' selection would be an understatement. Similar to a consignment shop, Hringekjan is a space where people can rent out spaces to sell their own clothes and accessories. It's the most eco-friendly way to keep your closet fresh—you're not getting fast-fashion or importing pieces from the other side of the world. No, you're just pushing the wheel of style-recycling, which, in light of our current world, is something we should all do more of. **HJC**

drink. That's when this place thrives.

18. Kaldi Bar

Laugavegur 20b

IT'S OPEN! Yup, a small, stylish drinking hole popular with the after-work business crowd, Kaldi is a great place to feel a little classier and drink with dignity. The beer selection is top-notch, and the handcrafted interior tips the scales of upscale rustic charm. You can be certain that conversation will rule, not loud music. You also might meet important people, fall in love, and move to Seltjarnarnes.

19. American Bar

Austurstræti 8

Football fans will rejoice in seeing the row of screens perennially tuned to sports channels above the bar, while troubadour aficionados will find in American Bar a great spot to listen to classic country music. Grab a rib and be happy.

Shopping

20. Myrkraverk Studio

Skólavörðustígur 3

This hole-in-the-wall artist-run space is a true treasure for those seeking some edgier artworks. Featuring a rotating cast of Reykjavik's best underground artists, including Freyja Eilif, Solveig Pálsdóttir, Boot Foot Toys and

Arngrímur Sigurðsson, it's a feast for the eyes with art covering nearly every available piece of space.

21. Hildur Hafstein

Klapparstígur 40

Hildur Hafstein is known for her slightly hippy, slightly witchy vibe—a lone jewellery shaman within the Icelandic scene. Filling a niche all her own, her mix of delicate jewellery with unusual shapes is truly a delight. Stop by her tucked away Klapparstígur studio to experience the magic in person.

22. Aftur

Laugavegur 39

Aftur is a mecca for Iceland's stylish

gothy fashionistas. Whilst most of the young Reykjavik crowd is wearing baseball caps and 90s throwback pieces, the older ones are often seen in flowing black capes and dresses. If you are into this particular 101 RVK look, this place is gold.

23. 12 Tónar

Skólavörðustígur 15

This city-centre record store is something of an institution, offering the unique experience of having the store staff ask about your music taste then sit you down with some headphones, and a pile of Icelandic records. It's also a label that puts out many top Icelandic artists. A must-visit Reykjavik store. Note: They also have a small bar and occasionally some shows.

24. Tulipop

Skólavörðustígur 43

Tulipop serves up everything from lamps to wallets all covered in the cutest monsters you'll ever see. The Icelandic brand's flagship store is an explosion of pastels and neons. Seriously, Tulipop is the cutest.

25. 66° North

Laugavegur 17-19

66 North is the OG brand in Iceland, donned by everyone from rural farmers to downtown fuckboys. Peruse their wares and it's obvious why—their quality and aesthetics is impeccable. These are pieces that will last you not only your lifetime, but probably your grandchildren's.



F

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AUSTURSTRÆTI 8 • REYKJAVÍK



You won't find Axel in a puffin shop

sea. It was a concept I wanted to write around; the story that I went on this journey, just to find out that I wanted to be home." Suddenly he laughs, almost rolling his eyes at his words. "The cliché feeling."

Of course—things are cliché for a reason. They're usually true.

Musically, Axel emphasises, it was also a journey home. "Previously, I felt like I wanted more pop elements to show people that I had a lot of sides to myself as an artist," he admits. "But I guess I thought that I wanted to do that more than I did, so when I went to this record, I thought I'm going to go back to my roots."

I went more acoustic indie-folk because I had always wanted my first record to represent that part of myself."

Maybe you'll find it

"Tourist"—Axel's first single from the album—is particularly emblematic of this. It's a pining song that feels most apt for a twilight walk through a foggy city. Slow and mournful at the beginning, it journeys into a large, aching soundscape and coalesces with Axel's resigned plea of, "Maybe you'll find it"—with each repetition more heartbreaking than the last. Even so, there's still a note of warmth in Axel's voice. You get the feeling he

doesn't just hope you'll find it—he's sure you will.

"Tourist" is how I felt. I felt like a tourist in all these places. And the emotion that brings out in you is just feeling lost, and looking for something that makes you feel like that is where you're meant to be," he explains. "And being a tourist is the opposite of that. You're unsure of your emotions. You start questioning everything and it had a domino effect on the rest of my life. I got to a point where I thought—is this what I want to do with my life? The thing I love the most? I got myself to a point where I started questioning my love for music."

But with the return home, Axel's questioning faded. And the album ends on an inspirational tone with the title song "You Stay by the Sea." It's a secure song, without the self-conscious questioning of "Tourist". Instead, from his position back in his roots, Axel ends his debut effort with definite sureness. Slowly, over a strong, simple piano melody, he gives his wisdom:

*"That your eyes won't bleed as much
When you stay by the sea
And your house won't need as much
With her, you will see
You stay by the sea" ♡*

"I went on this journey, just to find out that I wanted to be home."

gpv.is/music

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A Tourist, No More

On his debut effort, Axel Flóvent returns home

Words: [Hannah Jane Cohen](#) Photo: [Art Bicnick](#)

Album

Check out 'You Stay by the Sea' on all streaming platforms or pick up a copy at shop.grapevine.is

Perhaps Axel Flóvent's debut album 'You Stay by the Sea' is the album 2021 needs, even if it doesn't know it yet. After the chaos of 2020, Axel's calming, homey tones feel like a retreat into the quiet, carefree warmth of childhood—the folksy indie-pop that reminds us of the unpretentious humanness of the genre. It's an effort that exists outside of current events. Much like the waves it's named for, Axel has created a timeless work that harkens back to a time where the chance of a moment alone at home was a luxury, rather than a torment.

Returning home

The album followed Axel's move from Amsterdam to Brighton and subsequently home to Iceland. It was a dark time for the artist. He felt isolated and unsupported. For years, he had dreamt of releas-

ing his debut album, which he had years ago gone to Europe to do, but the pieces had never lined up. Now, missing his family and friends in Iceland and seemingly without purpose, he felt like he had no other choice.

"I didn't want to move home right away," he says softly. "I felt that if I returned to Iceland, I had failed in my mission. In my naive mind, I had this idea that if I was going to return to Iceland, I needed to come home with something."

But coming home ended up being serendipitous, because upon his return to the country, he was immediately contacted by his current label, Nettwerk, who were anxious to help him release his long-awaited debut. "They were the perfect fit for me," he smiles brightly. And in January, his dream was finally realised.

"I got to a point where I thought—is this what I want to do with my life? The thing I love the most?"

That cliché feeling

"The concept of the record came from this story," Axel continues. "It was the sense of being close to the sea because I grew up by the

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- Icelandic lamb with beer-butterscotch sauce
- Minke Whale with cranberry & malt sauce

And for dessert

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LATE NIGHT DINING

Our kitchen is open until 23:30 on weekdays and 01:00 on weekends



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Event Picks



POWER PALADIN ★

March 20th - 20:00 - Gaukurinn - Free!

Give in to the temptation of the palantír and join Kvothe for a magical journey into the forbidden forest. For when Iceland called for power metal, Power

Paladin came to its aid. The band, a longtime Grapevine favourite—check out our Airwaves reviews for proof of our devotion to their katet—is soon to release

their debut album, which will no doubt be sung by the sirens for aeons to come. So, weary traveller, come rest your wand by the fire and weep to the beauty of the unholy warory as you plan your quest to Mordor. For the wolves will come soon, down through the abandoned caverns of dwarven Moria and the golden fields of Fillory, and ye best not be in the fields of Calla (Gaukurinn) when that happens (after closing). Donne your best cloaks and richly embroidered tunics (or just a cloak, if you're a slut). **HJC**



Iceland Symphony Orchestra: Grammy Celebration ★

March 18th - 20:00 - Harpa - 2,400-5,700 ISK

AT THE TIME YOU ARE READING THIS, THE ICELAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA COULD BE GRAMMY WINNERS OR GRAMMY SHOULD-HAVE-BEEN WINNERS! We don't know because this is being published pre-Grammys. Either way, they will celebrate. Pop the champagne. Sing a pæan. **HJC**



Sycamore Tree ★

March 19th - 20:30 - Harpa - 4,990 ISK

Sycamore Tree—the duo of Ágústa Eva Erlendsdóttir and Gunnar Hilmarsson—is bringing the good ole' Americana to Harpa. Expect dramatic lyrics about loss and homecoming, that country singer thing they do where they raise the note at the end of the note and even a harmonica. Yee-haw! **HJC**



MUSIC NEWS

The much-anticipated and constantly-rescheduled Debussy — Rameau concert with classical virtuoso Vikingur Heiðar Ólafsson was one of the best-attended concerts of 2021 so far, with 800 guests in attendance. Held at Harpa over the second weekend in March, it was a smash hit. That said, there was, of course, a small hitch. Among the guests was one that didn't pay for its ticket—the notorious party pooper COVID-19. After one attendee tested positive for the virus, all of the guests subsequently needed to get tested with a dozen or so entering quarantine. **VG**

Verily! A volcano, virus and vendetta, held as a votive not in vain, vanquished our music listings pages. Vá! smh



Add a bagel to this album and we're in business



Sonic ADHD

Susan_creamcheese—the name—is a reference to Vilhjálmur's teenage Frank Zappa phase. "On one of his albums, there's an interlude. It's a skit where he's making fun of hippies. Then the interviewer, played by Frank Zappa, talks to this girl and she says, 'My name is Suzy Creamcheese' and the name just kind of stuck with me."

The Suzy Creamcheese lore runs deep. Admittedly, it's an internet rabbit hole you could easily spend hours in, but basically, Suzy Creamcheese was (allegedly) a moniker given to various women who were sort of hype guys for Frank Zappa. Their job was to get the party going and keep it high. It's therefore an apt reference for Vilhjálmur's music—which really would shine brightest at the deepest, darkest, late-night parties.

Vilhjálmur describes his music as "ADHD." "It's very much attention deficit disorder," he says, quite calmly. "I never have any concrete

ideas for songs. I just start doing something. Sometimes I have plans that I'm going to make something more approachable or more pop, but then it just always goes in some really weird direction. It doesn't really turn out exactly that way because of ADHD. It just goes somewhere else."

1,934 views

To approach this ether, he often utilises found clips. "I sample a lot from the internet: YouTube videos, Instagram stories, TikToks," he explains. "I'll also very often go out for walks and record sounds in the environment. Then I add, you know, 99 jumps and make a snare to give it a beat. I really like to plant all of this together so it's not too 'bleep-bloop'. I find a middle ground, but that's what I like about making my music. It's very naive."

For example, a sample from his song "Vindharpa 4" came from a YouTube video he found on a deep-dive. "It's this old man speaking in a foreign language. He seems to be ranting, but he, or someone, put a vocoder on his voice," Vilhjálmur says. He fails to mention that the man is wearing a tinfoil hat, which seems to make it all the more absurd. At the time of writing, the video has 1,934 views—that's how deep of a dive Vilhjálmur takes to find his inspirations.

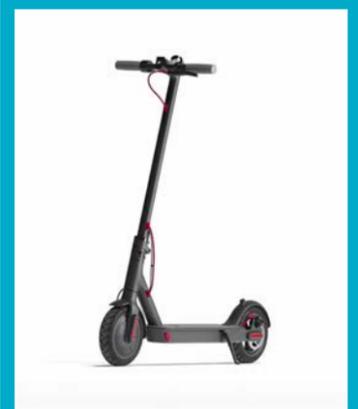
'common house buggy' is a collection of songs Vilhjálmur has made over the last two years, but that said, he urges listeners not to hold their breath for another solo release soon. "I have songs that I'm working on but you release stuff when you're totally ready," he admits. He takes his time with things, he explains, reworking and remixing songs endlessly until the moment is right. "I don't like pressuring myself to be creative," he concludes.

"I'm not perfect in production, but that's what I like about making my music. It's very naive."

But if these two albums tell us anything—it's that Vilhjálmur doesn't need to pressure himself to find creativity. No, he's already got delicious sonic cacophony running through his cream cheese veins. **♻**



Bubbi and Briet made headlines in the beginning of March with the release of their new duet "Ástrós," written by Bubbi. The song tells the story of a woman who murders her partner after enduring brutal domestic violence. Some are saying this is Bubbi's best song in decades—and that guy has a catalogue most musicians in Iceland, and even the Northern hemisphere, would, well maybe not kill for, but you get it. The song's goal is to spread awareness of the large growing problem of domestic violence during this time of COVID and it's safe to say it's done its job as every other Icelander has shed a tear listening to its beautiful and brutal lyrics. **VG**



On the topic of COVID-19—heard of it?—Scooter is coming back to Iceland and will infect the whole nation with his happy hardcore vibes until even your Grandma ends up swinging from the chandelier like an amphetamine-fuelled Energizer bunny. The concert will be in Laugardalshöllin on the 22nd of October, provided there are no COVID-19 interruptions. GusGus will also play at the concert as well as ClubDub and DJ Margeir. This is the 597th time Scooter will perform for Icelanders, who obviously have way too much energy to burn and some serious soul searching to do. **VG**

Sensory Overload

The delicious cacophony of Susan_creamcheese

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen Photo: Provided by Susan_creamcheese

Album

Check out Susan_creamcheese on all streaming platforms.

Enter the fantasy: You're on a weirdly positive bath salts trip. It's the peak of the party and the noise of the dance floor begins to envelop your soul, drowning out the pumping of blood through your pounding eardrums. You can't breathe. You can't speak. In fact, you have absolutely no idea what the upcoming seconds hold. You might be having a heart attack. But, as the sweat pools on your brow, you—for the first time in your life—are totally in the moment and totally, deliriously, out of control. And what's playing as you willingly enter the void? Susan_creamcheese.

Buckle up

Susan_creamcheese is the solo project of Vilhjálmur Yngvi Hjálmarsson, who recently dropped two albums with the post-dreifing collective entitled 'common house buggy' and 'glupsk 2' (a collaboration with Örlygur Steinar Arnalds and Guðmundur Ari Arnalds). His creations distil every type of electronic music you can imagine—and some you can't—down to a kaleidoscopic melange of cacophony. Even Nostradamus himself couldn't anticipate where Vilhjálmur's songs end up—they're that enchantingly erratic. So, dear readers, when you check out his work, here's some advice: Buckle up. It's going to be a weird ride.

i8

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4 February - 3 April 2021

ANDREAS ERIKSSON



Art



The artist in our own dimension, photographed in front of 'Gegnumtrekkur'

The Rules Of A New Dimension

Kristín Morthens' 'Gegnumtrekkur' pulls you through the window into another world

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen** Photos: **Art Biernick**

Exhibit

'Gegnumtrekkur' by Kristín Morthens will be up at Pula until March 28th

'Gegnumtrekkur'—the title of Kristín Morthens' newest exhibition at Pula—directly translates to 'the Bernoulli Principle.' It's a physics term that describes stack effect, or how differences in pressure affect the flow of substances in an enclosed environment. Basically, it's an extrapolation of the law of conservation of energy—that total energy must remain constant always.

But to be blunt, it's not exactly the type of thing you might immediately interpret from Kristín's paintings. Her works are a whirlwind of heightened, jewel-toned, chaotic abstractions, teaming with unlimited potential and kinetic energy. They don't scream balance, but rather push the limits of equilibrium in a fantastical, space-age way that seems completely outside the realm of physical laws. Does the conservation of energy even exist in her works? It's difficult to say.

"If you open two windows in the same space, the different air pressures of the wind and the air pressure inside will cause one window to get slammed shut," Kristín explains, walking around the airy exhibition room. "So for this show, I wrote an imaginative text where

this happens. I'm in a house and I open two windows and because of the air pressure, I get sucked out of one of those windows and journey into another reality."

Beautiful but dangerous

This new reality is rife with symbols that indicate the rules of Kristín's dimension. Some are the same as ours—hierarchy, power, love, and emotional and social contracts. "But all of this is in an alien, timeless space, so, for example, you have this shape here," she explains, pointing to the top of a work entitled 'Þyngdarlögmál' ('Gravity' or 'Weight Law').

"It's both the sun but it's also a wheel saw blade. So at the same time it's something that's vital, that creates life, but it's also fatal and dangerous."

Another shape that constantly reappears in the series resembles a hand curved around into a circle with long jagged fingers. It immediately brings to mind a fibonacci sequence set into the form of a claw—another mathematical law that may or may not exist in Kristín's universe.

She gestures to a work entitled '13 Tungl' ('13 Moons'), pointing to the large prominent claw displayed there. "Here, I've painted the nails red so it's exaggerated. It's taken from this reality of long,

red, femme nails—something that is beautiful and seductive, but also dangerous. Like 'don't fuck with her,'" she says. Walking around, she motions towards other works like 'Sog' ('Suck') and 'Brennisteinn' ('Sulfur'), which have the same motif—albeit set in different situations.

Almost-touching

'Brennisteinn', in fact, has two of these claws, both reaching towards each other but never quite making it—an endless mirrored loop of almost-touching.

"It creates this tension," Kristín notes as she regards her painting. "There's some border between affection and a push-and-pull, which maybe you could call rivalry. It's at the border of communication, which here, like the other symbols, is both loving and dangerous."

And perhaps it's here that the previously elusive Bernoulli Principle is seen in all its glory. For in 'Brennisteinn,' the kinetic energy of the flexing hands perfectly counters the potential energy of their almost-touching—the first law of thermodynamics triumphantly presented against a background of Prussian blue. ♡

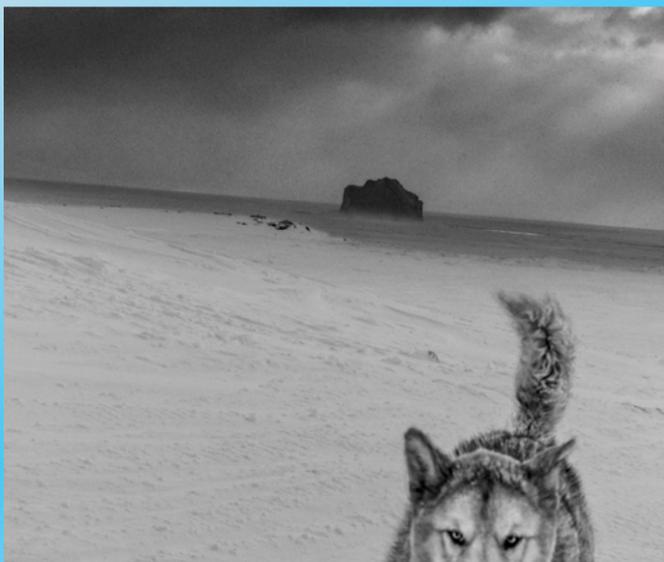


'Sólin hefur rauður neglur'

30.01.–09.05.2021

Ragnar Axelsson

Where the World is Melting



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Our Picks



★ D43 Auður Lóa Guðnadóttir: Yes/No

March 18th-May 9th - Reykjavik Art Museum Hafnarhús

Auður Lóa Guðnadóttir—the print-size sculptor and Princess

Diana scholar—is a Grapevine favourite. In fact, you might have read about her in our last issue. Now, she's here with a solo exhibition at Hafnarhús presenting more than 100 new sculptures made over the past two years. Yes, you read that right. 100 new sculptures—Giacometti could never! So come experience house pets, internet cats, found photographs, his-

torical reproductions, Instagram pics and more put into physical form, exploring issues as vast as post-colonialism and institutional discrimination to good ole' humour. If you want to study up before the show, spend some time diving into English pottery in Staffordshire. As Auður told the Grapevine, that's where she got the inspiration for this show. **HJC**



★ Andreas Eriksson

Until April 3rd - i8

Swedish artist Andreas Eriksson journeys between painting, tapestry, sculpture, photography, film, and installation. In the past, he's described his works

as "existential landscapes"—personal explorations of his own reality. Most of all, he's known for his innovative use of texture. But still, please don't touch the paintings. **HJC**



★ Shu Yi: A Lingering

Until March 31st - Mutt Gallery

Using ultra-long exposures, Shu Yi presents a series on experiencing time. The aim is to document a usually-forgettable moment

through observation. This is Mutt Gallery's second exhibition and we can't be more excited about their future. (Yes, we know we're supposed to be talking about the present.) **HJC**



★ The Arctic Circus

Until May 30th - Reykjavik Museum of Photography

For one and a half years, photographers Haakon Sand and Gudmund Sand followed

Sirkus Íslands, documenting the tightly knit groups they did their average trapeze-esque activities. So you could perhaps say... they ran away and joined the circus... **HJC**

March 12th-April 8th

Art Listings

Events are listed by venue. For complete listings and detailed information on venues, visit grapevine.is/happening.

Send your listings to: listings@grapevine.is

Opening

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - KJARVALSSTAÐIR

Eternal Recurrence

Jóhannes S. Kjarval—after whom the museum is named—is here put in dialogue with a number of prominent contemporary Iceland artists including Ólafur Eliasson, Ragnar Kjartansson, Steina and Eggert Pétursson. Now that's a lineup. • Opens on March 27th, 2021 • Runs until September 19th, 2021

Ongoing

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ICELAND

Of The North

'Of the North' (2001) is created from Steina's archive of video recordings, mostly of Icelandic nature—either the surface of the earth, or microscopic views: microbes, as well as crashing waves and melting ice, landslips and an array of natural phenomena relating to geological formation and destruction of our planet. • Runs until January 9th, 2022

Barren Land

In 2004, landscape painter Georg Guðni bought a plot of land and built a studio, which he entitled Berangur ('Barren Land'). This name could really be applied to all his works he created there—they are all touched with a rugged sensibility of the craggy weather-beaten barren land on which they were made. Check out a selection here. • Runs until April 25th, 2021

HELLO UNIVERSE

It's 2021 and we're over Earth. Enter Finnur Jónsson. The avant-garde artist of Finnur—the first Icelandic artist to address outer space in his works, in the first half of the 20th century—presents the artist's unfettered interpretation of the marvels of the celestial bodies, which are the theme of this exhibition. Always remember: We are but matter experiencing itself on a pale blue dot. • Runs until January 9th, 2022

EINAR JÓNSSON MUSEUM

Permanent Exhibition

The museum contains close to 300 artworks including a beautiful garden with 26 bronze casts of the artist's sculptures.

REYKJAVÍK CITY MUSEUM

Settlement Exhibition

As Viking ruins meet digital technology, this exhibition provides insight into Reykjavik's farms at the time of the first settlers.

REYKJAVÍK MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY

The Silent But Noble Art

Sigurhans Vignir (1894-1975) left the museum an archive of around 40,000 photographs. Many of these document everyday Icelandic society just after the creation of the Republic of Iceland in 1944—a christening, labourers at work, people skating, the occupation of Iceland during World War II by British troops, a beauty pageant, a birthday party, a wigmaker... and so on. • Runs until September 9th, 2021

The Arctic Circus

For one and a half years, photographers Haakon Sand and Gudmund Sand followed the everyday life of Sirkus Íslands. So, you could perhaps say... they ran away and joined (photographed) the circus. • Runs until May 30th, 2021

REYKJAVÍK MARITIME MUSEUM

Fish & Folk

Name a better duo than fish and Iceland. You can't. So come learn about the history of Icelandic fisheries from row boats to monstrous trawlers.

Melckmeyt 1659

Melckmeyt was a Dutch merchant ship that crashed near Flatey Island in 1659. Explore the wreck here, with two images of different origins against each other.

MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART

Peysa Með Öllu Fyrir Alla

You'd be a little taken aback if your doctor turned up with green lips, vampire fangs and dental braces or a giant tongue covered in a dozen tiny tongues—although maybe not in these strange times—but these are just the sort of surreal realities that Ýr Jóhannsdóttir—artist name Ýrurari—creates. Now she's got a studio project that will see her make her tongue-filled projects using only discarded sweaters from the Red Cross. Stop by on March 14th, 16th and 23rd to join in. • Runs until May 29th, 2021

DEIGLUMÓR: Ceramics from Icelandic

Clay 1930 - 1970

While ceramic art has followed humans since their earliest years, few relics of ceramic art from ancient Iceland have been preserved. That said, there is still a rich history of Icelandic clay in the 20th century and this exhibition is here to highlight the numerous workshops that took up the cause of Icelandic clay over the last hundred years. • Runs until May 9th, 2021

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - HAFNARHÚS

Ragnar Axelsson:

Where The World Is Melting

Grapevine-favourite Ragnar Axelsson presents a not-to-miss exhibition with selections from his 'Faces of the North', 'Glacier', and 'Heroes Of The North' series. Ragnar has been documenting the Arctic for over 40 years, and in stark black-and-white images, he captures the elemental, human experience of nature at the edge of the liveable world. • Runs until May 9th, 2021

Hulda Rós Guðnadóttir: WERK - Labor Move

Hulda Rós Guðnadóttir's installation in the lobby of the museum consists of a three-channel filmic work, sculptures, and a video recording of the assembly of said sculptures. It's an exploration of the multi-layered global economy—featuring dockworkers mimicking their own work in repeated choreography. Ooph, that really puts our work into perspective, right? • Runs until May 9th, 2021

D42 Klængur Gunnarsson: Crooked

Klængur Gunnarsson blends documentary and fiction to create a skewed view of everyday life and activities in this exhibition. The goal? Make you question the importance of taking a break. Just saying: We at the Grapevine love breaks. It's why we haven't yet developed a space program. • Runs until March 14th, 2021

Raw Power

Wait, another Erró exhibition? You bet! This one places Erró's works from different periods in the context of contemporary Icelandic art. It's a diverse selection that, as always, contain the numerous media reference the artist has become known for. • Runs until May 25th, 2021

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - KJARVALSSTAÐIR

Jóhannes S. Kjarval: At Home

Jóhannes Sveinsson Kjarval (1885-1972) was one of the pioneers of Icelandic art (the museum is literally named after him) and is one of the country's most beloved artists. His connection to, and interpretation of Iceland's natural environment is thought to have

taught Icelanders to appreciate it anew, and to have encouraged pride in the country's uniqueness and the world of adventure to be discovered within it.

• Runs until March 14th, 2021

Sigurður Árni Sigurðsson: Expanse

In this mid-career retrospective, Sigurður Árni Sigurðsson presents a series of paintings which dissect just how we view the world around us. Sigurður's works are known for exploring the limits of our field of vision and how that forms the basis of our worldview. • Runs until March 14th, 2021

GERDARSAFN KÓPAVOGUR ART MUSEUM

Castles In The Sky

Kópavogur: A town that birthed not just this art museum but also artists Berglind Jóna Hlynisdóttir, Bjarki Bragason, Eirún Sigurðarsdóttir, and Unnar Örn Auðarson. Now, all four present their views on this grand development. • Runs until May 15th, 2021

GERÐUR

As the first Icelandic artist to use iron in her artwork, Gerður Helgadóttir was a pioneer of three-dimensional abstract art in Iceland. Gerður's creativity and experimental nature is a motif within the museum and reflects its unique position of being the only museum founded in honour of a female artist. Using iron plates or steel wires, the artist created delicate compositions in space, often with a cosmic reference. • Runs until April 18th, 2021

HAFNARBORG

What Meets the Eye

A retrospective of works by local goldsmith and artist Gunnar Hjalta-son (1920-1999). The images depict

landscapes, town views of Hafnarfjörður and the Icelandic nature, as Gunnar was a great outdoorsman. • Runs until March 21st, 2021

LIVING ART MUSEUM

Katie Paterson —

The Earth Has Many Keys

The exhibition features works about the earth and the universe, geological and cosmic time, poetic and philosophical connections between man and the world around us. Katie Paterson has mapped all the dead stars, created a light bulb to simulate the experience of moonlight, sent a meteorite back into space, and developed a scented candle that creates a scented journey from the surface of the Earth, up to the Moon, via the stars and into a vacuum. • Runs until April 25th, 2021

FLÆÐI

Konur

Anika Batkowska is a photographer and a sociologist currently living and creating in Iceland. In this exhibition, she presents a series exploring society's requirements towards woman—their temperament, role in society, body image and self-determination. • Runs until March 14th, 2021

MIDPUNKT

Soft Shell

Margrét Helga Sesseljudóttir and Thea Meinert present an installation inspired by the apartment of physicist and chemist Marie Curie, which was highly radioactive. In fact, Marie herself kept a piece of radioactive radium next to her bed as a night-light. Eek... not the best idea. • Runs until March 28th, 2021

MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART HÖNNUNARSAFN ÍSLANDS

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Film



The art of sitting on a flight case

The Art Of Making A Stand

'A Song Called Hate' shows Hatari emerging stronger from their Eurovision maelstrom

Words: **John Pearson** Photo: **Film Still & Art Bicnick**

Films

'A Song Called Hate' is showing at [Bióhúsið in Selfoss on March 18th](#), and at [Alþýðuhúsið in Ísafjörður on April 1st](#), with a [director Q&A at both](#)

If you live in Iceland the chances are that you'll know Hatari. If not, they may well have gatecrashed your consciousness in 2019 when they represented Iceland at Eurovision in Israel—and lobbed a cheeky agitprop grenade right into the heart of the world's biggest pop competition.

Hatari used the platform to denounce Israel's treatment of Palestinians. Their protest, in which they revealed Palestinian flags on live TV during the Eurovision finals, was seen by some 200 million people around the world. This principled stand—and the maelstrom it provoked—are at the core of Anna Hildur Hildibrandsdóttir's powerful documentary, 'A Song Called Hate'.

Cutting through to the mainstream

At first glance, Hatari might appear to be a joke; as artist Ragnar Kjartansson comments in the film, "most art projects are basically jokes gone too far." As if to address that idea, the film opens with Hatari lynchpins Matthías and Klemens trading phrases which might describe their multifaceted creative project.

"Hatari is a lament that is screamed into the wind," Matthías articulates. "Hatari is a relentless scam," deadpans Klemens in response.

"Hatari is a fabulously unpredictable, anti-capitalist, industrial, art performance collective," Anna Hildur offers, when later invited to add her perspective. "Although to some degree, they are indescribable."

And she would know, having already made a TV documentary

about them before their Eurovision journey began. 'A Song Called Hate' built on that existing relationship.

"I wanted to make a film about the art of making a stand," she continues. "But my question was, 'would Hatari cut through to the mainstream?' It was a huge task that they took on."

Palestinian pressure cooker

When they arrived in Israel, Hatari's friend and collaborator—Palestinian artist Bashar Murad—showed them around his world in the West Bank town of Hebron. It is one of armed occupation and a lack of basic freedoms for Palestinians. Although he is clearly an ally, on-camera Bashar puts pressure on Hatari for greater commitment to their protest. Adding to this, pro-Palestinian movement BDS lobbied the band to boycott Eurovision—rather than attend and protest—and Hatari's open talk of dissent provoked intense pressure from Eurovision organisers, right from the start.

The film captures the moments of stress and self-doubt which result, showing the Hatari mask slipping as they step out of character. Anna Hildur thinks that this

was a decision made out of necessity, rather than a premeditated move on the part of the band.

"Out there, the pressure became immense," says Anna Hildur. "They were on the brink of exhaustion and the reality was that they just needed a break from time to time to collect their thoughts. So

I think that what they discovered out there, and the pressure of the situation, made that decision for them."

In the film, that pressure climaxes just after the group's act of protest, as individuals begin to realise the gravity of what they have just done and the resulting potential threat to their personal safety. If Hatari had ever been a joke, in that moment the joke isn't funny anymore.

"It was very raw and you see that in the film," Anna Hildur recalls. "Some members of the group were definitely going through a breakdown, and it affected everyone."

Return & reflection

Having escaped Israel physically unharmed—if not mentally—their return to Iceland provided an opportunity for artists and filmmakers to reflect on their experiences.

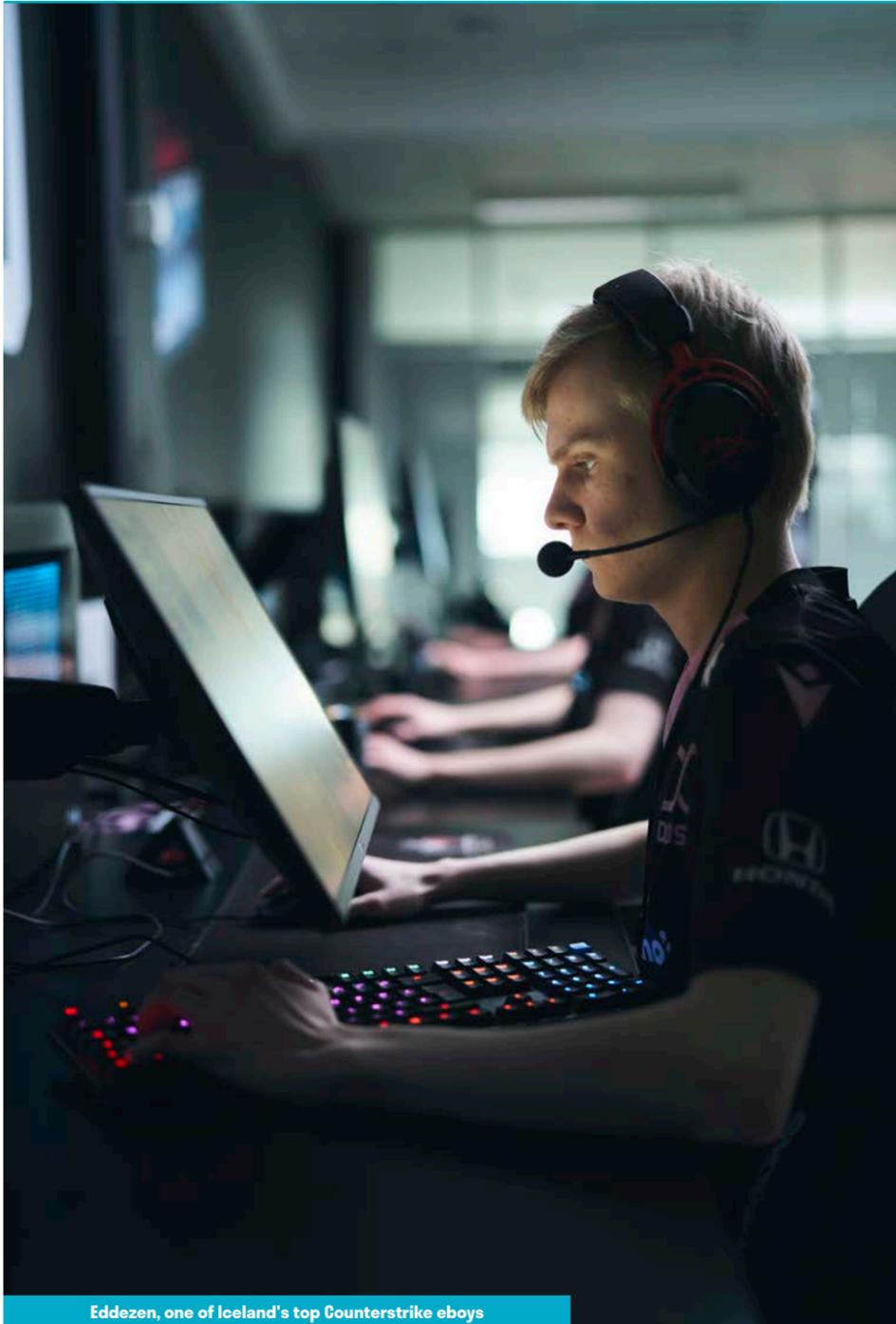
"It was strange reviewing material after we got back," says Anna Hildur. "I relived some of the high-pressure moments so strongly that the tears just ran down my chin. You don't have time when you're filming to take it in, but I realised afterwards just how difficult the journey was."

Hatari also emerged from their Eurovision maelstrom shaken, but certainly stronger and wiser.

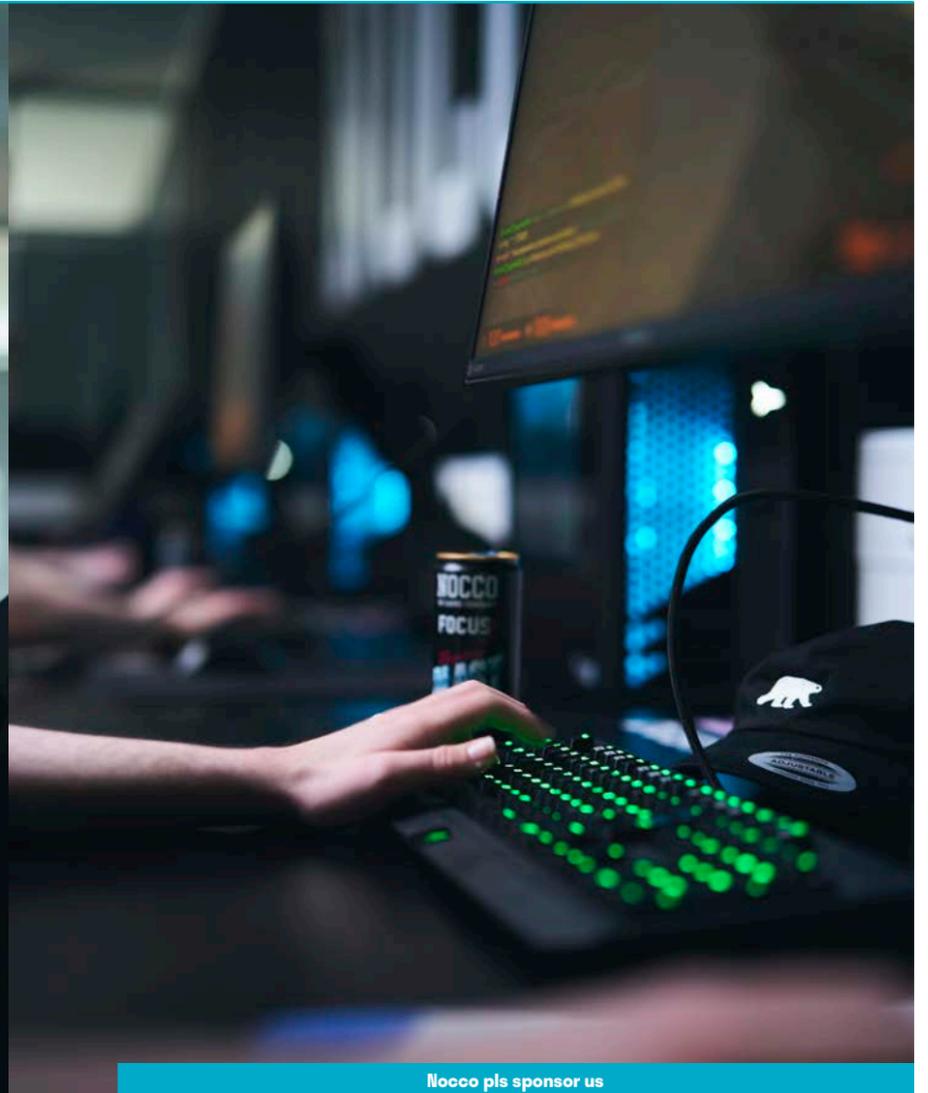


Anna Hildur forgot her latex mask at home

"Matthías said that this experience was something that cuts time in two—a before, and an after," Anna Hildur concludes. "And as he says in the film, 'I've never taken anything so far'. I think that, for all of us who went through it, this was a life-changing experience." 🇮🇸



Eddezen, one of Iceland's top Counterstrike eboys



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Iceland eSports Levels Up!

The dawn of an eSports era in Iceland

Words: Whether we wanted it or not, eSports is on the rise. Across the world, tournaments pack stadiums while players win millions of dollars and international fame just by popping off in the virtual world. Iceland is no different, though naturally on a smaller scale. Nonetheless, players are gaining recognition, more people are watching than ever before and kids all over the country dream of becoming the next online superstar.

Photos: Hlynur Hólm Hauksson & Grétar Örn Guðmundsson

Dusty eSports lead Iceland's competitive gaming scene with their CounterStrike Global Offensive (CSGO) team slaying in all domestic competitions. Bjarni Guðmundsson, the lovely ginger CSGO team captain along with the team's ever smiling part-time coach and ex-player, Gunnar Ágúst Thoroddsen, have taken note of the rise in popularity and are now visualising a future where eSports take centre stage.

Leading Iceland's eSport scene

The popularity of professional gaming on this little rock is in no doubt, Gunnar emphasises, due to CSGO.

"When you look at the viewership on Twitch, you can see that most people here in Iceland are tuning into CSGO. It's the same across all Scandinavian countries. For us in Iceland, I think it's so popular be-

cause it has the longest legacy; people in Iceland have been playing it for so long and we have had semi-professional players dating back since the original 1.6 version of Counter Strike, before Global Offensive (CSGO) was out," he explains.

Dusty eSports are currently on a hot streak in Iceland, having won almost everything there is to win since October 2019. But being the best in Iceland isn't enough for Bjarni and his squad. As of now, the team is in the ESEA Main Division league, just shy of being recognised as a professional team. "We're always doing better and better in the international scene, but we're not quite where we want to be—our goal is still higher," says the captain.

Gunnar is quick to add that their success has gained the attention of eSports fans in Iceland. "It took a while before people started paying attention to [Dusty]" Gunnar explains. "It wasn't until the third season of the Icelandic league when people would tune into our streams and give us online support."

"Yeah it was definitely after that third season when people started to notice me online and even in the street," Bjarni admits, a shy smile on his face. "I've been called out in Reykjavik quite a few times by people who recognise me, especially if I wear something with the Dusty logo on it. It's a weird feeling."

The times, they are a changin'

But it's not just the players and coaches who have noticed the growth of the sport across the world, but the government too. The Icelandic government recently provided the Icelandic Electronic Sports Association with 10 million ISK to develop coaching courses in electronic sports for jobseekers. It's a topic Bjarni is passionate about—he clearly believes these new initiatives will change many people's perspective on eSports in general.

"I think the biggest thing is that this will help remove the stigma around eSports. The funding will help us get more coaches, buy more computers and, most importantly, it will have a long lasting effect for the next generation of players," he says. "People will take it more seriously and not think the sport is for kids who get bullied and just play games 12 hours a day."

Gunnar assuredly adds that this will not just help remove the stigma around

eSports but will help competitors young and old. "Younger players will have an easier time becoming proper gamers now that there's more infrastructure around it and older players who have stopped competing can stay involved in the scene by helping the new guys," he adds. "For me, this is awesome and I think having paid coaching roles will attract a lot of people into a new career."

Dawn is breaking on a new era for eSports in Iceland. In the not so distant future, kids might be begging their parents to take them down to the eSports café to hone their skills, aim and reflexes. A career in eSports might be as highly respected as other athletes. These new celebrities will no longer be recognised by their name but instead by their online alias. The argument that gaming is not a professional career is outdated and now, being a professional gamer is a reality for many. Or should we say, a virtual reality. 🎮



Bjarni Guðmundsson, the sweet ginger ninja

sushi
social

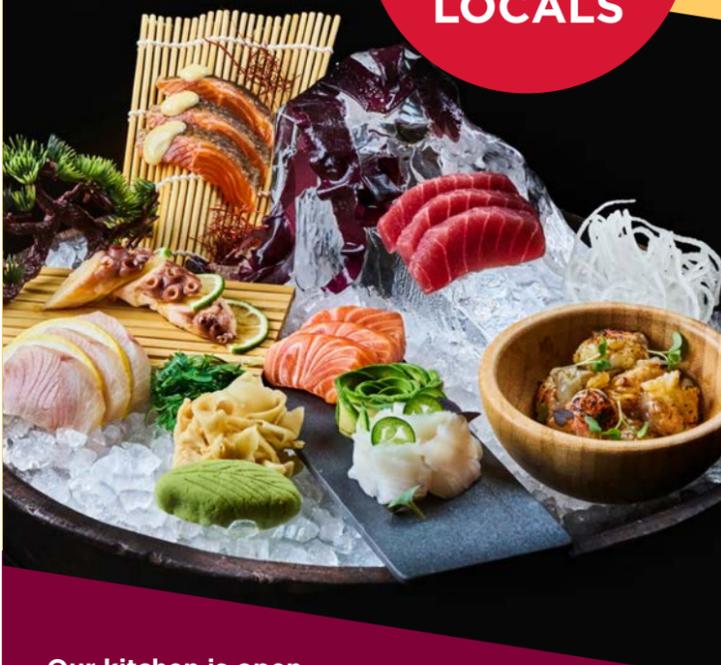
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Not pictured: The mixtape Huginn sent us

hits. I think young people are still discovering this song today and I think that will continue. I lived in Denmark when “Hlið við hlið” was released and it blew my mind. I couldn’t get enough and soon even my Danish friends got onto Friðrik. I think Friðrik plays a big part in my vibe. It was a huge win for me when we released our song “Einn Tveir” together. A timeless song.

Valdimar - Yfir borgina



“Yfir borgina” is just the perfect song. I was 16 when this song was released, I think, and I’ve listened to it ever since. It can make me feel sad, hopeful, thankful and more. To be honest, I don’t even understand everything he’s saying with his fancy Icelandic, but I wholeheartedly agree with him. I love you Valdimar.

Artist Playlist: Huginn

Here's a playlist to make you feel all the feelings

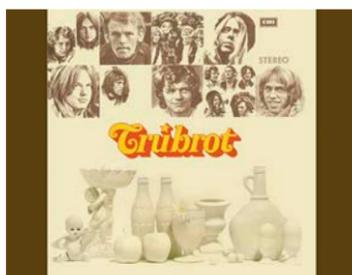
Words: [Huginn & Hannah Jane Cohen](#) Photos: [Art Bicnick](#)

Artist Playlist

Check out Huginn on all streaming platforms.

Huginn plays those weirdly special easy-going autotune hip-hop jams that kind of work in every situation. It's actually kind of eerie. Anyway, he just dropped his newest track 'Geimfarar' in late February, which you can check out on all streaming services. We sat down with him to talk about some of his favourite Icelandic tracks.

Trúbrot - Án þín



This song is one of my all-time favourites. It's been a part of my life ever since I remember and I love everything about it—the lyrics, the melody and the story behind it. I've actually tried doing my own version of it many times, but I've just never done it justice. I'll keep trying! (Eivör's cover of it, though, is amazing.)

Hjaltalín - Þú komst við hjartað í mér



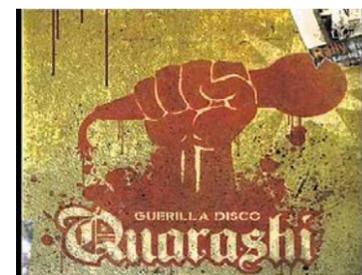
Legendary. It brings up nostalgia. This song impacted me a lot when I was a “heartbroken” teenager and probably affected the type of music I wanted to make in the future. The pure emotions and honesty in it just speak to me.

Friðrik Dór - Hlið við hlið



Friðrik Dór is the goat, in my opinion. He's got hits on hits on

Quarashi - Stun gun



I didn't know about Quarashi until 2006-7, while I lived in Denmark, but I just remember thinking how cool it was that they were from Iceland. When I started listening to them, I could finally show my friends Icelandic rappers in English and brag about it at school and that did a lot for me. The attitude in this track is very Eminem-like, who was my hero then. If I walked into the classroom with this in my ear, I would feel like I was the man. I might have been the only one that felt it, but it counts! And the song still rocks today. 🐐



**A GUIDE THAT
FUCKS YOU UP**

A selection from

Every Happy Hour

in 101 Reykjavík

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Wine 990 ISK.

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Beer 500 ISK,
Wine 700 ISK.

BRAVÓ
Every day from
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Beer 700 ISK,
Wine 900 ISK.

CAFÉ BABALÚ
Every day from
19:00 to 21:00.
Beer 690 ISK,
Wine 795 ISK.

DILLON
Every day from
14:00 to 19:00.
Beer 600 ISK,
Wine 850 ISK.

FJALLKONAN
Every day from
15:00 to 17:00.
Beer 890 ISK,
Wine 990 ISK.

FORRÉTTABARINN
Every day from
16:00 to 19:00.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK.

ÍSLENSKI BARINN
Every day from
16:00 to 18:00.
Beer 700 ISK,
Wine 700 ISK.

ÍÐA ZIMSEN
Every day from
8:00 to 10:00.
Coffee 400 ISK.

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BAR**
Every day from
17:00 to 20:00.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 1,000 ISK,
Cocktails 1,500
ISK.

KAFFIBARINN
Every day from
15:00 to 20:00.
Beer 750 ISK,
Wine (On Wed.)
800 ISK.

KAFFIBRENNSLAN
Every day from
16:00 to 20:00.
Beer 550 ISK,
Wine 750 ISK.

KALDI
Every day from
16:00 to 19:00.
Beer 850 ISK,
Wine 850 ISK.

KEX HOSTEL
Every day from
15:00 to 19:00.
Beer 750 ISK,
Wine 750 ISK.

LAUNDROMAT
Every day from
20:00 to 22:00.
Beer 650 ISK,
Wine 1,000 ISK.

LOFT
Every day from
16:00 to 20:00.
Beer 750 ISK,
Wine 750 ISK.

MIAMI
Every day from
15:00 to 19:00.
Beer 700 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK,
Cocktails 1,200
ISK.

PRIKIÐ
Every day from
16:00 to 20:00.
Beer 600 ISK.

PUBLIC HOUSE
Every day from
15:00 to 18:00 &
23:00 to 1:00.
Beer 890 ISK,
Wine 890 ISK.

PUNK
Every day from
16:00 to 18:00.
Beer 890 ISK,
Cocktails 1,500
ISK.

PETERSEN SVÍTAN
Every day from
16:00 to 20:00,
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 1,000 ISK,
Cocktails 1,500
ISK.

ROSENBERG
Every day from
16:00 to 18:00.
Beer 750 ISK,
Wine 950 ISK.

RÖNTGEN
Every day from

15:00 to 20:00.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 1,000 ISK.

SÆTA SVÍNID
Every day from
16:00 to 18:00.
Beer 890 ISK,
Wine 990 ISK,
Cocktails 1,500
ISK.

**SESSION CRAFT
BAR**
Every day from
12:00 to 19:00.
Beer 790 ISK,
Wine 900 ISK.

SKÚLI CRAFT BAR
Every day from
12:00 to 19:00.
Beer 900 ISK,
Wine 900 ISK.

SPÁNSKI BARINN
Every day from
14:00 to 20:00.
Beer 650 ISK,
Wine 850 ISK.

SÓLON
Everyday from
15:00 to 18:00.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK.

SUSHI SOCIAL
Every day from
17:00 to 18:00.
Beer 645 ISK,
Wine 745 ISK,
Half-priced
cocktails.

TAPAS BARINN
Every day from
17:00 to 18:00.
Beer 645 ISK,
Wine 745 ISK.

VEÐUR
Every day from
12:00 to 19:35.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK.

ÖLSTOFAN
Every day from
15:00 to 20:00.
Beer 750 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK.



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live-streamed

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great happy hour
to match. From
16:00 to 19:00,
pick up Gylltur,
Rökkur and wine
at 800 ISK and
White Ale and
Bóndi at 1,000
ISK. Then sing
along to Alice In
Chains or some
shit like that. 🍷

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- 990 ISK

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Tuesdays-All day
Medium Sized
pizza with 3
toppings -1,000
ISK-Vegan option

Tapas Barinn
Every day
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Half off of
selected tapas
Various prices

Deig / Le Kock
Every day-All day
Doughnut,
coffee & bagel
-1,000 ISK

Sushi Social
Every day
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1,000 ISK
Avocado fries -
690 ISK
Lobster sushi,
ribs & more -
890 ISK

**1,500 ISK
And Under**

**Hamborgara-
búlla Tómasar**
Tuesdays-All day
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fries & soda -
1,390 ISK

Gló
Every day-All day
Bowl of the
month - 1,290 ISK
Vegan option

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Monday - Friday
12:00 - 14:30
Curry - 1,290 ISK
Vegan option

Sæta Svínid
Every day 15-18
Chicken wings -
1,190 ISK
"Dirty" fries -
1,390 ISK

Sólon
Monday - Friday
11:00 - 14:30
Ceasar salad -
1,490 ISK

Lemon
Every day
16:00 - 21:00
2f1 Juice +
sandwich

1,095 ISK
Vegan option

**Uppsaliir - Bar
and cafe**
Every day 11-14
Burger & fries -
1,390 ISK
Vegan option

**2,000 ISK
And Under**

Sólon
Monday - Friday
11:00 - 14:30
Fish of the day -
1,990 ISK

Matarkjallarinn
Monday - Friday
11:30 - 15:00
Fisherman's fish
soup -1,990 ISK

**5,000 ISK
And Under**

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the buffet is
free for kids





Holuhraun, a volcano that everyone ignores because it isn't dramatic enough

Top Five Volcanoes Someone Should Write A Book About

More literature about volcanoes, less about sad farmers

Words: Valur Grettisson & Hannah Jane Cohen Photo: Peter Hartree via Wikimedia Commons

You would think that a nation that is both as obsessed with literature and as seismically active as Iceland would write a lot of stories about volcanoes. But that's not actually the case.

Granted, there are some. The excellent story 'Eldarnir: Ástarnir og aðrar hamfarir' focuses on the love affair of a geologist on the brink of a supervolcano going off not only in Reykjanes, but also in her heart. It's better than it sounds, trust me.

But if you look at the grand scheme of Icelandic literature, we tend to write mostly about the weather and, occasionally, avalanches. Very rarely are volcanoes mentioned. Even the writers of the sagas were more obsessed with nonsense gossip about the chieftains rather than the roaring volcanoes all around them. Seriously, I'm surprised more geologists don't complain—really, who gives a S%&# about King Haraldur's hair? Seriously!

But in the current apocalyptic atmosphere of Iceland, we decided to take some time to suggest some possible novels that other people (not us, we're busy watching 'The Crown') could write.

Eyjafjallajökull

Let's just get this out of the way. Obviously you all know this volcano, it's the one that stopped air traffic before COVID-19 even got the idea. And truly, what a glorious display of raw power it was. Finally, Iceland proved that it, a small rocky island in the middle of the goddamn Atlantic ocean, could stop the world for a second. It's the moment drama was made for.

And for sure there are some movies about it, but no Icelandic writer has yet to accept the challenge of writing about it. But lucky for you, we've crafted a potential plotline: Farmers have had their world turned upside down by the ash, which cues that classic Iceland rural depression rumination. Then there's a murder in the midst of the chaos, and also lovers that the natural disaster keeps apart, but then they find a way to be together (maybe by stowing away on a tugboat crossing the Atlantic? Rowing?). The scenery around the volcano at the beginning of the eruption was downright nightmarish, so throwing in a few hauntings would be the icing on top. Because who killed the farmer in the beginning? A ghost. Or wait, not a ghost, just the despondent mother of one of the lovers covered in the ashes of one of the lovers, who was actually a ghost this entire time.

There you go—a love story that'll be as convoluted as Padmé and Anakin but with the loving cynicism of 'Lost In Translation'. Bestseller!

Heimaey

Ok, there are some books written about the famous eruption at Vestmannaeyjar's Eldfell, as this is by far the most dramatic story of all. Around 5,000 people woke to discover there was an active volcano going off just a couple of metres away from their bedroom window. It's nothing less than an incredible achievement that sailors got the people away from danger in only hours. And what's more—nobody died.

The fact that there isn't some sort of War and Peace-length thriller about this is just insane. Add in some sort of moral ambiguity about saving one citizen who had, I don't know, murdered

their former lover and you've got the telltale signs of a Nordic Book Prize. For can one human make the decision as to whether or not another human is worthy enough to be saved from a natural disaster? Do we have that power? I don't know. Ask Sartre.

Hekla

Possibly the weirdest volcano on the list, but a good fit if you want to do some weird fantasy with a dash of realism. Hekla goes off regularly and it's not that threatening for anyone other than whichever poor sheep find themselves wandering in her hills.

But that mountain's got a secret: It's (allegedly) the gateway to hell. So perhaps write some sort of weirdly uncomfortable locals with noticeable physical and vocal quirks, throw an outsider into the mix, and wait for the moment when the eruption starts and good ole' Jón the blacksmith mysteriously whispers, "Oh that's nothing to worry about. The real demons are inside the walls." Then there's some sort of silent meditation when the main character realizes he's stayed too long in the town and therefore can only take up farming and slowly fade into the scenery. Yes, basically 'Dune' mixed with 'Woman Of The Dunes'. We never said we were creative.

Katla

This is the scary one. This is the one that can take a town, eat it alive in fifteen minutes, and worst of all, stop air traffic. Located under Mýrdalsjökull, the heat alone from this eruption would start a brutal flash flood that could sweep Vík í Mýrdal away in a split second. In fact, were it to blow, people would have fifteen minutes to get their loved ones into their cars just to speed the hell away. Baltasar Kormákus is currently making a Netflix series about the mountain, but there are no books about this incredible threat that Icelanders live with every day. And what's more, this volcano is due to blow and could go off anytime now.

Of course, a thriller would be the natural choice, but that seems kind of expected, yeah? So go crazy and write a comedy. Perhaps a retelling of 'Candide,' but instead of having your protagonist basically get fucked over at every opportunity, just have them totally thrive in the wake of the eruption. That's right! Let's bring back Leibnizian! No one (especially not those from the Nordic literature tradition) would see that coming!

It really writes itself, so for just a moment, allow yourself the fantasy of accepting your Nobel Prize with the line: "Take that Karl Ove Knausgård! No struggles here!" Yay volcanoes!

Holuhraun/Bárðarbunga

This volcano was in such an isolated place that it didn't even have a name. It didn't even bother anyone, just sat there roaring while no one kind of noticed. Sounds a little bit like a YouTube commenter who doesn't believe in the moon landing and is just there, yelling alone online at bots, only to later find out in the end, the volcano stops, just like his life. ♡

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FANCIES is where we talk to Reykjavík's most fashion-forward figures about style

Anthony Hoang Duy Nguyen



Words: Hannah Jane Cohen
Photo: Art Bicnick

Anthony Hoang Duy Nguyen (18) is a highschool student who plans on studying fashion design.

Wearing:

- Mesh shirt from AAH Midnight Club
- Pants from Black Tai
- Shoes from New Rock
- Jewellery from eBay

Describe your style in 5 words:

Goth. Clean. Chic. Ok, I honestly don't know other than that. Maybe a little bit different? I try not to follow trends. Oh, and no fast fashion. Burn those places down.

Favourite stores in Reykjavik:

I honestly don't shop in Reykjavik much—I shop online. Everything I'm wearing right now was bought online. But if I would shop here, I'd probably go to vintage shops like Spúútnik and Fatamarkaðurinn.

Favourite piece:

These shoes. They're iconic. I got them when I went to Denmark in 2019 and honestly, they're pretty comfortable so they are my everyday shoe. They're my babies.

Something I would never wear:

Skinny jeans. They just look uncomfortable. Not gonna lie, I used to wear them a lot and I'm not going to get rid of those, but I don't like the look where it just looks like you have spray painted your legs. Do you know that British look where you wear those super skinny jeans with cuts in them? I'm like guys, that looks horrible. Also, I would never wear fast fashion.

Lusting after:

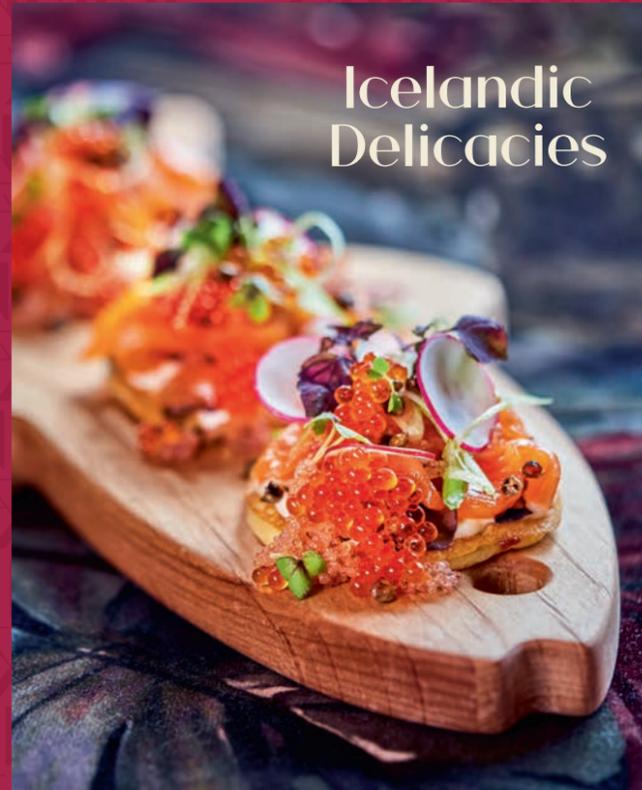
I've been really into western and Asian looks right now. I actually just ordered some western cowboy boots from New Rock and a Chinese shirt. I've never owned something Chinese, but I kind of want to show my culture now. I want to represent my heritage. I guess I've always been following trends but if we all did that, we'd all look the same, so I've stopped doing that because I want to do something different. 🐾

FJALLKONAN

KRÁ & KRÆSINGAR

Fjallkonan is a new lively restaurant & pub in the heart of Reykjavík offering a selection of Icelandic and international dishes from local ingredients.

Casual and cosy atmosphere yet still fun and festive. Stop by for snacks & drinks, lunch or dinner.



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Lightly cured arctic charr, chickpea blini, horseradish sauce, roe, crispy lentils, yuzu-elderflower dressing

ICELANDIC PLATTER

- > Puffin, crowberry gel
- > Minke whale, malt glaze
- > Lamb tartar, chive mayo

THE LAMB BURGER

Bacon, mushroom & date duxelle, pickled red onions, pickled cucumber, rucola, smoked cheese, fries

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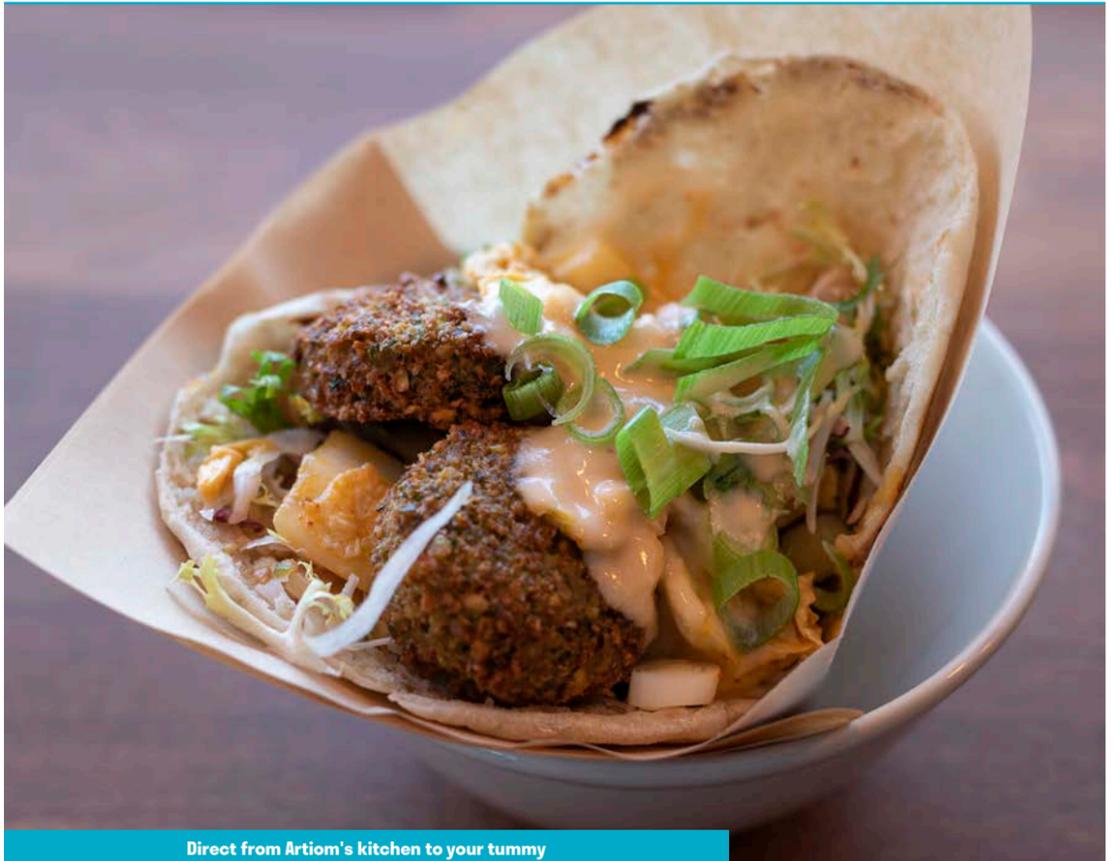
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Food



Direct from Artiom's kitchen to your tummy

Falafel For The Soul

Chickpea brings a homey touch to the
downtown dining scene

Words: [Hannah Jane Cohen](#) Photos: [Art Bicnick](#)

Tucked in next to downtown's Kronan supermarket lies Chickpea, a new bijoux vegetarian eatery. Walk by too fast and you might miss it, but step inside and you'll be treated to a warm, inviting restaurant whose heart lies in freshly made falafel.

The birth of Chickpea

Maria Maximciuc started Chickpea along with her husband Artiom Drusca and their best friend Veaceslav Sirghii. The couple moved here unexpectedly from Moldova nine years ago after falling in love with the country on what was supposed to be a short trip here.

Since coming to Iceland, Maria has had a few different jobs, but in the back of her mind, she always wanted to start a restaurant. And so, when she found herself without a job at the beginning of the pandemic, she took it as a sign to finally make her dreams come true. "I remember my husband said, 'So isn't it the best time to finally do what we want to do?'" she says, laughing. "And so we started looking for a location."

The restaurant was always going to be based around falafel, Maria explains. "My husband loves falafel. He was always making it for friends from scratch and they'd say, 'Oh my god, it's so good! You should open a restaurant!'" she says. Heeding their friends' advice wasn't a stretch — Artiom is a professional chef, and he and Veaceslav have worked in the industry for many years pre-Chickpea at restaurants such as Cocoo's Nest. "And here in Reykjavik," Maria continues. "You really couldn't get that good falafel made from scratch anywhere."

And so Chickpea was born. "I

knew that the food was going to be great, but it was just as important to find a good location. We didn't want it to be on the main street. No, we wanted to do this for the locals and not focus on the tourists," she says lightly.

The soul of Chickpea

And no doubt, the eatery has achieved its goal. When I arrive, it's in the midst of the bustling lunch rush. And though there are few seats—even fewer right now due to the gathering restrictions—all are taken up by those happily munching on pitas or salads.

The portions are generous, I note, the moment my falafel and salad land in front of me. I've opted not for the classic falafel, but rather their spicy version with kimchi along with their crispy chickpea salad. Upon first bite, I know immediately that absolutely everything—from the aforementioned falafel to the delicate pita to the tangy kimchi—is freshly made, and I can't help but take a moment to savour it. Hey, it's not every day you're treated to such a prized trio.

"Every morning, the boys come here to start making the dough and baking the bread, and then we make the falafel base," Maria says, smiling. And many of the ingredients, she emphasises, are locally sourced. She then explains where the kimchi recipe comes from—it's a family secret, given to Maria and Artiom by their beautiful friend Renee from Taiwan.

Those fresh bites!

The falafel very much brings to mind the fresh bites you'd find on the carts of the Middle East—and the salad is equally as visceral. While large, neither are particularly heavy and though I'm undeniably full after my meal, I'm still energetic. I'm particularly excited to try more of their salads in the coming weeks. The downtown area currently doesn't have a dedicated salad place—but Chickpea could easily fill that niche.

"We love the zero waste ideology and have a mindful kitchen," Maria says. "We're offering biodegradable packaging with all the food taken away and are using environmentally friendly soaps and cleaning products inside."

As I leave, I note they also have homemade kombucha on offer. And while I kick myself a bit that I didn't grab a glass to pair with my meal, I'm pretty confident I'll be back soon, so it seems Maria was right when she said they made this place for the locals.

"This is our soul. All of our hearts are here," Maria concludes. "Chickpea is made for us and the customers to enjoy." 🍷



The Chickpea crew



There's a growing waiting list at Eldstæðið... also hot chocolate

Enter Eldstæðið

Reykjavík's latest food tech incubator is built around community

Words: **Shruthi Basappa** Photos: **Art Bicnick**

Eva Michelsen is showing me around Eldstæðið—Reykjavík's latest commercial kitchen for food entrepreneurs and small producers. The kitchen is a modern all-white and stainless steel affair, with only the synchronised movements of people tempering chocolate, shaping patties and packing kormas belying the industrious air of what really goes on in its quiet, sanitised spaces.

I first met Eva Michelsen, a spirited food tech entrepreneur, when she was organising the Nordic Kitchen Workshop in 2018. Over the next two days, amongst a room full of food start-ups, participants shared the trials and hurdles of getting their product to market.

Between now and then, she has gone on to start Eldstæðið, a commercial kitchen impressive not only for its ambition, but also for bringing six food vendors to store shelves in just six months of operations! So if you recognise names like Arctic Pie, Bao Bao Buns, Anna Marta pesto, Keto Eldhúsið's ready to eat meals, Ella Stína's vegan patties, Svava Sinnepe and The Grumpy

Whale Hot Chocolate, they are all working out of Eldstæðið.

A new solution for an old problem

As many learnt during the pandemic, especially around Christmas, one simply does not whip up Sarah Bernhardts in their kitchen to sell online. "Packaged food products are a whole other thing," Eva smiles knowingly. With a confectionery business of her own, Michelsen Konfekt, she knows first hand the many challenges with being a small producer.

But when there is MATIS, the government-run kitchen, why Eldstæðið? "They're a test kitchen and they only allow one producer at a time," Eva clarifies "There is limited storage space. Eldstæðið, on the other hand, is a fully equipped commercial kitchen where up to three producers can work alongside one another at a time. We have shared infrastructure and offer a community and network of shared experiences," she shares.

Why should someone choose Eldstæðið and not go it on their own instead? "Do you have 15-16 million krónur?" Eva quips, bluntly. "I did the numbers and if I had to take on a loan, I

simply wouldn't have done it," she confesses. "The hurdle for a lot of people is knowing where to start," she explains. "What are the rules, what is packaging, what is a quality handbook? It can all get overwhelming. Because I am responsible for a lot of the things at Eldstæðið—fire safety, insurance, pest control—the undertakings of the producers are a lot easier," she explains.

"If I was a governmental agency, I couldn't say no to anyone, but being privately run like this, I can stipulate my own conditions—for instance, we don't allow deep frying, we are flexible with our opening times. We can do what we want to, when we want to," she laughs jokingly.

Culinary community

As we walk around the facilities, Eva excitedly shares that they are looking forward to new blast chillers, as the swanky coolers are already proving insufficient due to the rising demand for a spot at Eldstæðið. "There is a growing waiting list," she beams proudly.

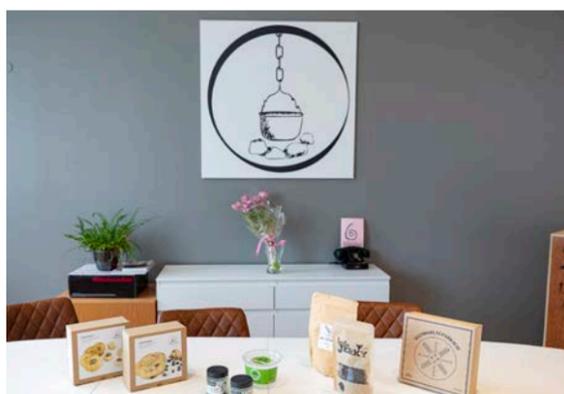
There is a tangible barrier to entry for novice home cooks looking to scale their operations. When legalese and licenses can stifle that entrepreneurial spirit, Eldstæðið is a "one-stop shop," as Eva succinctly describes. With their Icelandic and English policy in place, it has naturally proven popular with New Icelanders wanting to share their taste of home as well.

Besides the kitchen area, there is an event space, conference and meeting rooms. "Each month we get a food entrepreneur to tell their story. We've had Óskar from Omnom, we're expecting Bitaviking next," Eva shares. "I know first hand how paralyzing it can be to take that leap of faith. So this is about creating this network, to create these shared experiences."

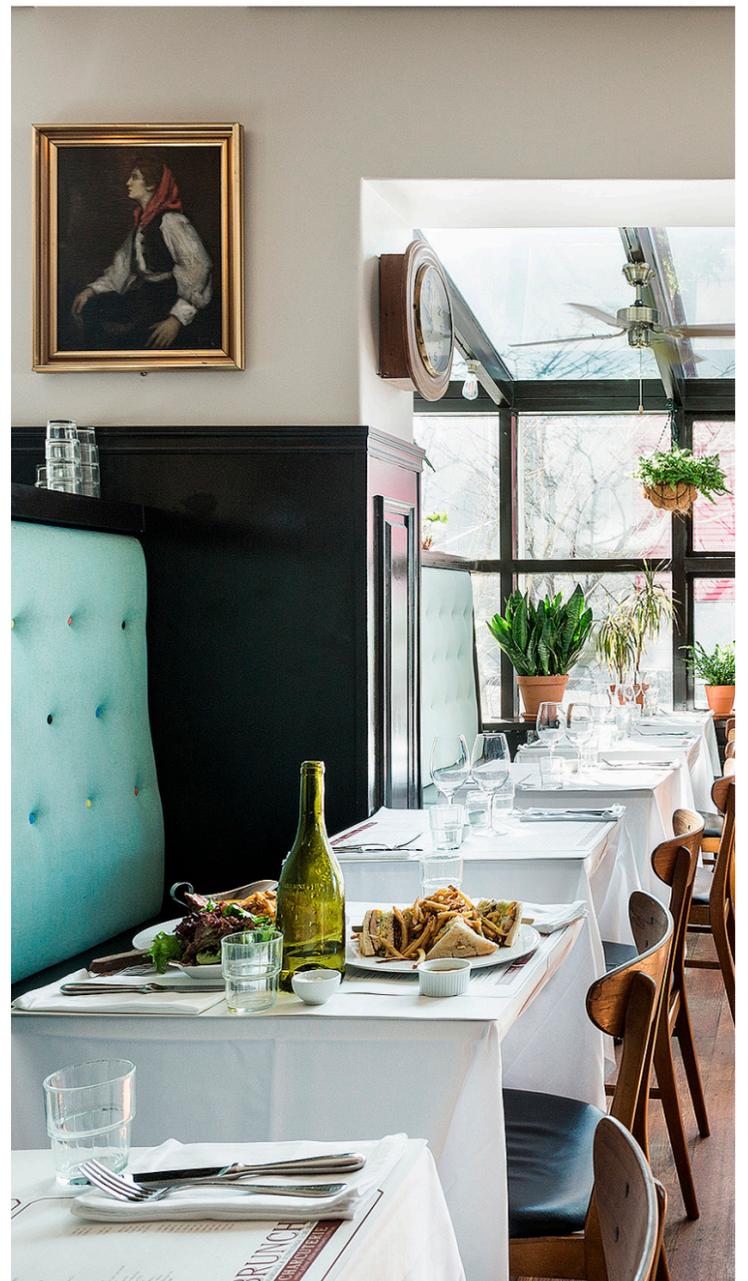
"What we offer is a community," she concludes. 🍷



Eva Michelsen, Reykjavík's most caring food tech entrepreneur



Some of the wonderful things on offer



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Travel

A Rainy Day Out

Iceland doesn't care about your travel plans, you simply bend to its will

Words: Owen Tyrrie | Photos: Art Bicnick



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We had a great plan for this month's travel feature: a road trip along the south coast of Iceland, a journey to Nauthúsagil waterfall and telling the fascinating yet haunting history of the ravine. Unfortunately, things don't always go as planned here, for what we didn't count on was that bitch Mother Nature.

Rain rain, go away

The Grapevine's photographer Art Bicnick and I set off for our adventure at 9:00 sharp on a grim, grisly, grey Friday. At first, it was a breathtaking drive along the coast; an ethereal fog lay low over the mountains, giving the entire area a mysterious kind of vibe as the sharp, black, jagged cliff faces peered through the mist as if they were watching our little car the entire time.

It's an exceptional drive that cuts through flat wetlands. I didn't expect to find such a landscape in Iceland, so I did a quick Google search to see what was up with that. Apparently, the mountains you see standing tall above the flat farmlands used to make up the coast of the country. This was the case until the end of the Ice Age, when everything melted and made way for more land. Everyday is a lesson, huh? Suddenly, it began to rain. Hard. The

raindrops crashed down on the wind-screen and the wind picked up too. At first, I was still confident about our chances, thinking "Ho-hum, a bit of rain never hurt anyone, right? It won't stop us from exploring." How naive I was.

After powering through a small river that had flooded across the road, we arrived at Nauthúsagil. An empty car park awaited us, which should have been a warning, but still we pulled up, hopped out the car and headed towards the canyon.

Only two minutes later, we encountered the first problem of the day. The rain was so heavy that the river had actually engulfed the path we needed to take. Great—our two minutes in the downpour had been for nothing.

So we discussed our options. Art, in his wisdom, decided we should venture a little further and visit another waterfall further along the coast. This one was a bit more well known than Nauthúsagil, he explained. Its name? Seljalandsfoss.

Yeah, we know you've seen this waterfall before

So after a short and uneventful drive down the road, we made it to the equally empty car park next to Seljalands-

foss. As in Nauthúsagil, the intense rain had a huge effect on the waterfall. It was more powerful than I've ever seen; so powerful that trying to walk behind the waterfall soaked me in a similar fashion to being sprayed by a hundred Super-Soakers. Nonetheless, it was a sight to behold. The water was flowing fast, crashing down hard and creating a spray so powerful, it felt like I was being slapped across the face by a wet flannel. Lovely.

The water at Seljalandsfoss comes from the Eyjafjallajökull glacier and splits off into three different falls along the cliff face. Seljalandsfoss is by far the most popular of the three due to the fact that it can be fully encircled—something that is quite rare for a waterfall. Art once again had the great idea to go slightly further along the cliff to see the third waterfall that flows through a canyon, similar to Nauthúsagil. This waterfall is known as Gljúfrabúi and, like Nauthúsagil, you can walk inside the canyon to get a closer look. But, in what was becoming the theme for the day, the downpour made the river too strong for us to walk through.

At this point, we were both sick of everything going wrong on our little adventure so we decided to sack it all off and grab coffee.

To Skool for cool

When you think of quality coffee, you probably don't think of coffee made in the back of an old American school bus. But I love to be proven wrong and in this case, boy was I wrong. Skool Beans opened last summer and is run solely by Holly Keyser; a bubbly gal who

moved to Iceland a few years back. She bought the bus from an expedition group for only 100,000 ISK and drove it to Vík where it now sits underneath the tall cliff faces that line the coast.

Holly opened the place in Vík because she felt as if the Icelandic people often get overlooked when new businesses come to the country. "In my four years of being here, I have seen lots of new and exciting things popping up, which is great but sadly, it's all for tourists. I wanted to give something back to the locals and they've really helped me out by coming here for coffee," she explained.

Holly was very keen to stress the purpose of the bus as it was something very important to her; the bus wasn't just going to be like any other food truck. "The focus of the bus is ethical products at ethical prices," she says. "I wanted to create a cozy environment away from the stresses of the world, where you can get warm and enjoy quality coffee."

Holly roasts her own coffee and imports another from a fairtrade source. Also, her variety of tea was just exceptional—over 30 different types! To cap things off, she even had Yorkshire Tea for Britainers like myself on offer. Score!

So while the day may have gotten off to a bad start—what with all the rain and flooding—climbing aboard the old US school bus and being greeted with a selection of fresh delicious coffee and snacks made it all worth it. So we at the Grapevine cannot recommend this cozy cafe enough after a long day adventuring. A+ for Skool Beans! And a big fat F for nature. ☘



Owen for scale



Holly Keyser with her second favourite newspaper 'The Happy News'

HORROR-SCOPES

The Future Is ~Hazy~

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen & Andie Sophia Fontaine**

*The Grapevine's team of amateur astrologists journeys through the universe, enduring the angsty abyss of space every month just to bring you this short column. And no, we're not paid in cash. We're paid in gratitude... by the constellations... who apparently have a lot to say... And while every other Icelandic news source ignores them, we graciously open our mystical ears to the cosmos. Speak to us, Ophiuchus. *dramatic exit**

illegally downloading indie films is kind of douchey? Maybe you should start donating a portion of your salary to charity? Look at yourself in the mirror and repeat after me: No one wants to be Tyler Durden. Taurus—it's time to open the IKEA catalogue.

eyebrow goes up. So tone down the dramatics, for all our sakes.

Virgo  The tea leaves confirmed it: March 2021 is YOUR MONTH! Savour it, dear Virgo, because the rest of the year is looking pretty hazy for you right now. And by hazy, we don't mean unclear. No, we mean the cosmos are giving us a vision that is literally filled with smoke. House fire? New vape? Aromatherapy? We can't confirm.

decision. Just kidding—stopping smoking and being really public about it was a great decision! Now, thanks to your attention-seeking addiction, dear Sag, you've got a whole audience of cigarette-starved Instagram followers all waiting to buy the hair care vitamins you're shilling. Thanks, big tobacco!

Capricorn  There's a hole in your mask Capricorn. It was put there by—if the crystal ball doesn't lie—someone named Helga.

Gemini  You're not sick because of the vaccine shot. You're sick because you only eat potatoes and cocaine.

Libra  Sleeping diagonally and/or so close to your partner they are forced to switch to the other side of the bed is going to be a more prominent event in your life. Explain that this is all just a part of what makes you adorable.

Aquarius  It's ok to not be ok, Aquarius. But if the trials of life are bothering you this much, unfollow every Sagittarius you meet on social media, stop partying with Gemini and let the Virgos around you into your sad, sad brain. The best medicine for depression is, well, going to a medical professional.

Cancer  Bahrain has the world's second highest vaccination rate per capita. So I bet you feel pretty silly now, Cancer, for turning down that job offer in Manama in January, 2020, don't you? Don't despair. Take this as a lesson for the next time you receive a job offer. There might be a plague and that random country could come out of it a world power. Let's say it together: Go Bahrain!

Scorpio  Holy crap it's not "active listening" if you keep going "mhm mhm" over top of someone speaking. Just sit there, quietly not listening, until the sounds stop coming out of the other person's mouth like you usually do.

Pisces  Your biting comments and subsequent dramatic exits are legendary, Pisces. Continue this theatrical flair into the coming months. We can't say yet what it will save you from, but it might be some sort of mystical monster. Or mobster. The writing of the stars can get messy sometimes. ♡

Aries  Name 10 female directors off the top of your head. Wow, you couldn't? Disgusting. Spend the next month studying up. We'd start with Catherine Breillat.

Taurus  In the midst of the February 24th earthquakes, your beloved 'Fight Club' poster fell off the wall, which has now pushed you onto an elevated stage of consciousness. Yes, Taurus, you're 31 and still found it appropriate to have a 'Fight Club' poster on your wall. It's true, there were better options for wall art. So what can this be extrapolated to? Maybe it's time to stop bulk buying instant noodles? Maybe

Leo  When you lie, Leo, a bit of your

Sagittarius  Starting smoking was a great

WELL, YOU ASKED



Whale, You Asked!

Words: **Owen Tyrie**

You asked. We answered. Isn't that enough?

How do you really piss off an Icelandic person?

Icelanders are touchy on a number of subjects, which makes it super easy to cheese someone off at a moment's notice. My favourite way to provoke someone is to tell them that skyr is literally just yoghurt and nothing special; I mean, yeah, it's nice, but does it compare to a Müller Light? Not really.

Another way to grind an Icelandic person's gears is to subtly infer that they're all cousins. I don't imagine it's particularly nice for your whole country to be compared to the Targaryen family but, well, you asked...

My final insult to Icelandic culture would be to tell them that silver is not as good as a gold medal. This is in reference to the Icelandic handball team who, in 2008, won Iceland's only silver medal in handball at the Sydney Summer Olympics. To really drive the knife in, mention how Denmark won gold in 2016.

Is whale meat tasty? Hell, is it even ethical?

Whale meat is pretty tasty; it's essentially just a big juicy steak that tastes fishy. It's certainly not bad but by no means anywhere near as good as a real steak. [Editor's Note: This opinion is the journalist's own.]

In terms of it being ethical, whale, I'm afraid to admit that many Icelandic fishermen clearly don't particularly care too much about the ethics of hunting whales. Or shark for that matter. If it swims, they eat it.

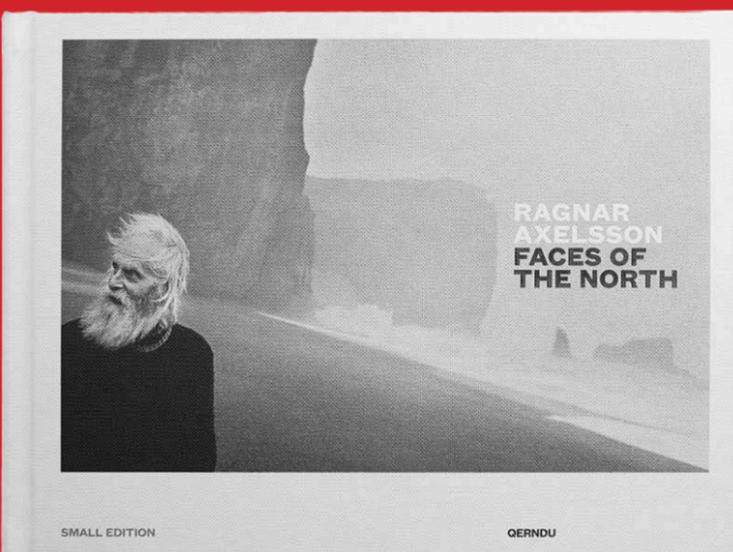
More importantly, whales aren't even the worst thing people eat here. In Vestmannaeyjar, they eat puffins. Puffins damnit! I get that being on a freezing cold rock in the north of the Atlantic means that you gotta eat what you gotta eat but come on now, there's plenty more fish in the sea, right? ♡



CITY SHOT by Art Bienick

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