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Issue Nº 17 – November 7 – December 4 – 2008

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Art Takes to the Service Industry: **Hlynur Hallsson**

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US ELECTION

BARACK IS THE NEW BLACK

What Does it Mean
For the Rest of the World?



BARACK OBAMA'S call for change resonates as deeply in Europe as it does in the US. The new leader of the Free World is seen as a unifying symbol, capable of rebuilding the bridges that the Bush administration burned down in the last eight years. Hope has been restored. **PG. 6.**

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B10 EINAR BEN**B11 BRONS****B14 HLYNUR HALLSSON**

EDITORIAL

Like most luxury items, good news need to be imported nowadays. The only positive thing Icelanders have learned in the last month is that George W. Bush will be replaced by Barack Obama. That's was cause for 15-minutes of celebration, and then the focus shifted back to the depressing reality of the Icelandic economy.

If you are a guest in this country, it will be hard for you to imagine the level of outrage the Icelandic people have reached over the actions of the government, the financial sector, the Central Bank, and the governmental agencies that were supposed to keep them in check. In my lifetime, I have never witnessed such public anger, such despair or such uncertainty.

Young people everywhere are talking about leaving the country, and honestly, who could blame them? Even in a best case scenario, we are looking at years and years of high unemployment rate and high inflation. Every day bears news of another financial tragedy, and everytime you think you have reached the bottom, a new low emerges. There just doesn't seem to be much hope.

But like I said, Obama will be president, and that's about the only good news I've heard in a month, and that alone makes it a cover material. Well, it was either him, or the guy who managed to exchange a counterfeited 10.000 ISK bill (Icelandic money bills only go up to 5000) with a picture of Central Bank director Davíð Oddsson. That may not have been good news, but it was about the only other thing that made me smile this month. Who would have thought the financial sector would be our Katarina?

MASTHEAD

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THE COVER



ON COVER
Barack Obama

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LETTERS

Sour Grapes

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Last month's feature, *The Skeleton Economy*, documenting the fall of the Icelandic economy, sparked some lively debate in our comment system when it was posted on our website. For your amusement, or perhaps, bewilderment, I am going to use this month's *Sour Grape* to publish some highlights. For more, visit www.grapevine.is.

Editor

10.10.2008 09:00:02 - MarsKy

The man's a fool

I'm from the UK and have savings with Icesave which have been frozen/ taken and I can't get access to them. Although there are many peeved off people, including myself, I don't hold the people of Iceland to blame. Politicians and regulators - yes. But to blame the population is too easy. Even if mass consumerism meant people were living beyond their means, then Iceland's population were doing no more than many in the USA, Europe and especially the UK have done.

10.10.2008 09:36:23 - Raj Mundasad

None to blame

It is very difficult pinpoint mistakes. I feel fault is with both govt. They could not control banking and financial services and people have to pay for it. I dont have saving in Icesave but I pray God to solve problem.

10.10.2008 10:40:40 - Kelvin Klump

How about the jews?

Iceland had the nerve to try to penetrate the jewish power hub of banking. They "arranged" this crices to wipe them out so they can continue to control us with their money. These kind of things will repesit itself until the Europeans get rid og the jewish montrs forcing us to rely on their banking- and money tools. Nobody dear to mention this!!! They are scared shit of the jews!!!!

10.10.2008 12:05:01 - R. de Graaf

Iceland should be colonized

With all of the Icelandic economy bankrupt and out of business, and at the same time European money to be recovered from Iceland it may be a good idea to sell of the whole country to the highest bidder. Because that is the only thing that the Icelandic criminals heft left: their country. Hopefully this will bring up enough money to cover the billions of euros of debt that these people owe us. R. de Graaf, Holland, despositor at IceSave

10.10.2008 13:02:19 - Brenton Eccles

My thoughts with you

"The whole world thinks you are a joke..." You'll be laughing at yourself soon, when the rest of the world collapses too. This is

due to the shortcomings of the pathetic monetary system of this world, not just the Icelandic banks. We need to rid this world, of the monetary system, it works on scarcity, which we do not have anymore. We can build hospitals, schools, sustainable energy and so forth allover the planet. But we cannot become a sustainable society in the monetary system, because you cannot maximize profits in a sustainable system. I suggest you watch Zeitgeist: Addendum @ <http://zeitgeistmovie.com>

10.10.2008 14:20:35 - Ragnar Egilsson

To Mr. Scarlett

Mr. Brown must be feeling like a pretty big fish right now, chomping on us shrimp when we're down - ensuring that nobody comes out of this any money. Guess what? We know how to deal with big fish - we harpoon the crap out of them. Also if you want to settle this like men (instead of calling out the cavalry like you did in China, The Falklands, India and Ireland) then I'll be the feeble-looking guy waiting behind the Grapevine building holding a pair of knuckledusters with the words "Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn" emblazoned on them.

10.10.2008 16:06:35 - Niko Heller

How amusing....

How amusing, an imperialistic English belligerent and an antisemitic conspiracy theorist from Norway trying to solve the world financial crisis... how much dullness is this forum going to accept??

10.10.2008 18:22:12 - Thomas Borgsmidt

Pom's You got what You deserved. The Icelandic Vikings have once again raided the English shores. They pillaged, plundered and raped. And You enjoyed it, no end. The greed with which You lend Your money for an infetisimal better interest. They robbed You, but when the constabulary deposits money in casino, The municipality finance building IN ICELAND - well, You had it coming. A fool and his money are soon parted. You got Home Rule some time ago from Denmark - and look what a mess You made of it. As we say in Denmark: Those primitive colonials couldn't run a buscompany - even if they tried. Excuse me for gloating!!!

10.10.2008 22:41:38 - W. Churchill

I'd say: "Sink the Viking island and be done with it..."

It is good to see this corrupt country with its criminals as bankers and politicians to go down the drain. That will teach them a lesson! The Icelandic assets in the UK and all around the world will be frozen and eventually taken over. And then still there remains debt, so best is indeed to colonize this island and make

the people work off the debt, at low wages of course. The arrogant prime minister could be put to work in the salt mines and end his days in the depth of the earth, like the troll he is. And after a hundred years or so, when the debt is payed off (including the 9% promised interest of course), the whole island could be used as a test ground for atomic bombs, so that it may be of some last use, so that the whole rotten ground may sink to the bottom of the ocean...

10.10.2008 19:41:35 - Leonel Godoy

Wow!!

I'm in Chile, the other side of the world and always surprissed about the non senses of belligerant people can say. To offer the "huge navy" is not going to sove the problem, we have been there, and it's only work the solution. I use to thought that british people is more educated and informed than what shows their comment. Anyway, good lauck for everyone.

10.10.2008 20:20:25 - YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE

DANES ARE THE SCUM OF THE EARTH!

FUCK ALL OF Y'ALL COLONIZING, SELF-SERVING, NATION PILLAGING MOTHERFUCKERS. THE ONLY FUCKING COUNTRY IN EUROPE TO STILL HOLD COLONIES... IN EUROPE (MAD PROPS: GREENLAND, FAROES). YOUR LAZY BUM SELVES WILL SOON SEE THEIR DAYS NUMBERED. I REPEAT: FUCK DENMARK, FUCK THE DANES, FUCK THEIR LAZY, FURNITURE DESIGNING ASSES. FUCK ALL OF Y'ALL!

10.10.2008 21:02:17 - Bart Cameron

Character Test

I don't see how Iceland profited in all of this. They got stuck in this situation a while ago-- it really didn't do the average citizen much good, inflate their home values? Make it so they could leave Iceland and retire away from their friends and loved ones. (At the time of greatest prosperity, it was still beyond most people's means to, say, have a bottle of wine and a nice dinner at a restaurant once a week-- at least, inside Iceland.) The failure is costing Icelanders everything, and to see their allies react with so little empathy at such a time is remarkable. From what I've seen, Iceland at least has the character to forge ahead, whereas the behavior of the panicked leaders of Europe, and especially Mr. Brown, suggests a long slide toward ignominy on their end. Not asking for a Winston Churchill... but even John Major had greater dignity in the face of difficulties.



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ARTICLE

That Ignorance is Restraining

America's author passes unnoticed in Europe

BY BART CAMERON

When David Foster Wallace committed suicide on September 12, 2008, the news hit literate America like kick to the gut. We tend to point at the last seven years as particularly rough, and September as a month to get through anyway, but to throw this on, to lose our greatest living writer, was hard to take. Then, we got a casual aside from Swede Horace Engdahl, speaking as permanent secretary of the Nobel prize jury: "There is powerful literature in all big cultures, but you can't get away from the fact that Europe still is the centre of the literary world ... not the United States. The US is too isolated, too insular. They don't translate enough and don't really participate in the big dialogue of literature ... That ignorance is restraining."

The paragraph sums up what a good number of Europeans feel about our literature. They read something like Philip Roth, or John Updike, or Paul Auster, and think they've seen what we have to offer—simple sentences about upper middle class middle-aged men and their erections, maybe with an internal monologue on a train or subway about mistresses—and they figure we live sad, disconnected lives surrounded by the white noise of suburban existence. Some of us do. Most don't.

To be American as long as I've been alive has been to be at the top of a fading, maniacal empire, and to have been hyper-conscious of it. Track down Jimmy Carter's Malaise speech and chase it with the image of Ronald Reagan's ad featuring farms he had forced into foreclosure with patriotic music and the line "It's morning again in America"... in the face of all logic. We have been in the presence of self-loathing, self-denying, exuberant psychosis for all of my 32 years on this earth.

David Foster Wallace caught this experience. In his two novels, *Broom of the System* and *Infinite Jest*, in his interviews and nonfiction, in his groundbreaking short stories, Wallace characterized that hyposensitized bundle of nerves that an awake American became in the 1980s and 90s. And how do I explain this to a readership of non-native speakers? Do I point out that in his debut collection of fiction, Wallace usurped the biography of President Lyndon Baines Johnson to characterise the self-conscious, overprotective role of America as empire? Opening with "I own the fucking floor you stand on, boy," he takes the character of Johnson from an autocrat to an aching, sentimental homosexual dying of AIDS. What does it mean to own the floor, to control the world essentially, as the US attempted to do, under Johnson? It is to be overcome by the burden of leadership: "I done told Bird just last week how responsibility, why, it is not even a feeling... it's like the sky, boy... It's there, over your ass, every fucking day. Matter where you go, boy, look on up, and on top of every goddamned thing else she's there."

And as Johnson slowly explains his burden, all beneath the actual sign that the president once featured "NEVER ELABORATE", the empire falls outside, and we see how any other existence, any attempt to treat the burden of being an American in the post-modern world, is all put on. Our hero in this one story is incapable of doing this with grace, and the work closes with dying words from Johnson, a coy "Hello up there," flirt to his openly gay aide.

That's a thematic telling of just one Wallace work. I can't convey the playfulness and mastery of language in every paragraph, nor the incorporation of images that the author pulls from American pop culture in taking the most bewildering symbol of liberal achievement in American history and making it into the living, breathing symbol of imperialist existence. All of the work Wallace put out achieved such overwhelming heights—described by a peer, Madison Smart Bell, as "inhuman brilliance."

This hinted at the depth of the intelligence in the writing: Wallace's work was challenging, and work deeply embedded in time, place and language. Hopefully, someday, Wallace's writing will get out to Europe, even if it needs to be pulled free of the time, place and language that formed it—he is akin to Thomas Mann, so unrelenting, fearless, and overwhelming. Until then, I want to point out that most of the readers and writers of America learned how far the craft could take them from one man, and if an American is noticed by a European cultural gatekeeper in some distant future, it will likely be someone standing on Wallace's work, a man whose death caused a national gasp, and didn't earn a blink in the "centre of the literary world." 🇺🇸

ARTICLE BY SVEINN BIRKIR BJÖRNSSON



Can He Save Us, Too?

What will the Obama presidency mean for the World?

Barack Obama's call for change resonates as deeply in Europe as it does in the US. The new leader of the Free World is seen as a unifying symbol, capable of rebuilding the bridges that the Bush administration burned down in the last eight years. Hope has been restored.

Last July, more than 200,000 people gathered in the Tiergarten Park in Berlin, Germany to hear US Senator Barack Obama's message of change. Obama promised to forge new partnerships with old allies, to tear down walls of division, and rebuild the bridges between the US and Europe that the Bush administration had set on fire in previous years with their unilateral 'you-are-either-with-us-or-against-us-type of arrogance in world affairs. He would heal the divide and enter a new period of cooperation in eradicating common threats like nuclear proliferation, global warming, poverty and genocide.

In the US, this event was interpreted as a testimony to Obama's ability to restore the world's faith in American leadership and idealism. Looking back, it seems obvious that it was a moment of far greater importance. It was the moment that Barack Obama became the leader of the Free World.

From that moment on, in Europe and beyond, Obama's campaign for the presidency has been followed with more interest than any other presidential race in American history. Outside the US, he seems to have been accepted as a unifying symbol, not only for his will to reconnect Europe and the US, but in the sense that Barack Obama offers people genuine hope. Perhaps, the sentiment is best described in a congratulatory letter to Obama from French President Nicholas Sarkozy: "Your election raises in France, in Europe, and beyond throughout the world, immense hope."

OBAMA; THE MAN, THE MYTH, THE CAMPAIGN

"For one thing, the President of the United States of America is the most powerful individual in the world," says Baldur Þórhallsson, professor of political science at the University of Iceland, when asked why the world shows such interest in the US presidential election. "Second, it has to do with the media. The big media that distributes news around the world is more or less located in the US, and they have deemed this as something that the world should be interested in. Third, every single nation

has a great interest to protect when it comes to its relation to the US."

But what makes this election so special? Why has Barack Obama sparked greater interest in people than any presidential candidate before him? According to Þórhallsson, Obama's popularity, directly or indirectly, reflects the unpopularity of the Bush Administration. "There is a common perception that the US government is a threat. That is why this election has gathered so much attention, because here is a man, Obama, that says he wants a change, not only on domestic issues, but also foreign policy."

As far as Iceland goes, Þórhallsson says we should not expect great changes to our relationship with the US. "The relationship mostly goes through institutions and government officials, whether it is the Ministry for Foreign Affairs or the Central Bank. Obama's own position towards Iceland is of course unknown, but I don't expect that the position of government officials will change a great deal."

IS THE LEFT BACK?

The Democratic Party won a decisive victory, not only in the presidential election, but also in the Senate, and the House of Representatives. Does this mean that the left is back? "I think you would have to interpret this as a swing to the left in US politics," says Þórhallsson. "The values of liberalism and the Republicans' emphasis on religion and family values, does not seem to be as widely accepted as before, and there is more interest in governmental participation, both when it comes to health insurance and social welfare issues. The opposition to the war in Iraq also plays a role. There is increased pressure on the administration to stop making unilateral decision, and more pressure to go through international institutions and forge allies with other nations."

Does that mean that Europe, where politics have moved towards the right in recent years, will also swing back? "It is hard to say, but it is likely. The values of liberalism, and the emphasis on family values and religion have become more obvious in European politics during the time of the Bush administration, because these issues have been so obvious in the US. We have seen conservative parties in continental Europe adopt this stance. American domestic politics often tend to influence European domestic politics. But what has happened now is that the average voter in the US has moved closer to the average voter in Europe."

EUROPE (D)

Paul F. Nikolov is well acquainted with politics on both sides of the Atlantic. Born in the USA, the

former Grapevine journalist is currently an alternate Member of Parliament in Iceland. "What this means for Iceland, specifically, I think, is that you'll notice that in Obama's victory speech he made a special point to address the rest of the world, and stated: America is back! I think we are going to see a lot more multilateral foreign policy, and building a partnership with other countries, specifically NATO countries," Paul says.

"Specifically, just for Iceland though, Obama's energy plan is a lot more comprehensive in terms of renewable energy resources. Geothermal energy is a pretty untapped idea in the US, many states that could, are not implementing it, such as in the Rockies - Wyoming for example - where there is great geothermal activity. Because of Obama's call for renewable energy, I think there could be a great opportunity for a partnership between Iceland and the US, for Iceland to teach Americans about geothermal energy and sharing their technology with America.

Nikolov agrees that Obama's presidency is perceived as a unifying symbol in Europe. "My European friends, when they have talked to me in the past few months, have said: 'Please don't screw this up! You have to elect that man.' I definitely think he is going to serve his purpose as a unifier. But, it really came as a surprise to me how many people are excited about this presidency. If you look at the last issue of the Economist, they did a map called 'If the World Could Vote,' showing what countries supported which candidate, and it was overwhelmingly in favor of Obama.

So Europe is a blue state?

"If you want to put it like that, then yes, Europe is definitely a blue state." 🇺🇸

LOOKING BACK, IT SEEMS OBVIOUS THAT IT WAS A MOMENT OF FAR GREATER IMPORTANCE. IT WAS THE MOMENT THAT BARACK OBAMA BECAME THE LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD.





Pekkir þú þinn rétt?

Í efnahagsumróti eins og gengur yfir Ísland í dag er nauðsynlegt hverjum launamanni að eiga öflugt stéttarfélag að bakhjarli. Víða um land er verið að segja upp fólki, vinnutími er skertur, yfirborganir teknar af. Fyrirtæki fara í þrot og geta ekki staðið við launa-skuldbindingar.

Þegar fyrirtæki loka fyrirvaralaust eru oft mörg mál óuppgerð. Launafólk á inni uppsagnarfrest, ótekið orlof og jafnvel ógreidda veikindadaga. Oft eru vinnuslys enn óuppgerð og ófrágengin. Erlendir launamenn þurfa oft aðstoð við frágang sinna mála áður en þeir yfirgefa landið.

AFL Starfsgreinafélag annast alla hagsmunagæslu fyrir félagsmenn sína við slíkar aðstæður. Félagið innheimtir laun og önnur áunnin réttindi og tekur við slysamálum ef þau eru ófrágengin. Við tölum Íslensku, dönsku, ensku og pólsku.



Czy znasz swoje prawa?

W zmianach ekonomicznych, takich jakie obecnie panują na Islandii, każdemu pracownikowi potrzebne są silne związki zawodowe. W całym kraju wypowiedzi się pracownikom pracę, czas pracy jest skracany, zmniejszane są stawki. Firmy bankrutują i nie są w stanie dotrzymać obowiązku wypłat.

Kiedy firma bankrutuje z dnia na dzień jest wiele nierozwiązanych problemów. Pracownicy mają prawo do okresu wypowiedzenia pracy, świadczeń urlopowych i chorobowych, które nie zostały wyrównane. Często również zdarza się, że nie zostały wyrównane odszkodowania w związku z wypadkami w czasie pracy.

Pracownicy zagraniczni często potrzebują pomocy w odzyskaniu świadczeń i zakończeniu wszystkich spraw związanych z pracą przed wyjazdem z Islandii. Związek Zawodowy Wschodniej Islandii AFL zajmuje się ochroną praw związkowców w takich przypadkach.

Związki ściągają niezapłacone wypłaty i inne świadczenia, pilnują zakończeń spraw związanych z odszkodowaniami. Mówimy po islandzku, duńsku, angielsku i po polsku.



Do you know your rights?

During times of economic trouble, such as Iceland is now experiencing, every wage earner needs to be able to look to a powerful trade union. All over the country, employees are being given notice, their working hours cut back, and their overpayments cancelled. The companies employing them are at risk of bankruptcy and may be incapable of paying wages owed.

When a company suddenly closes down, many matters may be left incomplete. The employees may have unused vacation and be owed for their notice period and even for sick days. Often, work accidents still need settling and finishing.

Foreign workers frequently need help so that they can finish all their affairs before leaving Iceland. In such situations, AFL - the East Iceland Federation of Trade Unions - takes care of any interests that affect its members. AFL collects their wages and other acquired rights, and takes on any unresolved accident issues. Note that we speak Icelandic, Danish, English and Polish.



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AIR WAVES



MIRI

WORDS BY HAUKUR S. MAGNÚSSON
PHOTOGRAPHY GAS

WILL KILL AND CONFUSE YOU

MIRI, OUR SAVIOURS from the East! They are as honest, loving and pure as any band on the Airwaves bill – good old country boys with no agenda but to entertain themselves and their audience, having a good time, making connections, earning friends and playing some great tunes to whomever will listen. Which is of course rock music at its finest: friendly, curious, exciting and loving. The Grapevine sat down with drummer Ívar Pétur Kjartansson and bassist Hjalti Jón Sverrisson, the rhythm section, making sure this interview runs smoothly and has a steady backbeat.

How many times did you play during the course of the festival?

■ **Ívar:** Two times, this year. But it is our third time playing Airwaves. The reception was really great at Organ, a lot of people and a great audience....

■ **Hjalti:** The Organ show was so fun; it was exactly what we were aiming for. Insanity and party, people dancing and going nuts. We want people to lose themselves at our shows, and that was accomplished nicely at Organ.

Really, I thought you would rather be aiming for an introspective mood?

■ **Ívar:** I don't think what we've been doing over the last year has been introspective; it is rather about getting the feel and mood of the show across from the stage, we want to touch people – to move them and inspire. And of course to have an inspired time ourselves, doing so. That is what we try and put forth.

■ **Hjalti:** We want people to experience incredibly beautiful music, music you also dance and rock out to at the same time. Combining the most beautiful song you've heard with the most party knockout. And that is a bit challenging. But it is a goal of the band's.

So, how were you received this Airwaves? Did you accomplish your goal of the beautiful party?

■ **Ívar:** We were really well received by the audience and the public; people at our shows were hugging and high-fiving us. The reception was great, but this brings up a topic I want to address. You ask yourself if the critics... well, we of course made this music ourselves and it is a part of who we are, so maybe we're too involved, but I sometimes ask myself if the reviewers are listening when they're at the concerts, if they are paying attention to the music. And I don't mean only with us, it has been the case with a lot of reviews I've read, where I was at the same show. I just don't understand how some of the conclusions the reviewers reach were reached, what brought them on; it's like they are writing about an alternate reality, like they were at a different show.

■ **Hjalti:** Not that we're complaining, we get great reviews, but it's sometimes like they're writing about some other music than our music. I would prefer getting a bad review about our music than a good review about some music I do not recognise making or playing.

Miri are currently finishing their debut album, which they plan on releasing in early 2009. Check them out at MySpace, www.myspace.com/mirimusic.

INTERVIEWS



FAMILJEN

WORDS BY SIGURÐUR KJARTAN KRISTINSSON
PHOTOGRAPHY EMMA

FAMILJEN RAVISHED THE WIDE-AWAKE CROWD AT ICELAND AIRWAVES

THE CELEBRATED solo-musician Johan Karlson comes from the small town of Hässleholm in southern Sweden. For the last year or so, he has travelled around Europe under the moniker Familjen (The Family) to charm worked-up electro admirers at every stop. Last month, Familjen was one of the biggest acts playing the Iceland Airwaves festival. When he had satisfied the crowd with his high-pitched tunes the Grapevine caught up with him in the green room.

Could you begin by telling me about Familjen, how did it all begin?

■ **Well,** I don't know really. I have always liked making music on my own since I was little and I had been engaged in doing Familjen-kind of music for some time when I introduced some of my work to a friend of mine who worked in the publishing industry. He had somehow heard that some of my pieces, which had never left my house, might have some potential. He was, apparently, impressed by some of it and told me he wanted to release some of my work. I was enthralled of course and immediately agreed that we'd simply go for it. At first we took it slow and released an EP but it was soon obvious that there were clear grounds for taking the whole thing further and so we published a full-length. Everything really took off from there...

You have always worked alone until recently when Andreas Tiliander became a part of Familjen. Have things improved subsequent to this addition?

■ **It isn't exactly that black and white to tell you the truth, it is still only myself that composes all the music and I am in fact still the only actual member of Familjen. What has on the other hand changed is that my dear friend Andreas, who is a great musician to say the least, has joined me in my live performances, and he has definitely made them much more lively and energetic. Besides him we have a few extras, for example the singer who sings in two songs who give us a hand once in a while. So yes, things have improved a lot, at least the live performances have. I was so new to this all and didn't exactly know what to do on stage but I think we are finally reaching the point where somebody might actually find our performance fun to watch.**

The music you compose is considered by many one of a kind, so in your opinion where does it all come from? What would you say inspires you the most?

■ **I think the things and people around me have a great influence on my music. Don't get me wrong though, I'm not talking about my band fellows, I just tell them what to do and they do it. But I base my songs on my own experiences. But bands**

I listened to in my teen years have also affected me a lot, such as Daft Punk and Guns'n'Roses.

Recently your single 'De snurrar I min skalle' has been peaking charts all over and you are slowly becoming a recognised name in the industry. What is it about you that made you succeed?

■ **It isn't me for sure! When I think about it I find it most likely that it's my agent that has made all this happen. In recent months I have been invited to several music festivals around Europe like Iceland Airwaves of course, and it has truly been a blast. I was really shocked when I saw all the people here singing along with the lyrics, even the Swedish ones! It was crazy! I had no idea I had reached that status. I thought that was just what skyrockets like U2 experienced.**

So you have been playing a lot of festivals lately? You must have some rock'n'roll-ish tour thrills you could share?

■ **I sure have a lot of those but I'm not sure if I can tell you. This is a widely read publication isn't it? But well, I guess I have one that isn't that nasty. We were doing this tour with a band called Kent, and we did about thirteen gigs with them. One time after a gig we had gotten tremendously drunk and we decided to go to a bowling alley that was open 24 hours, but after a few rounds we decided to spice things up a bit and made up the rule that every time you missed a pin you had to take one piece of clothing off. So you might say it was strip bowling. And finally we were all down to our socks and when Andreas ran after the lane when he was dissatisfied with having missed a few pins with his family jewels flapping against his thighs we noticed all the flabbergasted people around us staring at us, and we realised it was so late that family people had actually started showing up for a nice Saturday relaxation. We couldn't help but feel like true rock stars at that point.**

AIR WAVES



WORDS BY **HAUKUR S. MAGNÚSSON**
PHOTOGRAPHY **LEÓ STEFÁNSSON**

HANDSOME FURS

LIKE OUR CITY ...AND THEY SECRETLY WANT TO BE JOURNALISTS

HANDSOME FURS ARE A PRETTY GREAT BAND, AND THEREFORE ONE OF THOSE THAT REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE REALLY WANTED TO INTERVIEW FOR ONE OF OUR AIRWAVES SPECIALS OF LAST MONTH. THEY RESPONDED PROMPTLY AND POSITIVELY TO OUR E-MAILED INTERVIEW REQUEST, BUT NEGLECTED TO ANSWER ANY OF OUR QUESTIONS BEFORE DEADLINE.

After watching them play their inspired and, frankly, fucking awesome set at Iceland Airwaves Saturday, I knew I wanted some answers, and I wanted them now. Using my special skunk-pass, I managed to sneak backstage at NASA where I found the pair – keyboard-maverick Alexei Perry and her husband, singer/guitarist Dan Boeckner – breaking all the rules, laying on the couch, smoking cigarettes indoors and looking all post-coital in a way that didn't really invite any interruptions from drunken journalists. I waited a while, and when they stood up as if to leave introduced myself as the Grapevine reporter they had failed.

■ “Yeah, sorry about that,” they said. “We were on tour in Eastern Europe and had really limited Internet access. But we're in town 'til Tuesday... would you like to maybe have a chat before we leave?”

I promptly answered: “Yes,” and invited them over to my house for some fresh caught plaice. “We will bring wine,” they said as they skirted off into the night. I got all excited. It rarely happens that bands I really, really like want to come over for dinner.

Come Monday evening, all of my pots and pans brimming with food, the doorbell rang. They didn't bring any wine, but that was OK as I had a little extra. We sat down, they broke the rules some more and smoked in my dining room and we talked about their touring habits, their music, their lyrics, Face Control, overlord Cthulu and the band Coldplay.

THE GHOSTLY WRITINGS OF STEPHEN KING

“Hipsters in America all secretly want to listen to Coldplay, but they're afraid their friends will make fun of them. That's why we get crap like Bon Iver, a hipster-Coldplay,” says Boeckner, mostly out of the

blue, sipping on a Screwdriver. They look at my bookcase with great interest. Turns out Boeckner, the son of an English-teacher, and his wife Perry, a lauded writer in her own right, share a deep passion for literature of all kinds. They immediately start recommending books and authors I ought to like based on my existing collection, and I get secretly nervous about my huge Stephen King collection. “Are you kidding? Stephen King is a great writer,” Perry retorts when I make excuses for owning the complete Dark Tower septology. “We love his work, even Cell was great, although we suspect a lot of that was ghostwritten.”

I ask them if running a band together as well as maintaining a marriage causes tension or clash of egos from time to time. Perry answers that they both have strong egos, and that the band does indeed cause their clash from time to time. “But in a good way,” she says. “It's only affected our relationship in strong ways; we tend to want the same things in life, we like touring and going places together, getting everywhere we can and working as hard as we can on creating the things we love.”

STUPID, STUPID TOURS

Boeckner concurs that the world of Handsome Furs has its share of ego-clashing. “But I don't think any decent music is made without friction – there needs to be some kind of friction at work in the creation of good music. If there's a smoothness, then what you're making is going to be all easy and soft and not very interesting. In terms of our relationship, it's like Luxy [Alexei's nickname] said: we both want to be doing exactly what we're doing. And I think the main part of the band that a lot of people miss is travelling. This band, it's completely based, aesthetically and otherwise, on travelling. Our last record was about travelling to Northern Europe, Scandinavia and Helsinki. Not about it exactly, but inspired by travelling there and being there. And our next one, Face Control, is in turn inspired by Eastern Europe and Russia.”

Perry interjects, “We both secretly want to be journalists,” and Boeckner concurs: “Secretly, I want to be a foreign correspondent. This band is about that more than anything, artistically and otherwise. It

INTERVIEWS

is compact and transportable; it allows us to travel to places a lot of fully-manned rock bands with a drum kit never make it to. We get to absorb those places and regurgitate them in music, whether anyone notices or not.

“We have an X amount of commercial potential – not a lot – but enough to sustain two lives as much as two minimum wage jobs would or even more. So we can afford making decisions like playing only one show in L.A. and using the profits from that to go to Serbia. Like, I never imagined I would visit Iceland back when I was in high school, listening to the Sugarcubes. That's the sort of decision we make, it balances out and we get to go places we otherwise wouldn't. “If you look at it from a financial point of view, we do stupid, stupid tours. Then again, we're not really financially minded. I do not believe in the permanence of a band, so I think when you have one and people want to come see it play, you have your choice of playing the safe markets and lining your pockets or extending yourself as far as you want to go in terms of absorbing the world, life and experience.”

THE ONLY TRUE WAY TO COMMUNICATE

The tell me that playing live is important to them, that in 2008, playing live is the most important thing for a band to do. “The only true way to communicate with an audience is through live shows,” Boeckner says, “look people in the eye and play your songs. Maybe you'll fuck up, maybe you'll do completely different songs or shows, but you're there with them and they're there with you. As cheesy as that sounds, I honestly think the only true way of communicating as a band is playing your music in front of an audience.”

Boeckner is visibly interested in the subject. He sits up, takes a long drag of his cigarette and continues. “An album is several steps away, produced media warps. When you see a band on stage, and you hear them, and they're there, when there's no barrier between band and audience; that's the purest form of being a musician. It is boot camp, the boot camp; the trial by fire, the meat and potatoes of being a musician is playing in front of people. And if you can't do that, I don't think you have any business being a musician at all.”

EXPRESSION AS CHARACTER DEFECT.

So we talk about playing music. “I play music because I feel lonely, and it makes me feel less alone. To play things for other people. It's the same reason I write,” says Perry. Boeckner takes the ball. “I think I play music because I am fundamentally a really angry, frustrated person, and it's impossible for me to express how I feel being alive as a human being in any other way than playing music. I can't write. I can't paint. I am not a great cook, and I don't think if I could cook that my food would be an expression of my aliveness. Playing music is the only way my brain, body and heart know how to express my aliveness. And I don't know why I have a desire to express that – a lot of people don't. But I do. Maybe that's a character defect?”

Perry: “Why would it be a defect?”

Boeckner: “When I figured out how to express myself musically, I quit giving a shit about anything else. If I didn't do it, I'd probably kill myself.”

How relevant are the lyrics to your music, the expression of your aliveness, then?

Boeckner: “I'd say for me personally, and you can talk about this too [motions to Perry], that the lyrical aspect of Handsome Furs is more important for me than in Wolf Parade [Boeckner's other, bigger band]. We don't write about interpersonal relationships on the surface, although I suppose you can read anything you want out of it. Our first record was about geography and urban and rural displacement. The next one [Face Control, due out on Sub Pop soon] is about the fall of communism in Eastern Europe.”

A GROUP OF SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE, GROWN UP PUNKERS

So you are making a political album? Are you a “message band”?

Boeckner: “I am very political, and the music on the next Handsome Furs record is very political, but I don't hold that early nineties Fugazi aesthetic as a kind of touchstone of how to behave as a musician. For me it's not a living, rather commenting on life. It is important for me to be aware of everything I can be, as much as I can be. A band like Handsome Furs is a thousand times more political than fucking Vampire Weekend, but the playing field as a musician has changed. You can choose to be soulless and not have a message or anything to say, or to have some sort of message, even if that message is that there's this interesting chunk of history that you may not know about. I believe good music helps you broaden your perspective without ramming things ham-fistedly down your throat.

The fact of the matter is that the way the industry is now, if you get tagged as playing indie-rock, you have this amazing opportunity to get on David Letterman and play your songs for millions of people. We were offered Letterman – if I get to go on Letterman and talk about Kaliningrad, it's a victory for people who care about history everywhere. To completely black out the mainstream media would be a mistake right now; there's this window where people that are basically grown up punkers are doing what's acceptable to the mainstream. And people have to take advantage of that, as it might not last. But you have to be kinda sneaky about it.”

At 32-years of age, Guðrún Eva Mínevrudóttir is already the author of six novels in addition to volumes of short stories and other works. Her latest novel, Skaparinn (e. The Maker), is a tale of two persons who share their misery for a few days in a series of complicated events. A Grapevine journalist met with Guðrún Eva at her home in Reykjavík to discuss her new book, her work ethics and the author's role in society.

With six novels under your belt, I guess people see you as an experienced writer rather than a promising one?

"Yes, I'm not referred to as promising anymore. It has been 10 years since I released my first book and I have gained much experience. I don't want to belittle my older works but I'd say when I wrote Yosoy [2005] I finally nailed it, and since then I feel I have full control over the novel form."

When it comes to the novel's form, is it important to write a novel that is traditional and accessible?

Sometimes it's hard for me to figure out if I'm writing a traditional book or something out of the ordinary, but I want to get through to people and have them read my books. My last two books, Yosoy and Skaparinn, are both suspense novels and Skaparinn is even more accessible since it has only two main characters. We should still not forget that novels, like the name suggests, are supposed to deliver something new so originality is part of the whole game.

What about social commentary? Is it necessary to have opinions on political matters?

I think it's important for authors to have an opinion, but it should not be an obligation. When I was younger I was more political but then I came to certain crossroads and felt that I somehow had to choose between fiction and real matters. Don't misunderstand me. I do want to change the world but I want to do it through fiction. I have tremendous faith in fiction. It is a force that can change the world because it places people in other people's steps.

In her new novel Guðrún Eva puts herself, and the reader, in the steps of 40 year old lonely but sympathetic creator of life size silicon dolls. Is it harder for you to get into the mind of men rather than women?

"Laxness was often praised for his ability to adopt the women's mindset. I guess he just didn't think of it at all. Men and women are just people and their feelings are more similar than many make of it. Some matters are more technical though. Like with age. People of a certain age would not do and think certain things because it never touched their generation," she says and implies that writing a novel can require some scientific methods. "I call it surgery. After I finish first draft, the editor [Valur Antonsson] and me examine some details and I do some patch-work to strengthen the characters," says Guðrún Eva and points out she takes suggestions particularly well.



The World Can Be Changed Through Fiction

Author Guðrún Eva Mínevrudóttir on making *The Maker* and other stories

How did you come up with the idea of Skaparinn?

"I had already laid down the grids of the main woman character that is basically a woman on the verge of a nervous breakdown. Then I saw a magazine article about a company called 'Real Dolls' that manufactures silicon dolls for lonely people. I was reading the magazine at café in Paris and accidentally spilled tea over it so I had to take it home. I read the article and became fascinated because it was hard to imagine that there are people in this world who have lost all faith in relations with humans and buy these dolls instead," she says and points out that the dolls seem to have a greater purpose than fulfilling sexual needs. The other main character in the book is the doll maker, and by a chance the two characters end up spending a few days together. The plot is full of misunderstanding and has many humorous elements despite dealing with serious subjects. "Part of the suspense in the story is to see how these characters react to the strange circumstances I lay upon them."

Is that something you do a lot, to put ordinary people into strange situations?

I have heard people describe Skaparinn in that way. At least it has more ordinary characters than Yosoy, which was filled with strange people. You can still do a lot with regular people, like looking at their reactions. Describing the reactions of a nor-

mal person, like the female character in Skaparinn, when the world collapses over her was a challenge. Many people I've met have strong opinions on this matter. Some say the character is too casual about it while others say she over-reacts.

One of the characters in the book, the teenage girl, has anorexia. How did you inform yourself about the disorder?

"Dealing with this subject is like walking on glass. There are so many clichés and many ways to make it insincere and unreal. I browsed the Internet a lot. These girls have webcams and you can watch them talk about their feelings on Youtube. It can be quite disturbing," she says and adds an explanation on why an anorexic character was fitted to the story. "The story deals with the body a lot. Women of life and blood are compared to the dolls made by the maker and that puts much focus on the body. I felt like these anorexic girls were always looking for something pure. They are obsessed with being as little alive as possible, like death is the purest form of being."

How do you go about when you write a story that has to resonate with readers in time and space. Are you afraid that some of the contemporary details will age badly?

I don't want the material to be dated. There are not a lot of details in Skaparinn that will become obsolete. But I am not necessarily trying to tread lightly.

I just think such details are irrelevant to the story. The books I have been writing for the last few years are supposed to deal with our common human existence, not everyday triviality.

Are there any upcoming projects?

"I'm always working on something. I have ideas for two different novels. I would also like to adopt one of them for the theatre and in addition I have an idea for another play I hope to write someday. I'm on a leave from writing till the end of this year though. I've been working hard and it can be exhausting," says Guðrún Eva and tells me about how drained she was after finishing Yosoy. "I got pneumonia twice after finishing that book. It was horrible." 🐦

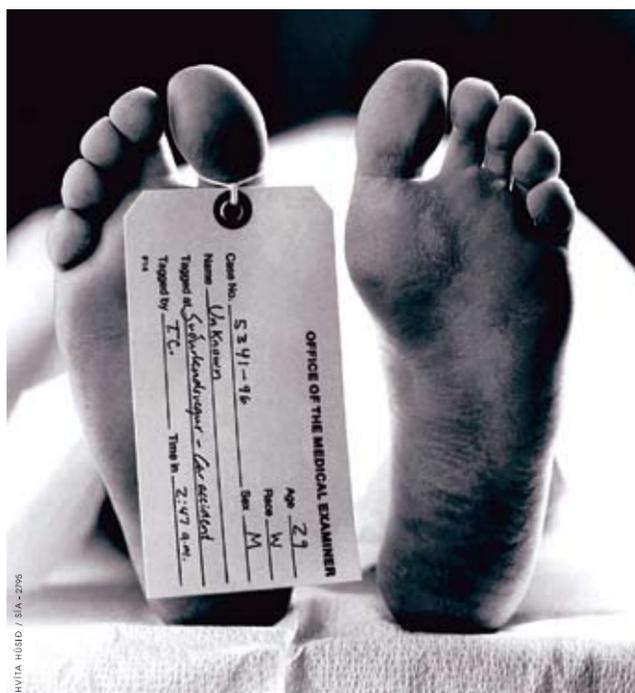
SOMETIMES IT'S HARD FOR ME TO FIGURE OUT IF I'M WRITING A TRADITIONAL BOOK OR SOMETHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY, BUT I WANT TO GET THROUGH TO PEOPLE AND HAVE THEM READ MY BOOKS.



10 ZASAD GŁÓWNYCH

1. Myśl pozytywnie, bądźcie ci łżej
2. Dbaj o to, co jest ci drogie
3. Ucz się jak najdłużej, nawet do końca swojego życia
4. Ucz się na własnych błędach
5. Ruszaj się jak najwięcej, to podnosi na duchu
6. Nie zaprzataj sobie głowy niepotrzebnymi sprawami
7. Staraj się rozumieć i wspierać innych
8. Nie poddawaj się, droga do sukcesu jest długa
9. Znajdź i rozwijaj swoje zdolności
10. Stawiaj sobie zadania i pozwól swoim marzeniom się spełnić



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ROAD TRAFFIC DIRECTORATE

CD REVIEWS



THE VERDICT
Good humoured pop songs for the dark season

LISTEN
www.myspace.com/retrostefsonmusic

RETRO STEFSON

Montaña



REVIEWED BY FLORIAN ZÜHLKE

This record is a surprise in various aspects. You would barely expect such a good-humoured record coming from a country that has three hours of sunshine daily in December. Moreover, "Montaña" was released by a band whose members have not even reached their 20s (though they have been around in local clubs for more than three years). Full of verve, the album is a unique mixture of easygoing Caribbean tunes and danceable 70s Motown discosounds. The strength of this young band is writing swinging songs with opulent arrangements and countless gimmicks by guitar and organ. Even if you do not share the carved-in-stone-smile this record implies, songs like "Salvatore" or "Medallion" will be stuck in your head for long. This may be the only point of criticism for the record: the permanent happiness seems a little stilted as it runs through the length of an album. However, this will probably be welcome during the upcoming winter.



THE VERDICT
Entertaining pop music without rough edges

LISTEN
www.myspace.com/sprengjuhollin

SPRENGJUHÖLLIN

Bestu kveðjur



REVIEWED BY FLORIAN ZÜHLKE

This is the second album from Reykjavík's Sprengjuhöllinn, which is meant to be a best seller like its predecessor "Timarnir Okkar," that sold over 7300 copies in the first three months after its release. It could definitely work out for "Bestu kveðjur," as the band mixes lively rock rhythms with poppy melodies and charismatic vocals in a very good way. The recording is handy and the arrangements are entertaining and varied. All in all, this is an outstandingly catchy pop album. The other side of the coin is that the album has no rough edges to grab onto. You won't find anything that you don't like on "Bestu kveðjur," but it is also hard to find something intriguing. This album will reach a broad audience again, but to acquire a place on the shelf next to your all-time favourites, it would have had to be a little more challenging.



THE VERDICT
Icelandic Alternative-Country with good moments

LISTEN
www.myspace.com/thevikinggiantshow

THE VIKING GIANT SHOW

The Lost Garden of the Hooligans



REVIEWED BY FLORIAN ZÜHLKE

This band started as a solo-project of Heiðar Örn Kristjánsson, singer of popular alternative-rock band Botnleðja. In the past few years, Heiðar managed to gather a bunch of friends around him, so that Viking Giant Show became a real band by now. In contrast to Botnleðja's heavy rock riffs, this four piece recorded a comfortable Alternative-Country record. You find steel guitars, decent Boom-Chicka-Boom drumming, and occasional trumpets. The result is sometimes beautiful as "Don't Believe" and "New Year's", sometimes driving like "The Funeral" or "Hope You Find Your Needle", but always relaxed and emotional. You could only accuse The Viking Giant Show of being too unimaginative. Not all of the songs on this record are interesting, not all of the melodies are really catchy, and sometimes the band seems to be stuck in clichés. Anyway, The Lost Garden Of The Hooligans has its good moments, which definitely makes it worth a listen.



THE VERDICT
Artificially antisocial Lo-Fi punk.

LISTEN
www.myspace.com/slugsogslabb

SLUGS

Slugs



REVIEWED BY FLORIAN ZÜHLKE

This band has gained some controversial fame for their rude live appearances. Their self-titled debut album should now prove that the band has more to offer than bad stage behaviour. Indeed, there are a few rousing rock riffs on this album, at the beginning of "Drífum Okkur", for example. However, all in all the record cannot maintain this thrill longer than two runs. On the one hand the trashy punk songs are too simple and dilettante. On the other hand, Slugs is missing the anarchistic aggressiveness of early 80s punk bands. As Slugs do not make up for the lack of musical skills by attitude, all that remains is the clumsy attempt to shock with lyrics about genitalia and some really badly produced songs with funny voice effects. Slugs disappoint because of their strained otherness.

OPINION BY PAUL SULLIVAN

Five Years On...

Looking back at the Icelandic music scene

As Van "The Man" Morrison once sagely noted: "Music is spiritual; the music industry is not". We all know which side of the fence Icelandic music falls on (usually drunkenly), but last month in Reykjavík we've had both sides of the story. While Iceland Airwaves let loose its usual sonic juju, a music conference called You Are In Control took care of what we might call 'the business end'.

But let's rewind. Five years ago I published "Waking Up In Iceland," a book that set out to explore Iceland's unique and remarkable music scene. Back then it was all about bands like Trabant and Quarashi, Singapore Sling and The Leaves. Thule was the name of a record label (as well as a beer) and "Esja" was just a mountain, and not a musical project.

Trawling around Airwaves last month, devouring the dynamic and contrastive range of sounds - the roaring immensity of Reykjavík! vs. the feelgood post-disco of FM Belfast; the avant bricolage of Ghostigital vs. the soaring beauty of Ólafur Arnalds; the joyful noise of Hjal-talin and Retro Stefson, to name but a few - it occurred to me that the scene has totally remixed itself.

While the scene's Old Masters are still around - Björk, Sigur Rós and múm are all still busy maintaining their heavyweight titles, buoyed by the inexorable rise of established acts like Mugison, Jóhann Jóhannsson and Emiliana Torrini - many of the Class of '03 are now gone. In their place is a new breed that adds greatly to the scene's already famed diversity. They're more confident, yet more insouciant too. Bands seem to be enjoying themselves more these days (a bit of a global trend perhaps) and a lot of the performances, from the in-ner-face antics of Ultra-Mega-Technoband-Stefán and Reykjavík! to the jaunty collectivism of Benni Hemm Hemm, FM Belfast and Retro-Stefson - are electrifying. Folk have been getting their shit together on a business tip too. The uncompromising DIY ethic that the scene was built on still runs through it, but artists seem to enjoy further reach thanks to the internet and its myriad resources. More acts seem to be getting out on the road, hooking up deals and using the social-net-working realm to promote themselves.

Five years ago there was talk of getting more funding for the music industry and perhaps professionalizing it - that also finally seems to be happening. The Kraumur Music Fund aims "to strengthen Icelandic musical life, primarily by supporting young musicians in performing and presenting their works...by providing direct grants, professional assistance and various forms of cooperation." So far, Mugison, amiina, FM Belfast, Skakkamanage and Ólóf Arnalds - a fine and deserving selection by anyone's standards - have been awarded handouts and hopefully more will benefit later this year. In terms of promotion - often a sticking point for Icelandic bands - the scene has grown an 'official' mouthpiece in the shape of the Icelandic Music Export office (IMX for short), a "one-stop shop" for info on Icelandic music that I was happily recruited to edit and provide content for in 2007. In the space of a year we've managed to build a useful two-way portal between Icelandic music, it's fans and interested professionals, where bands can upload profiles, songs, videos and contact info for free.

It was IMX that organised the two-day conference You Are In Control, held prior to Airwaves at the Saga Hotel, which brought together an international assembly of industry moguls, keynote speakers and local musicians in Reykjavík.

So yeah, things are moving. Yet the heart of the scene remains the same, still driven by the same dynamics: a need for competition and collaboration, for creative expression and experimentation, for external recognition; to believe in the spirituality of music. Oh yes - and the need to throw really fucking great parties and make some of the greatest music in the world for no reason other than...it's fun.

Some things, hopefully, will never change.

As a Music journalist Paul Sullivan has written for The Independent, Sleazation, DrownedInSound, BBC, Clash, The Wire, National Geographic and Pitchfork, amongst others. Five years ago, he wrote the book Waking Up In Iceland, documenting the Icelandic Music Scene. He also the news editor for Icelandmusic.is.



MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPTS – EDDAS AND SAGAS
The ancient vellums on display



SURTSEY – GENESIS
Multimedia exhibition on a new volcanic island



THE LATE VIEW
Halldór Laxness' private photographs



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exhibition Mondays and Fridays at 3:30 pm.



DESTINATION

Yoko Ono's Tower of Peace

BY DESIREE ANDREWS — PHOTO BY GÚNDI

On October 9, the 68th anniversary of John Lennon's birth, Yoko Ono lit the Imagine Peace Tower in Reykjavík for the second time. The column of light is dedicated to world peace and to honour her late husband, and will stay lit until December 8, the date of Lennon's untimely death.

"There's so many beautiful things that are going on in Iceland," Yoko said when asked why she chose to come here. "Iceland is almost the strongest influence to the world, not just that, when you come here you feel everything is clean and full of very resilient people." During her address, Yoko acknowledged the dire state of the world's economic system and Iceland specifically. "For me, it's amazing that I have been sent to Iceland at a time when it was most needed." She went on to say that, "it's very interesting that this incredibly negative thing happening now is balanced by this incredibly positive energy which is to light the tower."

Yoko also awarded the LennonOno Grant for Peace to two recipients. The first went to the entire country of Iceland for its work in promoting geothermal energy. President Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson accepted the award on the country's behalf saying to Yoko, "Your message here today is truly a reminder of the achievement which this country can be proud of and, also that there are values of human existence that are profound and lasting and will survive despite the economic difficulties and the turbulence that we face now." He then gave the award to the Iceland chapter of The Red Cross who will use the 50,000 USD to further their work in Palestine. The Second grant went to environmental activist and physicist Dr. Vandana Shiva to go toward her work in seed conservation and food justice. "We are living in the middle of two meltdowns, the meltdown because of global warming and the meltdown of the financial casino. Both are caused by greed, both are caused by irresponsibility and both provide an opportunity for rebuilding," Dr. Shiva said. 

The Imagine Peace Tower is located on Viðey Island. For information on ferry trips, visit www.elding.is.



Air Iceland destinations

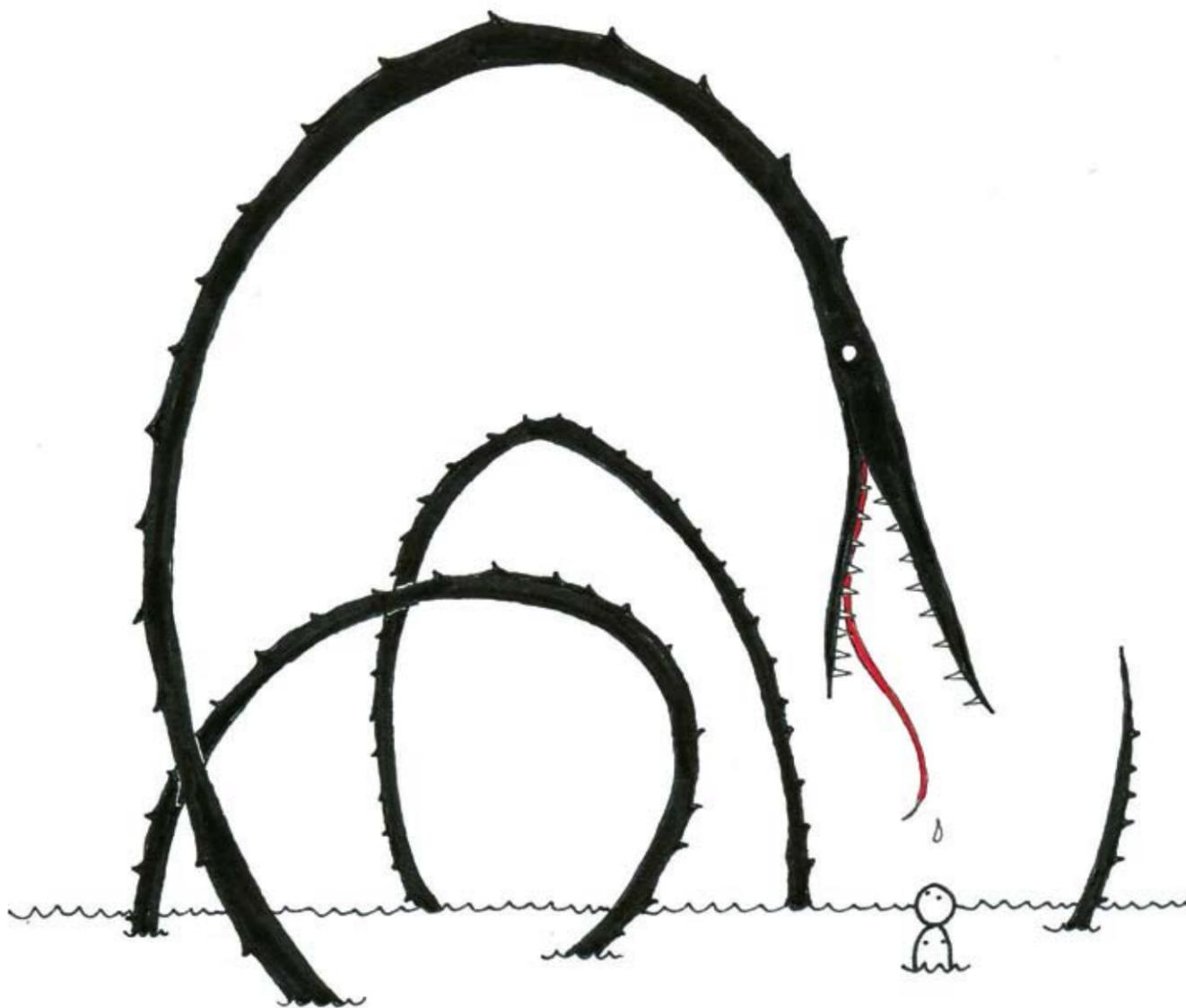


/ tel. 570 3030

ILLUSTRATION BY HUGLEIKUR DAGSSON

Worm of Lagarfljót

BY HAUKUR S MAGNÚSSON



"We've got this database of monsters and creatures in our past. A lot of their stories are fascinating, it's a shame that they're not used more in modern culture," remarked comic artist Hugleikur Dagsson in an interview this summer. This prompted the Grapevine to draft Dagsson to illustrate a series of articles on these monsters of yore. For the eighth instalment in the series, Dagsson's unique talent brings us one of Iceland's most celebrated and feared monsters: Lagarfljótormurinn, the Worm of Lagarfljót.

As anyone who has visited the East of Iceland will attest, the Lagarfljót is a scary piece of glacial river, well befitting for hosting a monster of Lagarfljótormurinn's infamy and purported magnitude. The river itself runs 140 km long, from the glacier Eyjabakkajökull, merging with the North-Atlantic on the Northeast side of the country, and is all foggy and muddled on account of the glacial flour the river carries from its source to the ocean. Before joining the Atlantic, the powerful stream enjoys a veritable stint as a placid, 53 km² and up to 112 metre deep lake – Lögurinn – which is where our beast of the month is reported to reside.

As for the worm and how it got there, the story goes that a young girl from the Lagarfljót area received from her mother a fine golden ring. When asked how to best keep it, the mother responded that she should place the ring in a chest underneath a worm, something which would cause the gold to grow as the worm did. When checking on her stash shortly after, the girl saw that the worm had grown to such a gargantuan size that the chest could barely fit it. Growing frightened, she tossed the chest, gold and all, into Lagarfljót.

The worm apparently took a liking to the cold, cold lake, stayed there and kept on growing. After a while, it started making a name for itself, wreaking havoc on the entire region, spewing poisonous bile on passers-by, killing men and sheep that ventured close to the lake and generally being a big nuisance. The local farmers wouldn't have it, so they summoned the help of two Finnish Saami shamans help put an end to the worm. They fought the thing for a long time, but ultimately failed in their quest. However, they did manage to neutralize the risk it posed by tying the worm's head and tail to the bottom where it would remain harmless for the rest of eternity. Its midsection was still free to flex and roam and bulge above the surface from time to time, and that's apparently what people have been seeing every now and then since 1345. 



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TOP 5 IMPORTANT CHANGES NECESSARY



Ágúst Ólafur

Ágúst Ólafur Ágústsson is a 31 year old member of the Icelandic parliament. He is the chairman of the Parliament's Committee of Trade and Business Affairs and the vice chairman of Samfylkingin, which, according to latest polls, is the nation's biggest political party. Iceland is going through a financial crisis and the young MP has a busy schedule these days. "I attend meetings everyday. I meet with party leaders and the other MPs. The Trade and Business Affairs Committee has meetings that are also attended by people from all over the financial spectrum. We are trying to establish a clear picture of the situation," says Ágúst Ólafur, who has his own beliefs on how to get through the crisis. "I think the Icelandic business sector is calling for a closer cooperation with the European Union and the next step should be to apply for a membership. Even though the private banks have collapsed I still believe the Icelandic economy should put emphasis on knowledge based jobs," says Ágúst Ólafur.

- 1 EU-MEMBERSHIP**
Iceland needs to become a member of the European Union like all other European nations have already done or are planning on doing.
- 2 THE EURO**
Adopt the Euro as our currency. It would lower interest rates and get rid of indexation and currency risk.
- 3 THE FINNISH MODEL**
Vastly increase investment in education, research, technology and development. We should use the Finnish Model as an example of how to do this.
- 4 NEW POLICIES IN AGRICULTURE AND CUSTOM MATTERS**
Re-evaluate our agricultural and custom policies from bottom up with emphasis on living standards of normal Icelanders.
- 5 EQUALITY BETWEEN THE CITIZENS**

TOP 5 CONCERTS I HAVE ATTENDED



Pétur Eggertsson

Pétur Eggertsson is a 23 year old co-manager at the independent record label Kimi Records. He describes the label as a fair, kind and organic company that just recently turned one year old. "We release what we dig and just approach each project on a one record basis. We got a wide spectrum on our bill, bizarre electro, bizarre punk and also normal music whatever that is," Pétur says and adds that the label also organises events such as hosting a very successful night at Iceland Airwaves. "Business is doing great. This season we are releasing Reykjavík!, Retro Stefsson, and distributing records by FM Belfast and Skakkamanager," says the young label manager.

- 1 MICHAEL JACKSON IN LEEDS 1993**
I was 8 years old and sitting on my dad's shoulders. I don't know why but the Icelandic juice "Svali" was sold as refreshment at the concert.
- 2 DAFT PUNK AT PUKKELPOP IN BELGIUM 2006**
They had great lights and a huge pyramid on the stage that had hypnotizing effects. It was crazy. Plus it was my birthday.
- 3 DEVENDRA BANHART AT ALL TOMORROWS PARTIES IN THE UK 2006**
Banhart took on stage after having selected all the bands performing that night. He drank a whole bottle of vodka and was very drunk but yet his voice was unstained.
- 4 RÚNK AT INNIPÚKINN, REYKJAVÍK 2003**
It was the first and last time I saw this band perform. I had been a fan for a long time and I still am though the band is no longer together.
- 5 SAM AMIDON, RETRO STEFSON AND REYKJAVÍK! AT SMIDJUSTIGUR 4A/GRAMMIÐ, AIRWAVES 2008**
I guess you could call this an off-off venue concert. A very un-orthodox and crazy concert including mosh- and circle pits.

TOP 5 NOVELS OF ALL TIME



Kristján B. Jónasson

Kristján B. Jónasson is the president of the Icelandic Publishing Association, writer and a publisher at Crymogea, which specializes in books on art and photography. The final three months of the year is a high season for Icelandic book publishers since the majority of books are published for the Christmas market. Kristján says spirits are high among publishers and he expects good sales. "People are not going to Denmark to buy Christmas presents this year," he says making a reference to the highly unfeasible exchange rate of the Icelandic currency. "We are going through times where the smartest thing people can do is to lie under a blanket and read a book. Just like in the old days," Kristján says with a nostalgic sigh.

- 1 BUDDENBROOKS BY THOMAS MANN (1901)**
The best family saga ever written and the final answer to all questions about the evolution of the bourgeoisie. This novel gives an insight into today's economic depression like no contemporary book can.
- 2 LAZARILLO DE TORMES. ANONYMOUS (1554)**
The world's first picaresque novel and perhaps the best. At the dawn of the modern age good writers understood that the world to come would be PR and marketing.
- 3 NJÁLS SAGA. ANONYMOUS (13TH CENTURY)**
The great Icelandic novel. It is not just a thorough description of the medieval legal- and social system but also a story of two friends who are destroyed because heroes must live a morally sound life even though everyone else, including their wives and children, are backstabbers.
- 4 THE ILLIAD BY HOMER (8TH CENTURY B.C.)**
The greatest tale ever to be chronicled. Full of heroic deeds, irony and immaculate poetry.
- 5 GRAVITY'S RAINBOW BY THOMAS PYNCHON (1973)**
I spent a decade reading about the fissured Slothrop and his adventures in the finale of the Second World War. The book is complicated but it certainly gave me a big reward in return for the pester.

Grand

"Jólahlaðborð"

CHRISTMAS BUFFET

Live music in the evening

Icelandic pop star and Eurovision finalist, Friðrik Ómar and Band, will entertain you with favorite Christmas songs on Friday and Saturday nights.



Christmas Lunch buffet on Friday's only: Adults **4.550 kr.**; Children, 6-11 years: **2.200 kr.**; 0-5 years no charge.

Christmas Dinner buffet on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings: Adults **6.600 kr.**; Children, 6-11 years: **3.300 kr.**; 0-5 years no charge.

The Christmas buffet is served from November 21st. Children 12 years and younger eat for free on Sundays.

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The Christmas buffet is also bookable for groups on weekdays.


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Christmas Menu



Smoked lamb carpaccio with celeriac salad and pear chutney

Shellfish cocktail, langoustine, scallop, king crab

Breast of duck with morel mushrooms and horseradish-potato purée

Cinnamon cream caramel with apple sorbet and berry compot

Fjalakötturinn Christmas Menu: 6.200 kr.

Our Christmas Menu is served every day from November 21.

A superb Christmas Buffet is also available for groups (6.200 kr.)

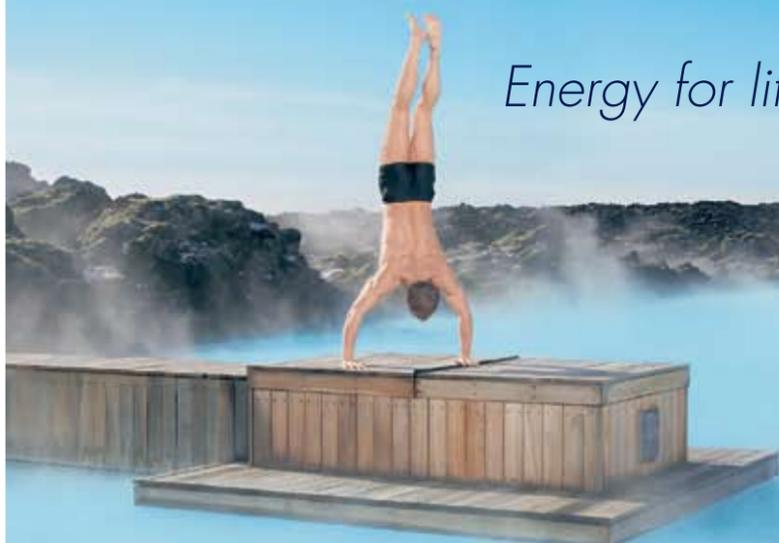


Fjalakötturinn

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www.fjalakotturinn.is*

UNGLIST 2008 nóv. 7-15

Energy for life through forces of nature



They read something like Philip Roth, or John Updike, or, dear God, Paul Auster, and think they've seen what we have to offer—simple sentences about upper middle class middle-aged men and their erections...

Former Grapevine editor Bart Cameron remembers David Foster Wallace

PAGE 6

It isn't me for sure! When I think about it I find it most likely that it's my agent that has made all this happen...

Familjen's Johan Karlson explains his recent success in an overtly modest manner

PAGE 8

Those who've stood on the lake's shores will agree that it is indeed a nice place for a gargantuan monster worm.

This month's featured monster is

Lagarfljótsormurinn

PAGE 13

I can't write. I can't paint. I am not a great cook, and I don't think if I could cook that my food would be an expression of my aliveness.

Handsome Furs' Dan Boeckner apparently can't do much of anything

PAGE 10

"For me, it's amazing that I have been sent to Iceland at a time when it was most needed. [...] it's very interesting that this incredibly negative thing happening now is balanced by this incredibly positive energy which is to light the tower."

Artist Yoko Ono hasn't lost a bit of her huge, bulging sense of modesty

PAGE 12

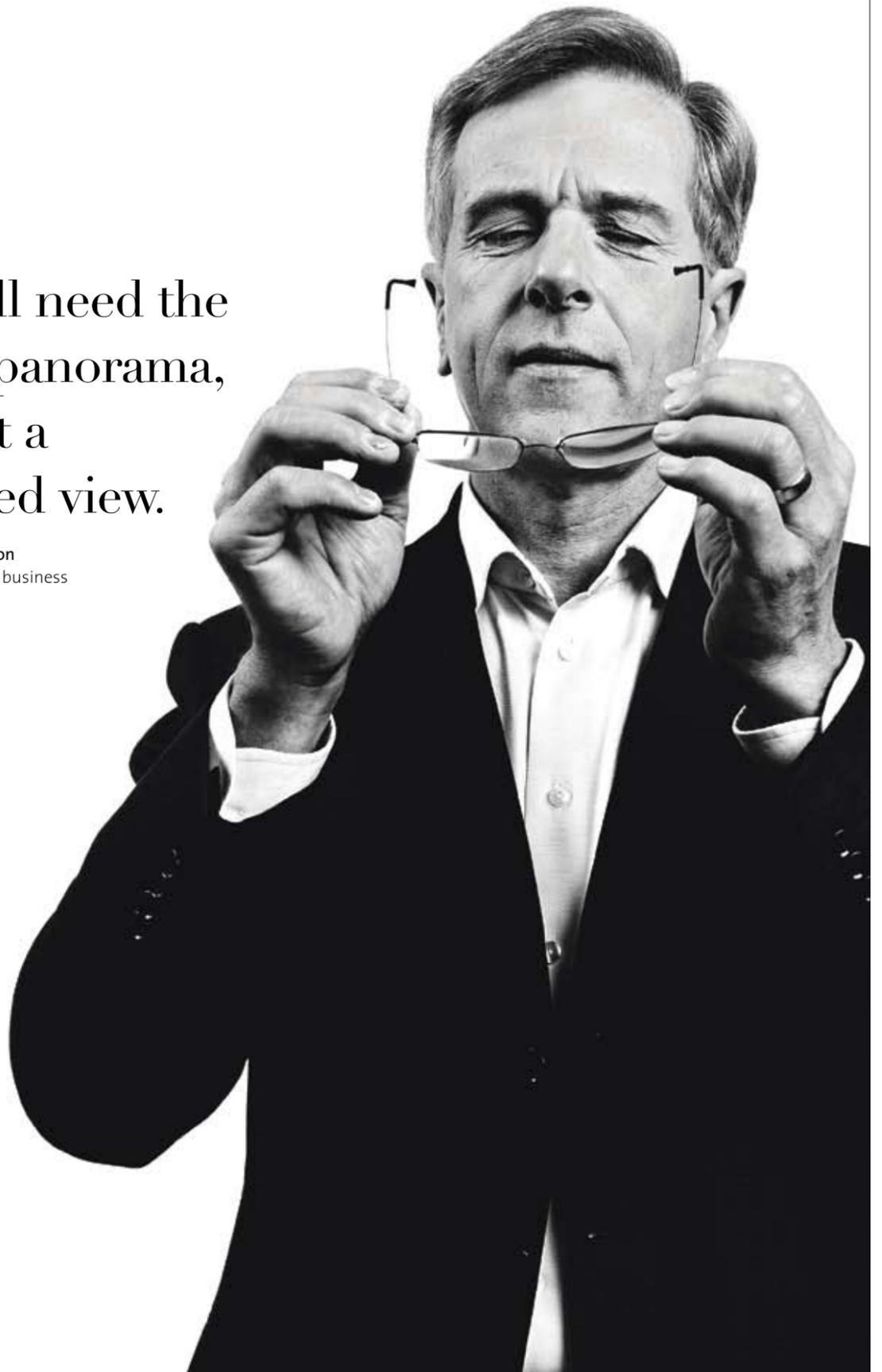
For one thing, the President of the United States of America is the most powerful individual in the world."

Baldur Þórhallsson explains why Europeans are so excited about an election in the US.

PAGE 6

You will need the whole panorama, not just a fractured view.

Reynir Kristinnson
Dean, faculty of business



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+ *Sigur Rós: Another Return* · *Nordic House Christmas Calendar* · *Rockville 2008*

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Issue 17 2008

www.grapevine.is

What:

[Inside / Out - Hlynur Hallsson \(B14\)](#)



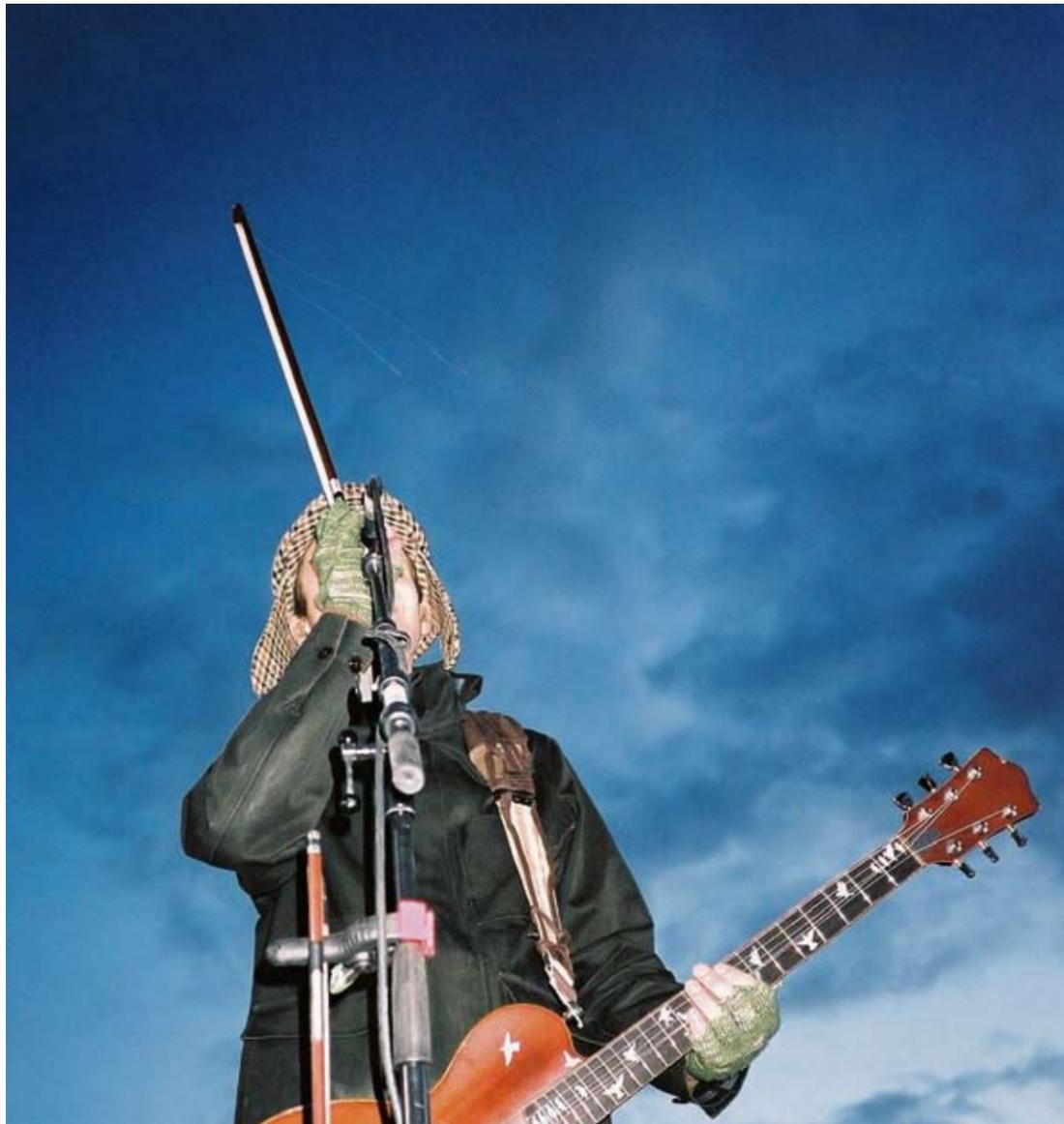
Music SIGUR RÓS: ANOTHER RETURN

After playing the songs from their new album "Með suð í eyrum við spilum endalaust" several times all around the world since its release in June, Sigur Rós are coming back to Iceland in November. This will be their last show of the autumn 2008 tour, which has taken them to the USA, Canada, Japan and all across Europe. The concert at Reykjavík's Laugardalshöllin will end the first tour in years, where Sigur Rós

performs as a four-piece and without their friends in Amiina or the brass band, who both accompanied them on their recent journeys. This means the concert should be an event for both people who want to see the band live like in the 'old days' and younger fans, who want to experience a Sigur Rós show in a whole new way.

What:
Sigur Rós
Where:
Laugardalshöll
When:
November 23

Check out:
www.midi.is
for more information

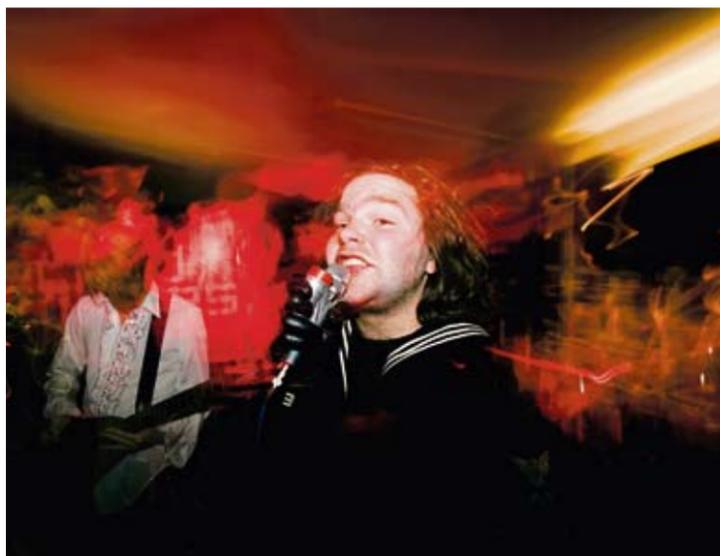


Music SLUGS RELEASE CELEBRATION

Much-despised European rock group SLUGS will perform in celebration of their self-titled debut album at the cramped and uncomfortable Kaffibarinn, mostly to appeal to people far more fashionable than the soused rabble they usually perform for. The Grapevine will be taking bets on whether this will be the best show you've ever seen, or simply another one of the all-night suckathons the band is already known for. You've got to see to believe it, so be there.

What:
Slugs
Where:
Kaffibarinn
When:
November 20 at 22:00

1 G7



Art NORDIC HOUSE CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

To make the long wait for Christmas Eve a little easier for those really eager ones, the Nordic House in Reykjavík offers Christmas calendar. The event series was put on last year for the first time and was considered a great success. Every day at 12:34 (that's 1234), one door will open, from December 1 through 23. Behind every door is a show, or a performance by musicians, writers or actors from Iceland and Scandinavia. The appearances will last from 15 to 20 minutes. So far, the confirmed artists taking part include: Vox Femina, Motion Boys, Hallgrímur Helgason, Ari Trausti Guðmundsson, Egill Ólafsson og Valgeir Guðjónsson, Sprengjuhöllin, Jón Ólafsson, Hildur Vala, Duo Stemma, Ófeigur Sigurðsson, Kristín Þóra Haraldsdóttir, Kira Kira, Reykjavík!, Ásdís Sif, Solla og Sandra.

Where:
Nordic House
When:
December 1 - 23 at 12:34

2 C11

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Music & Entertainment

FRIDAY NOV 7

- **Apótek**
23:00 Live music with various DJs
- **B5**
23:00 Funky Fleivur (funk, pop, hip hop, disco)
- **Café Cultura**
21:00 Live music
23:30 Flex music night with DJ Ghoszt
- **Celtic Cross**
01:00 Live Music
- **Hressó**
21:00 Dalton, followed by DJ Maggi
- **Kaffibarinn**
23:00 Jack Schidt
- **Q-Bar**
23:00 Yamaho
- **Rósenberg**
23:00 KK Release Concert
- **Sólon**
23:00 DJ Áki Pain
- **Tunglið**
00:00 Plugg' d

SATURDAY NOV 8

- **Apótek**
21:00 Ladies night, Girls only from 21 to midnight
00:00 Various DJs
- **B5**
23:00 James Bond Party DJ's Jack Schidt, Einar & Fleivur.
- **Babalú**
21:00 Joanne Kearney
- **Café Cultura**
23:00 2 rooms; 2 moods
-1 room DJ Nuno lx
-2 room Release album concert for Rain: DJ Pan & DJ Kari
- **Celtic Cross**
01:00 Live Music
- **Hellirinn**
19:30 Dordingull Night
Celestine, Dys, Shogun, Sudden Weather Change, Plastic Gods, Dormah, No Culture, 1000kr.

- **Hressó**
22:00 Troubadours Gotti and Eisi, followed by DJ Maggi
- **NASA**
23:00 Party hosted by Páll Óskar
- **Q-Bar**
23:00 New York Party. Mad Descent Release Party w. Lauren Flax and friends
- **Rósenberg**
23:00 KK Release Concert
- **Sólon**
23:00 Ground floor-DJ Rikki G
Upstairs: DJ Áki Pain
- **Tunglið**
00:00 Sean Danke
- **Vodafonehöllin**
21:00 The Abba show

SUNDAY NOV 9

- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Eddi Lár and Andrea Gylfadóttir

MONDAY NOV 10

- **Q-Bar**
23:00 Horror Movie Night. Red wine on a special offer and free popcorn

TUESDAY NOV 11

- **Rósenberg**
22:00 Memfismafian
- **Sólon**
23:00 DJ Áki Pain

WEDNESDAY NOV 12

- **Café Cultura**
23:00 Oli Steff Reggae night
- **Q-Bar**
22:00 DJ Ási
- **Rósenberg**
22:00 Thin Jim and the Castaways

THURSDAY NOV 13

- **B5**
23:00 Funky Fleivur
- **Bæjarbíð (Hafnarfjörður)**
20:30 Bubbi Morthens
- **Café Cultura**
21:00 University party with Mads (DK)
- **Hressó**
22:00 Böddi and Danni
- **Nasa**
20:30 Finlandia Vodka Cup 2008.

- **Q-Bar**
22:00 You Tube night with DJ Unnur Andrea
- **Rósenberg**
22:00 Múlinn Jazz Club
- **Sólon**
21:00 Green Thursday Party
Upstairs: Live music with icelandic party session
Ground floor: DJ Andrés with 110 Sparkling

FRIDAY NOV 14

- **B5**
23:00 DJ Jay-Oh! (pop, hip hop, funk)
- **Café Cultura**
23:00 Jon Atli a.k.a Sexy Lazer
- **Celtic Cross**
01:00 Live Music
- **Hressó**
23:00 Dalton followed by DJ Andri
- **Kaffibarinn**
23:00 Sexy Lazer
- **Nasa**
23:00 TBA
- **Q-Bar**
Missy Elliott theme night with Anna Brown
- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Lester Young Tribute Band
- **Sólon**
23:00 DJ Áki Pain

SATURDAY NOV 15

- **Apótek**
23:00 Various DJ's
- **B5**
23:00 DJ Einar (pop, funk, hip hop)
- **Café Cultura**
23:00 Gisli Galdur a.k.a DJ Magic
- **Celtic Cross**
01:00 Live Music
- **Hressó**
20:00 Jogvan and Vignir
23:00 Troubadours Gotti and Eisi, DJ Andri
- **Nasa**
23:00 Techno.is
- **Q-Bar**
23:00 DJ Shaft
- **Rósenberg**
22:00 Kristjana Stefánsdóttir Release Concert
- **Sólon**
23:00 Ground floor: DJ Rikki G
Upstairs: DJ Áki Pain
- **Tunglið**
00:00 Flex Music // Ghost vs. Brunheim

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Music & Entertainment | Venue finder

22 Laugavegur 22 | **G7**
A popular place among the city's party scenesters, this three storied bar makes for a great night out with chatting upstairs and dancing downstairs with regular DJs.

Amsterdam Hafnarstræti 5 | **E6**
Kaffi Amsterdam seems to have been around forever, though recently it's been reinvented as a live venue. Good music, cheap beer, and colorful characters to be found.

Apótek Austurstræti 16 | **E5**
Sporting a chic and pristine interior with a healthy club atmosphere.

B5 Bankastræti 5 | **F6**
By day a chic little bistro with good food and a prime location for Laugavegur people watching | by night a stylish bar with a "whiskey room" and manhattanesque clientele.

Bar 11 Laugavegur 11 | **G6**
The sweetest Rock joint on the northern hemisphere. Mötley Crüe would have played this bar 25 years ago and still be talking about it.

Belly's Hafnarstræti 18a | **E5**
Belly's deserves praise for having the cheapest bar prices around.

Good for anyone looking for a deal, there are enough tables for everyone and TVs for sport | watching.

Bjarni Fel Austurstræti 20 | **E5**
Named after the Iceland's most legendary sports commentator, this is the place for the three Bs: ball, burger and beer.

Boston Laugavegur 28b | **H6**
A fresh addition to the Reykjavik bar scene. Roomy bar floor, nice sofas and stylish interior make this a comfy café as well as a tavern with good, unintrusive music.

Café Cultura Hverfisgata 18 | **G6**
Cultura is a café/bar with a party feel. The menu features all sorts of international dishes, alongside the staple salad and sandwich.

Café Paris Austurstræti 14 | **E5**
With an outdoor terrace, this café gets busy on sunny days. With a cosy interior, fine menu and attentive service, it makes a fine spot for evening dining as well.

Café Victor Hafnarstræti 1-3 | **D4**
Victor attracts a diverse crowd, both in age and origin, a role that extends to the musicians that play there.

Celtic Cross Hverfisgata 26 | **H6**
Arguably the most authentic Irish pub outside Ireland, a very lively space where you'll often find live music, sometimes two bands playing at once.

Dillon Laugavegur 30 | **H7**
The quintessential rock pub Dillon serves moderately priced drinks, and has pretty good music, too. The mix of students and tattooed tough guys always creates a fun atmosphere.

Dubliner Hafnarstræti 4 | **E5**
The city's main Irish pub attracts quite a lot of foreigners, though there's an influx of locals on weekends. Good if you're looking for the darker stuff on tap.

Glaumbar Tryggvagata 20 | **E4**
The premier sports bar in town, though after the final whistle, DJs take the floor and begin a night of feverish dancing.

Grand Rokk Smiðjustígur | **G6**
As its Viking theme accurately displays, this hardcore chess hang-out is no place for the lily livered. Take the pub quiz on Fridays at 17:30, the winner gets a free case of beer!

Highlander Lækjargata 10 | **E7**
If you prefer Scottish to Irish, this might be the place for a single malt.

Hressó Austurstræti 20 | **E5**
With a spacious neutral interior, pleasant courtyard and a varied lunch menu, Hressó attracts no specific type of crowd. Tap beer and music makes a fair hangout on weekends.

Hverfisbarinn Hverfisgata 20 | **G6**
After a long line, you'll get in and wonder what all the fuss was about. You may end up here if you're still going at 4 on a Sunday morning, in which case it's just as good as any.

Kaffi Hjómáland Laugavegur 23 | **G6**
This organic, free-trade café prides itself not only on great food and coffee but being a strong cultural center, hosting live music as well as lectures and poetry nights.

Kaffibarinn Bergstráðastræti 1 | **F6**
A popular place to grab a drink after work, this daytime coffee joint rolls with nighttime activity on weekends with live DJs. Parties often pound until dawn.

NASA Þorvaldsenstræti 2 | **E6**
The main live venue in town. If you are look-

ing for a decent band, chances are you'll find it at NASA.

Næsti Bar Ingólfstræti 1A | **F6**
On nights where queues snake down Laugavegur, Næsti Bar can be great place to sneak off to and chat with friends over a beer. Frequentated also by the literary and acting elite.

Óliver Laugavegur 20A | **H7**
This nightclub attracts a crowd of crazy dancers that may not be for everyone. In which case, air conditioning and fine food make Óliver a good lunch spot.

Ólstofan Vegamótastígur | **G6**
No tricks here. You'll want just simple beer in this simple pub. Also the hangout for Reykjavik intellectual circles

Prikió Bankastræti | **F5**
Part of the Reykjavik bar scene for decades, this café/bar has a fairly cheap menu and attracts a mix of students and old regulars. R&B and Hip-Hop plays on weekends.

Q-Bar Ingólfstræti 3 | **F6**
A roomy gay/straight bar. Some of the best DJs in town play regularly, making it an especially lively space on weekends.

Rex Austurstræti | **E5**
Rex is quite fancy and you may feel out of place if you don't dress up a bit. One of the more posh spots in town.

Rósenberg Klappartígur 25 | **G7**
Live music venue that has something to offer every single night, ranging from rock to jazz to poetry. You name it, they got it.

Sólon Bankastræti 7A | **F5**
Truly a jack of all trades establishment. By night a decent restaurant, by day a café/bistro and on Friday and Saturday nights a nightclub. Art exhibitions on the walls to top it off.

Thorvaldsen Austurstræti 8 | **E5**
Dress formally for this fancy spot, and come before 12 to avoid a long line. DJs play Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Vegamót Vegamótastígur 4 | **G6**
Vegamót's kitchen is open until 22:00 daily and sports an appealing lunch menu. Come for a tasty brunch on weekends. If you like Óliver, try Vegamót and vice versa. The party goes on late.

New in Reykjavik?
Need help getting started?

Service centres provide information about social services

The department of welfare gives information and advice about social entitlements and provides support in cases of social or personal problems for registered residents in Reykjavik. For general information about operations in the City of Reykjavik and additional information on e.g. specific housing benefits, pre-school applications or financial aid, you should contact service centers in your own neighbourhood:

- **Vesturgarður**, service centre for the residents of Vesturbær district, Hjardarhagi 45-47, tel. 411-1700
- **Miðborg and Hlíðar**, service centre for the residents of the city centre and the district of Hlíðar, Skulagata 21, tel. 411-1600
- **Laugardalur and Háaleiti**, service centre for the residents of the districts of Laugardalur and Háaleiti, Sidumuli 39, tel. 411-1500
- **Breidholt**, service centre for the residents of Breidholt, Alfabakki 12, tel. 411-1300
- **Ábær and Grafarholt**, service centre for the residents of the districts of Arbaer and Grafarholt, Bæjarhals 1, tel. 411-1200
- **Miðgarður**, service centre for the residents of Grafarvogur and Kjalarnes, Langarími 21, tel. 411-1400

City of Reykjavik
Department of welfare

Borgartún 12-14
105 Reykjavik
Tel: 411 9000
www.reykjavik.is

Listings

MONDAY NOV 17

- **Q-Bar**
21:00 Horror Movie Night. Red wine on a special offer and free popcorn

TUESDAY NOV 18

- **Q-Bar**
21:00 Open Mic Night w. Elín Ey & Myrra
- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Sveinn Norland Release Concert

WEDNESDAY NOV 19

- **Café Cultura**
23:00 Rain DJ set
- **Q-Bar**
22:00 DJ Ási
- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Ómar Guðjónsson's Trio

THURSDAY NOV 20

- **B5**
23:00 DJ Jay-Oh!
- **Café Cultura**
23:00 Einar Sonic
- **Langholtskirkja**
19:30 Green Concert Series
- **Q-Bar**
22:00 Jón E & Ýr
- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Baggalútur Release Concert
- **Sólon**
21:00 Green Thursday Party
Upstairs: Live music with icelandic party session
Ground floor: DJ Andrés with 110 Sparkling

FRIDAY NOV 21

- **Apótek**
23:00 Various DJ's
- **B5**
23:00 DJ Símon GorillaFunk
- **Café Cultura**
23:00 Arnie Einar a.k.a Alfons X
Someone Else Party with Karius & Baktus
DJ Yamaha
DJ Shaft
- **Celtic Cross**
01:00 Live Music
- **Hressó**
22:00 Menn ársins, DJ Maggi
- **Langholtskirkja**
19:30 Green Concert Series

- **Nasa**
23:00 Hjaltalín, Sprengjuhöllinn and Motion Boys.
- **Q-Bar**
23:00 Sexual Chocolate & Gay Thug
- **Rósenberg**
21:00 B Sig
- **Sólon**
23:00 DJ Áki Pain

SATURDAY NOV 22

- **Apótek**
23:00 Various DJ's
- **B5**
23:00 Funky Fleivur
- **Café Cultura**
23:00 Someone Else Party with Karius & Baktus, DJ Yamaha
DJ Shaft
- **Celtic Cross**
01:00 Live Music
- **Hressó**
22:00 Ímynd, followed by DJ Maggi
- **Langholtskirkja**
17:00 Kristallinn, Á indjánaslóðum
- **Nasa**
23:00 Skítamóráll Dance
- **Q-Bar**
23:00 Yamaha
- **Rósenberg**
21:00 B Sig
- **Sólon**
23:00 Ground floor: DJ Rikki G
Upstairs: DJ Áki pain
- **Tunglið**
00:00 Flex Music // Ghost vs. Brunheim

SUNDAY NOV 23

- **Laugardalshöll**
20:00 Sigur Rós
- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Reykjavík Big Band

MONDAY NOV 24

- **Q-Bar**
21:00 Horror Movie Night. Red wine on a special offer and free popcorn
- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Árstíðir

TUESDAY NOV 25

- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Memfismafían

WEDNESDAY NOV 26

- **Café Cultura**
23:00 Rain DJ set
- **Q-Bar**
22:00 DJ Ási
- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Valur Gunnarsson Release Concert

THURSDAY NOV 27

- **B5**
23:00 DJ Einar
- **Café Cultura**
23:00 University party
rock & roll night with Frosti Gringo
- **Háskólabíó**
19:30 Red Concert Series
- **Hressó**
22:00 Böddi and Danni
- **Q-Bar**
23:00 DJ De La Rósa
- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Esja
- **Sólon**
21:00 Green Thursday Party
Upstairs: Live music with icelandic party session
Ground floor: DJ Andrés with 110 Sparkling

FRIDAY NOV 28

- **Apótek**
23:00 Various DJ's
- **B5**
23:00 DJ Einar.
- **Café Cultura**
23:00 DJ Yamaha
- **Celtic Cross**
01:00 Live Music
- **Hressó**
22:00 Dalton, followed by DJ Stjáni
- **Nasa**
23:00 TBA
- **Q-Bar**
23:00 DJ Manny
- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Hlynur Ben
- **Sólon**
23:00 DJ Áki Pain

SATURDAY NOV 29

- **Apótek**
23:00 Various DJ's
- **B5**
23:00 DJ Jay-Oh!
- **Café Cultura**
23:00 DJ Hjalti a.k.a Casanova.

Art | Venue finder

101 Gallery
Hverfisgata 18A | **F6**
Thu-Sat 14-17 and by appointment
www.101hotel.is/101hotel/101gallery/
Located in the 101 Hotel, features a broad selection of international and local contemporary art.

Artótek
Tryggvagata 15 | **D5**
Mon 10-21, Tue-Thu 10-19, Fri 11-19, Sat and Sun 13-17
www.sim.is/index/islenska/Artotek
An Icelandic art exhibition space and art dealer. Pieces are available for purchase or lease.

ASÍ Art Museum
Freygata 41 | **G10**
Tue-Sun 13-17
Run by the ASÍ labour union, features mostly contemporary Icelandic art. Free entry.

Árbæjarsafn
Kistuhylur 4
An open-air museum featuring arts-and-crafts fairs and exhibitions in the summer.

The Culture House
Hverfisgata 15 | **F6**
Open daily 11-17
www.thjodmenning.is
A Museum of Icelandic cultural history, with an ongoing exhibition of the original manuscripts of the sagas and eddas.

Dwarf Gallery
Grundarstígur 21 | **H8**
Opening Hours: Fri and Sat 18-20
www.this.is/birta
An independently run basement Gallery,

Gallery Dwarf hosts exhibitions which speak straight to the hearts of the "cute" generation.

The Einar Jónsson Museum
Eiríksgata | **G9**
Tue-Sun 14-17
www.skulptur.is
Features a permanent exhibition on the sculptor Einar Jónsson as well as temporary exhibits.

Fótógrafi
Skólavörðustígur 4a | **F7**
www.fotografi.is
Features photographic exhibitions by local photographers.

Gallery 100°
Bæjarháls 1
www.or.is/Forsida/Gallery100/
Open weekdays from 08:30-16:00
An art museum run by the Orkuveita Reykjavíkur energy corporation. Features contemporary art by Icelandic and foreign artists.

Gallery Auga fyrir Auga
Hverfisgata 35 | **G7**
Independently run art museum featuring Icelandic art.

Gallery StartArt
Laugavegur 12B | **G7**
Tue-Sat 1-17
www.startart.is
Contemporary Icelandic and foreign art. Admission is free and the gallery is run without any government funding.

Gallery Ágúst
Baldursgata 12 | **F9**

Wed-Sat 12-17
www.galleriagust.is
Galleri Ágúst is a contemporary art gallery in the centre of Reykjavík. With an ambitious programme of exhibitions, it also presents and sells artwork of Icelandic and international artists.

Gallery Fold
Rauðarástígur 14-16 | **J9**
Mon-Fri 10-18 / Sat 11-16 / Sun 14-16
www.myndlist.is
More of an art auction than just a gallery, Fold also evaluates and exhibits art.

Gallery Kling & Bang
Hverfisgata 42 | **G7**
Thurs-Sun from 14-18
this.is/klingogbang/
Exhibits upcoming and established contemporary artists as well as hosting screenings, lectures and performances.

Gallery Turpentine
Ingólfstræti 5 | **F7**
Tue-Fri 12-18 / Sat 11-16
www.turpentine.is
Houses a collection of Icelandic contemporary artwork as well as works from old Icelandic masters both for display and sale.

Gerðuberg Cultural Centre
Gerðuberg 3-5
Mon-Thu 11-17 / Wed 11-21 / Thu-Fri 11-17 / Sat-Sun 13-16
www.gerduberg.is
Located in Breiðholt, the Gerðuberg cultural centre hosts both exhibitions and events.

Hitt Húsið - Gallery Tukt
Pósthússtræti 3-5 | **E6**
www.hitthusid.is
Initially thought of as a hobby centre to keep the youth from drinking, Hitt húsið is still operational and organises events as well as hosting art exhibitions in their Gallery - Gallery Tukt.

i8 Gallery
Klapparstígur 33 | **G7**
Tue-Fri 11-17 / Sat 13-17 and by appointment.
www.i8.is
Represents work by an eclectic mix of Icelandic and international contemporary artists.

Living Art Museum
Vatnsstígur 3 - **G7**
Wed, Fri-Sun 13-17 / Thu 13-22. www.nylo.is
A non-profit gallery that organises 8-10 larger exhibitions every year as well as other cultural events.

Lost Horse Gallery
Skólastræti 1 | **F6**
Weekends from 13-19 and by appointment on weekdays.
Located in a renovated stable off Laugavegur, features work by local artists.

The National Film Archive
Hvaleyjarbraut 13
www.kvikmyndasafn.is
The National Film Archive of Iceland screens old movie classics and masterpieces twice a week for 500 ISK per ticket.

The National Gallery of Iceland
Frikirkjuvegur 7 | **E8**
Tue-Sun 11-17
www.listasafn.is
Houses the national art collection and is the centre of research and documentation of Icelandic art.

The National Museum
Suðurgata 41 | **C9**
Open daily 10-17
natmus.is/
Established in 1863, this museum features exhibits on Icelandic cultural heritage.

The Nordic House
Sturlugata 5 | **C11**
Tue-Sun 12-17
www.nordice.is/
Explores and promotes Scandinavian culture with regular lectures, films and exhibitions.

The Numismatic Museum
Einholt 4 | **K9**
Open Mon-Fri 13:30-15:30.
Presents a cultural history of Iceland through analysis of collected coins, medals and books.

Reykjavík 871+/-2
Aðalstræti 17 | **D6**
Open daily 10-17
Museum on the founding of Reykjavík. Located in the oldest house in the city. Tours in English on Mondays and Saturdays at 14.00

Reykjavík Art Gallery
Skólugata 28 | **H6**
Tuesday through Sunday 14-18
The city's public art gallery features works by Icelandic artists.

Reykjavík Art Museum
Open daily 10-16
www.listasafnreykjavikur.is
Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum
Sigtún Hafnarhús
Tryggvagata 17 | **E5**

Kjarvalsstaðir
Flókagata | **K11**
Specialising in contemporary art by local and international artists. Free entrance.

Reykjavík City Theatre
Listabraut 3
Presenting Icelandic music and dance performances as well as dramatic theatre, produces six new shows each year.

Reykjavík Maritime Museum
Grandagarður 8 | **C3**
With a fishing trawler-turned-exhibit space, educates on the maritime and fishing traditions of Iceland.

Reykjavík Museum of Photography
Tryggvagata 16 | **D5**
Weekdays 12-19 / Sat-Sun 13-17
www.ljosmyndasafnreykjavikur.is
Features work by local and international photographers, as well as an archive on the history of photography.

Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum
Laugarnestangi 70
Features a permanent exhibition of sculptor Sigurjón Ólafsson's works.

Upcoming...
Releases

Check us
At Kolaportið
Flea market in
December



Retro stefson - Montaña
Already released!



Reykjavík! - The Blood
Released November 19th

Bonus track



Hjaltalín - Sleepdrunk Seasons
Now with hit bonus track
"Þú komst við hjartað í mér"



Pikknikk - Galdur
Released November 26th

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Art GUÐRÚN EINARSDÓTTIR EXHIBITON

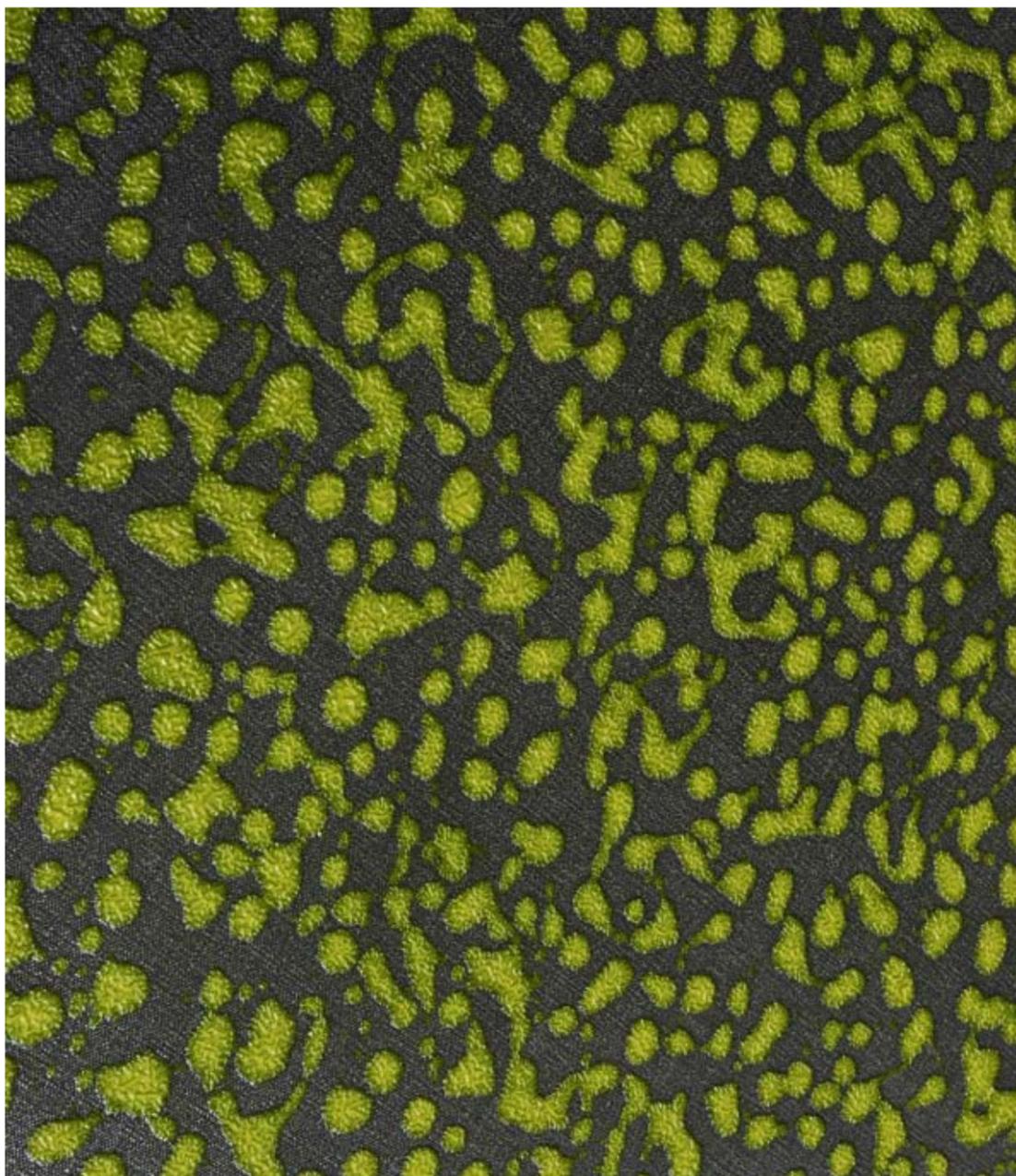
Visual artist Guðrún Einarsdóttir has received considerable critical acclaim for her landscape paintings, influenced by the harsh, barren nature of Iceland. In a prologue to her show at Gallery i8 in 2004, Bera Nordal wrote: "At first sight Guðrún Einarsdóttir's paintings seem to be flat and monochrome in colour, and almost minimal in appearance and expression. Further scrutiny, however, reveals incessant movement, irregular forms of and a variety of colours. We sense how she tackles this extraordinary country – that later merges with her strong emotions and visual experience, conscious or subconscious, and the creative force itself. We feel how these strong emotions and experiences

penetrate the surface of her paintings, that she builds up in multiple layers and force their way upwards. Thus the surface becomes massive and tactile because she does not open it up, but it physically thrusts itself upward like charged energy forces its way out of a hot spring or a volcano. The result is a strong three-dimensional impression of a relief rather than a painting on canvas." On November 6, Gallery i8 opened an exhibition of new works by Guðrún, strongly affected by her recent experiments in methods and material. In connection with the exhibiton, a new book featuring the work of the artist will be released by the Crymogea publication.

What:
Guðrún Einarsdóttir
Exhibition

Where & When:
Gallery i8
Klappartígur 33
101 Reykjavík
Ongoing

3 G7



Art EXPLORING TIME THROUGH ART



Much like the rest of us, artist Ingibjörg Jónsdóttir is preoccupied and fascinated with the concept of time. She explores this fascination artfully in her Reykjavík Art Museum installation Sam-síða heimar ("Parallel worlds"), where she asks some interesting questions and underlines inderconnectedness of all things and all times via multitudes of criss-crossing paths and lines. It is a sight to behold.

What:
Ingibjörg Jónsdóttir Exhibition

Where:
Reykjavík Art Gallery,
Hafnarhús

When:
Now until January 11, 2009

4 E5



ICELAND SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA



UPCOMING CONCERTS

20/21.11.08 @ 7.30 pm | YOUR FAVORITE BAROQUE*
Conductor | Nicholas Kraemer
Soloist | Dominique Labelle

Georg Friedrich Händel | Gloria
Georg Friedrich Händel | Lascia la spina
Georg Friedrich Händel | Ti pentirai, crudel
Georg Friedrich Händel | Water Music, suite nr. 2
Henry Purcell | Chacony
Henry Purcell | Dances from King Artur
Henry Purcell | Dido's Lament
Johann Sebastian Bach | Orchestral Suite nr. 3
Johann Pachelbel | Canon and Gigue *At Langholtskirkja Church

27.11.08 @ 7.30 pm | PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION
Conductor | Rumon Gamba
Soloist | Sif Tulinius

Joseph Haydn | Symphony nr. 93
Modest Mussorgsky | Pictures at an exhibition
Porkell Sigurbjörnsson | Fylgjur - a violin concerto

05.12.08 @ 7.30 pm | BEETHOVEN & BARTÓK
Conductor | Michal Dworzynski
Soloists | Víkingur Heiðar Ólafsson

Ludwig van Beethoven | Leonora, Overture nr. 3
Béla Bartók | Piano Concerto nr. 3
Ludwig van Beethoven | Symphony nr. 8

20.12.08 @ 2 & 5 pm | A CHRISTMAS FAMILY CONCERT
Conductor | Bernharður Wilkinson
Host | Barbara the Clown

STOÐIR
Stoðir is the main sponsor of
the Iceland Symphony Orchestra

Tickets sold at www.sinfonia.is
or tel. 545 2500.
All concerts take place in Háskólabíó.





Katrín Elvarsdóttir / Sigrún Sigurðardóttir

HEIMA-HEIMAN HOME-AWAY

13. sept.
2008 -
11. janúar
2009



LJÓSMYNDASAFN REYKJAVÍKUR
Reykjavík Museum of Photography



Tryggvagata 15, 6th floor · 101 Reykjavík · Tel. 563 1790 · photomuseum@reykjavik.is · www.photomuseum.is
Opening hours 12–19 mon–fri, 13–17 weekends · **ADMISSION FREE**



Read about Icelandic contemporary
literature on www.literature.is

Icelandic Literature

Reykjavík City Library. Tel: 563 1717. www.borgarbokasafn.is



Art ROCKVILLE 2008

The third annual Rockville music festival is upon us. Named in honour of the now defunct Rockville military base near it's host town Keflavík, this year's festival promises a bigger bang. The program will unfold in the bar Paddy's in Keflavík, but for the rock-thirsty children of the night living in Reykjavík, there are frequent bus trips to Keflavík. As of time of print, the schedule had not yet been finalised, but the following acts have been confirmed: Dr. Spock, Agent Fresco, Æla, Slugs.

What:
Rockville 2008 Music Festival
Where:
Paddy's, Keflavík
When:
November 27-30

For more information, visit:
www.myspace.com/rockvillekeflavik

» *What to do and when:*

Your best source
for listings, info
and entertainment

» www.grapevine.is

- **Celtic Cross**
01:00 Live Music
- **Hressó**
23:00 Troubadours Gotti and Eisi, followed by DJ Stjáni
- **Nasa**
23:00 Sálín Dance
- **Q-Bar**
23:00 Squeeze Night
Drag Queens Rock out with Ýr & Gay Thug
- **Rósenberg**
22:00 TBA
- **Sólon**
23:00 Ground floor: DJ Rikki G
Upstairs: DJ Áki Pain
- **Lost Horse Gallery**
21:00 Noise and darkness concert. Oberdada von Brutal, AMFJ and Polar Dust.

SUNDAY NOV 30

- **Gljúfrasteinn**
16:00 Ingunn Snædal Poetry

MONDAY DEC 1

- **Q-Bar**
21:00 Horror Movie Night. Red wine on a special offer and free popcorn
- **Rósenberg**
22:00 Reykjavík Blues Company

TUESDAY DEC 2

- **Q-Bar**
21:00 Open Mic Night w. Elín Ey & Myrra
- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Gæðablóð

WEDNESDAY DEC 3

- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Mood

THURSDAY DEC 4

- **Q-Bar**
23:00 DJ De La Rósa
- **Rósenberg**
22:00 Maria and Mama's Bag

- **Sólon**
21:00 Green Thursday Party
Upstairs: Live music with icelandic party session
Ground floor: DJ Andrés with 110 Sparkling

FRIDAY DEC 5

- **Celtic Cross**
01:00 Live Music
- **Háskólabíó**
19:30 Concert: Vikingur and Bartók
- **Q-Bar**
23:00 Ási & Ýr
- **Rósenberg**
23:00 Mogadon

SATURDAY DEC 6

- **Celtic Cross**
01:00 Live Music
- **Laugardaishöll**
16:00 Bo Hall Christmas Special
20:00 Bo Hall Christmas Special
- **Q-Bar**
23:00 Danni Deluxxe
- **Rósenberg**
23:00 Mogadon
- **Sólon**
23:00 Ground floor: DJ Rikki G
Upstairs: DJ Áki Pain

Art

- **101 Gallery**
Tamy Ben-Tor
Exhibition until 16 Nov
- **ASÍ Art Museum**
Nov 29- Dec 21
Jólaþjófur
- **The Culture House**
Permanent exhibitions:
Medieval Manuscripts;
The Library Room.
Current exhibitions:
Surtsey - Genesis
The exhibition traces the emergence and evolution of the island Surtsey until the present day and predicts its geographical and ecological development over the next 120 years.

From Beyond the Oceans – Translations and original writings by Helgi Hálfðanarson

The thematic exhibition currently on view in the Library Room is dedicated to Helgi Hálfðanarson's translations and original writings. The Late View – Halldór Laxness' Photographs

Nobel Laureate and cosmopolitan Halldór Laxness was better known for his writing but also proved to be a good photographer. This is an exhibition of his works.

Exhibition Series

Ásta Ólafsdóttir displays her artwork at the Culture Shop.

- **The Einar Jónsson Museum**
Permanent exhibition:
The work of sculptor Einar Jónsson.
- **Gallery Ágúst**
Oct 25-Dec 13
Guðrún Kristjánsdóttir exhibition
Pictures that are our daily landscapes, are equally incomprehensible as a world of emblems from a another culture, where an encyclopedia is needed for a revelation. But there are no entries about the patterns that surrounds us. The transformation of the snowforms is so quick that the generated pictures dissolve by degrees, and only one spot is left behind, dark or lucid, recessive and laughing.
The instability is casted into our senses and one more pattern-picture is added to the collection, like a record of something we don't know what is, but we still keep it and refine upon, for if one day, it might open up a vision.
- **Gallery Fold**
Haukur Dór - Paintings
Exhibition until Nov 9
Hulda Vilhjálmsdóttir
Exhibition until Nov 9
- **Gallery Kling & Bang**
Nov 8 - Nov 30
Various Artists from Torstrasse 111, Berlin; Kling og Bang vs. 111 is an exchange art project and collaboration between the two groups and the two spaces.
- **Gallery StartArt**
Gunnar Árnason -Kraninnkraminn
Bubbi - Guðbjörn Gunnarsson
Sigríður Ágústsdóttir - Línur
Friðrika G. Geirsdóttir - Mana
Guðbjörg Ringsted - Fínleg
Ása Ólafsdóttir - Þórdís Alda
Sigurðardóttir.
Nov 27 - Dec 30
Sigrún Eldjárn
Lára Garðarsdóttir
START ART listamenn
Sigrún Sigvaldadóttir
- **Gerðuberg Cultural Centre**
Nov 15 - Jan 11
Boginn Gallery: Memories Folk -artist Halldór Viðar Garðarsson's exhibiton of oil paintings.
- **Gljúfrasteinn Laxness Museum**
Gljúfrasteinn was the home and workplace of Halldór Laxness (winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1955) and his family for more than half a century. It has now been opened to the public as a museum, unchanged from when Laxness lived there.
- **i8 Gallery**
Nov 6 - Dec 7
Guðrún Einarsdóttir Exhibition
On November 6th, Guðrún Einarsdóttir, the first volume in a series on Icelandic contemporary artists, will be released. The series is published by Crymgea with support from the Dungal Art Fund.
- **Living Art Museum**
Oct 11 - Nov 22
Open Exhibition: BJNilsen-Darri Lorenzen-Finnbogi Pétursson-Ingólfur Arnarsson-Mika Vanio-Bjorn Quiring
- **The National Gallery of Iceland**
Oct 11 - Dec 2
Love at First Sight: Modern and temporary art from the Würth collection
The private collection of the German industrialist Reinhold Würth has grown enormously during the last decades. It is now considered one of the largest private collections in Europe in terms of modern and contemporary art. The exhibition

displays the recent acquisitions from this important private collections, where Impressionist works to contemporary German and international art will be on display.

- **The National Museum**
Permanent exhibition:
The Making of a Nation
June 6 - Jan 21
Over the Ocean and Home:
Icelandic artefacts from Sweden.
Sept 27 - Nov 30
The Nation, the Country and the Republic: Exhibition of the works of photographer Vigfús Sigurgeirsson, both photos and videos from between 1928 and 1958.
- **The Numismatic Museum**
Permanent exhibition:
The Central Bank of Iceland and the National Museum of Iceland jointly operate a numismatic collection consisting of Icelandic notes and coins.
- **Reykjavík 871 +/- 2**
Permanent exhibition:
The Settlement Exhibition
- **Reykjavík Art Gallery**
Current exhibition:
Magnús Tómasson, Pétur Már Pétursson and Tolli
- **Reykjavík Art Museum – Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum**
Permanent Exhibition
The Shape of Line
A new retrospective of works by Ásmundur Sveinsson. The exhibition focuses on abstract works from 1945 onwards.
- **Reykjavík Art Museum – Hafnarhús**
Sept 18 - Jan 2009
Erró - Point to the east, point to the west
Sept 27 - 9 Nov
D9 Jóna Hlíf Halldórsdóttir- Plenty of Nothing
Sept 18 - Jan 11
Parallel Universes
A private Exhibition by Ingibjörg Jónsdóttir
Sept 27 - Jan 11
ID LAB
Sept 27 - Jan 11
Imaginary Friends:
Exhibition by Hrafnhildur Arnardóttir
Nov 6 - Jan 11
Inside / Out - Hlynur Hallsson
- **Reykjavík Art Museum – Kjarvalsstaðir**
13 Sept - Jan 11
Bragi upside Down
May 18 - Dec 31
Jóhannes S. Kjarval - Key Works: The current exhibition in Kjarvalsstaðir's east gallery features key works from the museum's collection along with works on loan from the Labour Unions' Art Gallery and from the collection of Ingibjörg Guðmundsdóttir and Þorvaldur Guðmundsson.
Sept 13 - Nov 16
Visual Symphony – The Art of Bragi Ásgeirsson for 60 Years
- **Reykjavík Maritime Museum**
Current Exhibitions:
Living Museum by the Sea;
Arterial for Country and City;
From Poverty to Abundance; The Shark - Light and Life Energy; Hidden Craftsman.
- **Ásmundarsafn**
Aug 22 - Dec 31
Water Carrier Exhibition
- **The Reykjavík Museum of Photography**
Sept 13 - Nov 23
Home/Away Photography
Exhibition: An exhibition documenting over 50 years of asylum seekers in Iceland, charting back to 1956.
- **Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum**
Permanent exhibition:
Works of sculptor Sigurjón Ólafsson.
Oct 4 - Nov 9
Sigurjón and Þorvaldur- Two Modernists

OUTSIDE REYKJAVÍK

For more information about art outside Reykjavík visit grapevine.is

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Listasafn Reykjavíkur
Reykjavík Art Museum



Hafnarhús
Hlynur Hallsson
Out / In
6 November 2008 – 11 January 2009



Kjarvalsstaðir
Bragi Ásgeirsson
Visual Symphony
13 September 2008 – 4 January 2009

Reykjavik Art Museum



Hafnarhús
ID-LAB
27 September 2008 – 11 January 2009



Ásmundarsafn
Water Carrier
22 August – 31 December
Watercolours by eleven artists

Hafnarhús
Tryggvagata 17 daily 10–17
Thursdays to 22

Kjarvalsstaðir
Flókagata, daily 10–17

Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum,
Sigtún, daily 13–16

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www.is.eurorefund.com

Opening Hours

Bars and clubs: According to regulations bars may be open until 01:00 on weekdays and 05:30 on weekends.

Shops: Mon-Fri 10-18, Sat 10-16, Sun closed. The shopping centres Kringlan and Smáralind as well as most supermarkets and tourist shops have longer opening hours.

Swimming pools:

weekdays 06:30-22:30, weekends 08:00-20:30 although some may be open an hour longer.

The State owned ÁTVR liquor stores: Mon-Thu 11-18, Fri 11-19, Sat 11-18. Banks in the centre are open Mon-Fri 09-16.

Tourist Information

Icelandic Travel Market
Bankastræti 2, Tel: 522 4979,

Tourist Information Centre
Aðalstræti 2, Tel: 590 1550,
www.visitreykjavik.is

Both tourist infos offer information for tourists as well as providing internet access, booking service, a phone centre, money exchange service, tax refund and selling the Reykjavík Tourist Card. The Reykjavík Tourist Card gives admission to city busses, various museums, Reykjavík swimming pools, The Family Park and Reykjavík Zoo, The Culture House and the National and University Library.

Getting Around

Public Transport

The only public transport system in Reykjavík is the bus. Most busses run every 20 minutes and price per fare is 280 ISK for adults and 100 ISK for children. Complete route map at: www.bus.is. Tel: 540 2700
Busses run from 07:00-24:00 on weekdays and 10:00-24:00 on weekends

Taxi

Hreyfill-Bæjarleiðir,
Tel: 553 3500 or 588 5522

BSR, Tel: 561 0000

For disabled travellers:

Reykjavík Group Travel Service,
Brunastaðir 3, Tel: 587 8030,
www.randburg.com/is/reykjavik_group_travel_service/

Airlines

Air Iceland, Reykjavíkflugvöllur,
Tel: 570 3030, www.flugfelag.is

Air Vestmannaeyjar,
Tel: 481 3255, www.eyjaflug.is

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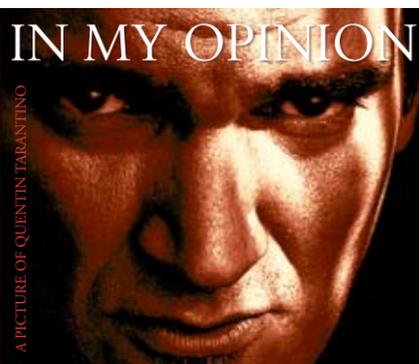
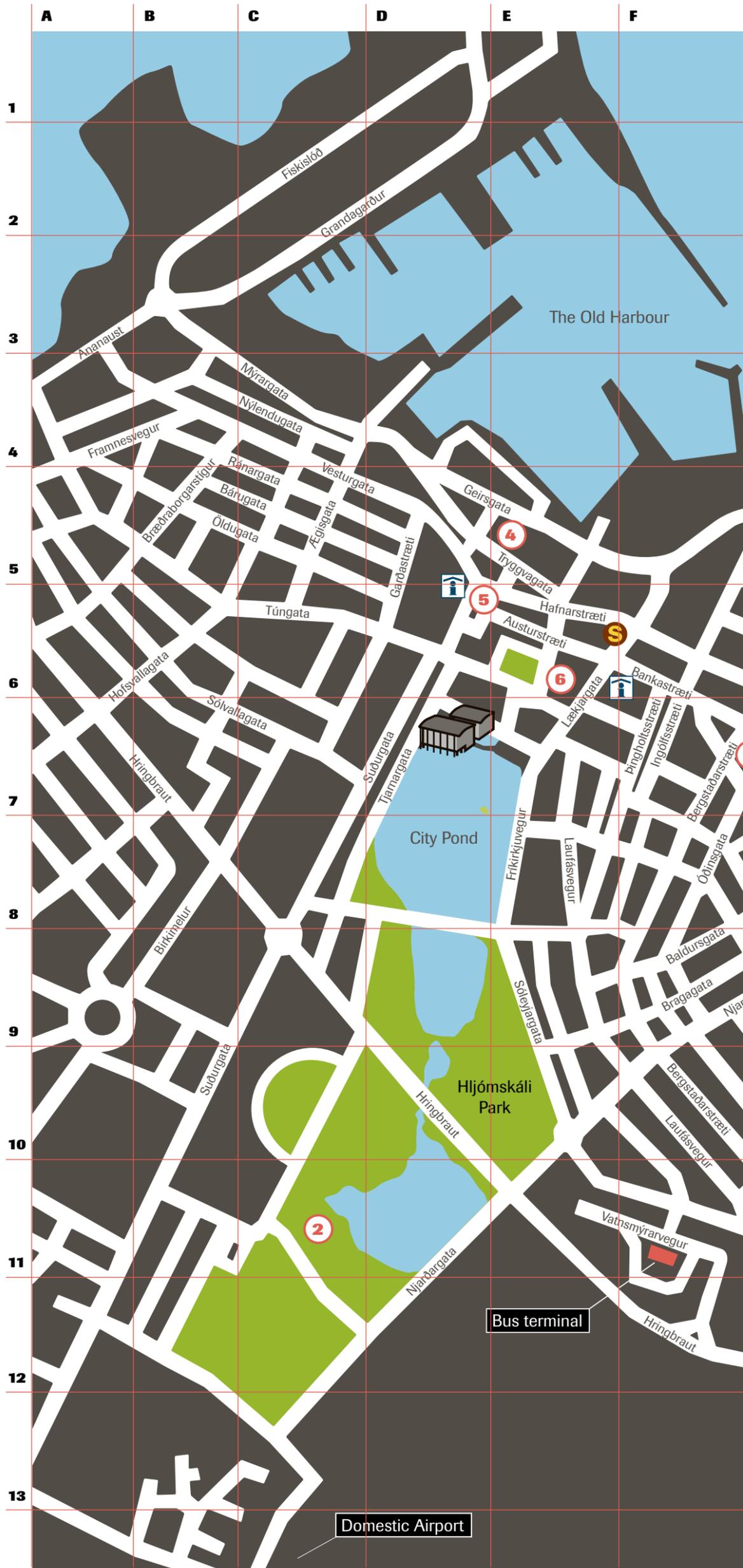
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Busses run daily from the BSÍ Bus Terminal to Keflavík International Airport in connection with all departing flights. Departures daily from 04:45 to 15:00/16:30 (every 15 - 60 minutes). For Flybus time schedule see: www.flybus.is

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IN MY OPINION

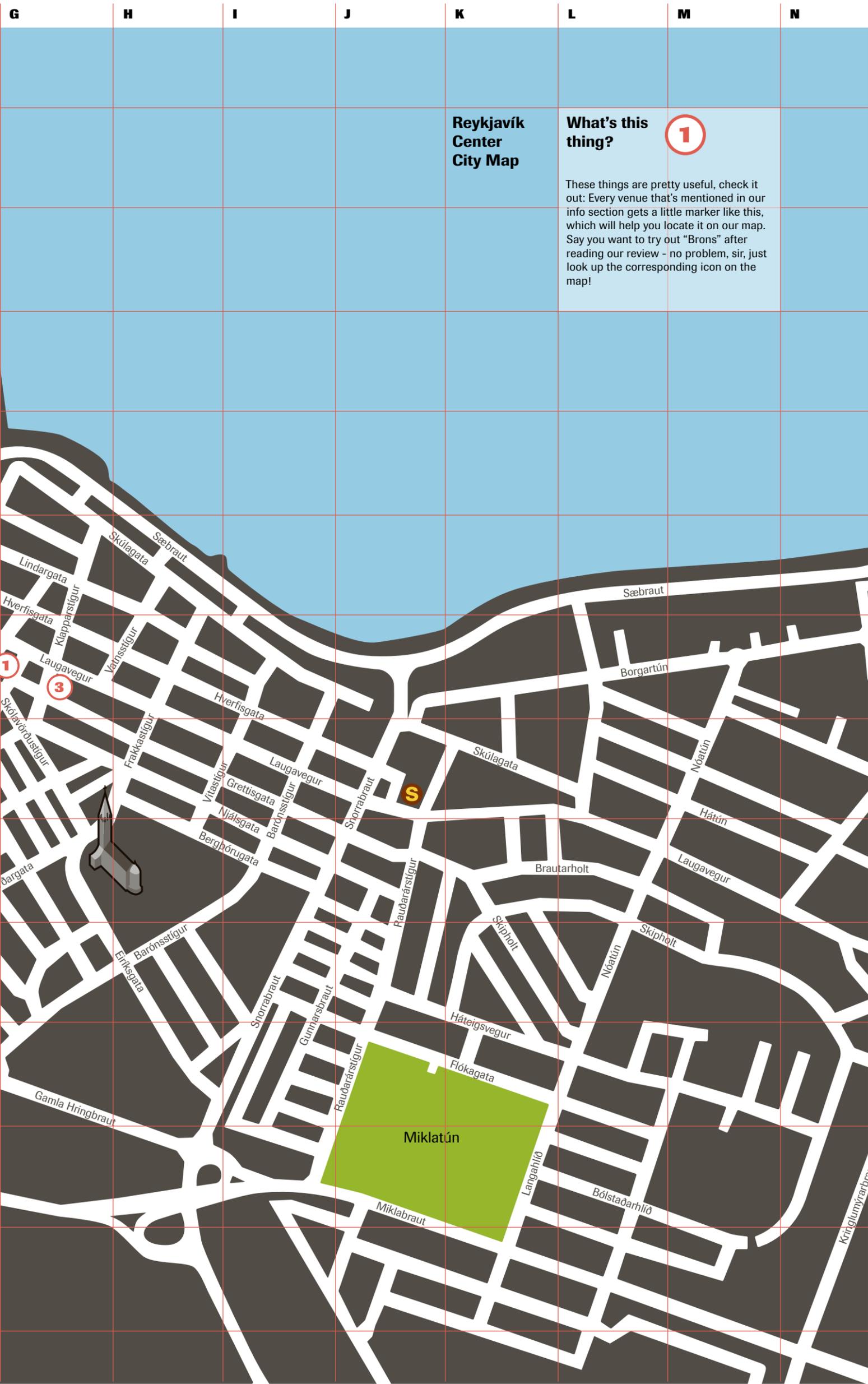
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**Reykjavík
Center
City Map**

**What's this
thing?**



These things are pretty useful, check it out: Every venue that's mentioned in our info section gets a little marker like this, which will help you locate it on our map. Say you want to try out "Brons" after reading our review - no problem, sir, just look up the corresponding icon on the map!

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Food EINAR BEN

Reviewed by Sveinn Birgir Björnsson – Photo by Jói Kjartans

The restaurant Einar Ben is named after one of Iceland's national heroes, the early 20th century poet and entrepreneur Einar Benediktsson, who once lived in the house where the restaurant is now located, and ran the first Icelandic newspaper and later a law firm from this location. In many ways, the restaurant Einar Ben pays homage to the historic relations coupled with the house and the person who lived there. The interior colour scheme is inspired by the national flag, the decor is warm and influenced by the early 20th century Icelandic living room and romantic landscape paintings decorate the walls. But nowhere is the Icelandic influence more apparent than in the menu. Built around Icelandic ingredients, Einar Ben's menu shies away from the fusion explosion that we have seen Reykjavík restaurants fall victim to en masse. Not that I have anything against fusion, it only becomes tiresome when everyone is doing it. Head chef Friðgeir Ingi seems to have been inspired by the New Nordic Cuisine philosophy, which stresses the use of local produce and fresh material.

We opted for the five-course chef's pride, based on the freshest material of the day. The tour started with seared scallops, a tricky material to get right as it tends to be dense if overcooked and quite unpleasant if undercooked. This did the trick though. Next up, we received creamed carrot soup with pearl onion and liquorice. I'll admit that I had my reservations about this dish, which was not lessened when I saw the orange-grey goo it turned out to be. But, this dish was pleasurable surprise, and in and of it self worthy of a return visit. The highlight was the fried bacalao with tomato and date jam, garlic chips and red wine glaze we received next. I would have preferred a double dose of that, rather than the lamb that followed. While hardly worthy of harsh words, the lamb lacked flavour and could probably have done with a little more seasoning. For dessert I found myself yet again pleasantly surprised by the skyr crème brûlée with ice cream, created from the all-Icelandic dairy product skyr, which proved to be an excellent alternative to the more familiar custard base.

Where:
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How much:
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What we think:
All around excellent



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Food & Drink | Venue finder

3 Frakkar
Baldursgata 14 | **F9**
A seriously Icelandic atmosphere and traditional Icelandic dishes prepared in the good old-fashioned way. RSVP and keep your ears pricked for wild whaling tales!

Af lífi og sál Restaurant
Laugavegi 55b | **H7**
A high street backyard restaurant where the menu changes every night, so who knows what's for dinner? But serving such dishes as grilled dolphin, bacalao and kangaroo, you can't go wrong by dropping by for lunch or dinner.

Aktu Taktu
Skúlugata 15 | **K8**
This drive-in destination in 101 Reykjavík is busy day and night and the burgers are especially tasty. The caramel shakes are a local favorite.

American Style
Tryggvagata 26 | **E5**
With a soft bun and lots of veggies, you can settle into a booth and eat for hours. Big portions for authentic American dining.

Argentina Steak-house
Barónstígur | **I8**
True to its name with tender steaks and flamingly vibrant South American décor. Generous portions, fine wine, liqueurs and ci-

gars make an excellent choice in fine dining.

Austurlanda-hraðlestin
Hverfisgata 64A | **H7**
Though a bit expensive for take-away, it is well worth it for a spicy bite of this Indian cuisine. A few tables to the side for those who choose to dine in.

Á Næstu Grösum
Laugavegur 20B | **G7**
Regarded by many to be the best vegetarian place in town, "First Vegetarian" offers a healthy and tasty menu of vegetarian and vegan dishes. Indian theme on Fridays a hit.

B5
Bankastræti 5 | **F6**
By day a chic little bistro with good food and a prime location for Laugavegur people watching—by night a stylish room with a "whiskey room" and Manhattanesque clientele.

Babalú
Skólavörðustígur 22A | **G8**
It's tough to miss café Babalú walking up Skólavörðustígur. A cozy place for coffee and cake, the well-worn, homey ambience makes it difficult to leave.

Bæjarins Beztu
Tryggvagata | **E6**
The oldest fast-food in Iceland, it is feasibly

the best hot dog stand in Europe. Don't be intimidated by the perpetual line in front – an absolute must and worth the wait.

Café Cultura
Hverfisgata 18 | **G6**
Cultura is a café/bar with a party feel. The menu features all sorts of international dishes, alongside the staple salad and sandwich.

Café Loki
Lokastígur 28 | **G9**
With a splendid view of Hallgrímskirkja, Café Loki is the perfect place to take a load off your feet and enjoy some solid homemade Icelandic food.

Café Paris
Austurstræti 14 | **E6**
With an outdoor terrace, this café gets busy on sunny days. With a cosy interior, fine menu and attentive service, it makes a fine spot for evening dining as well.

Café Roma
Rauðarárstígur 8 | **J9**
Roma, an Italian deli and café, offers a variety of breads, soups as well as tempting desserts. For a good bargain, come at lunchtime for the specials.

Café Victor
Hafnarstræti 1-3 | **D6/E6**
A hangout for older foreigners, Victor attracts a diverse crowd,

both in age and origin, a rule that extends to the musicians that play there.

Domo
Þingholtsstræti 5 | **F7**
The elegantly decorated Domo serves delicious French-Asian cuisine, excellent sushi and has a great wine list. A sure choice.

Eldsmíðjan
Bragagata 38A | **G9**
Totally satisfying oven-baked pizza with a wide choice of toppings—snails an unusual specialty. Well worth the cost. Order, take away or eat comfortably among the paintings.

Fiskmarkaðurinn
Aðalstræti 12 | **D6**
Run and co-owned by the national team of chefs, this establishment specializing in Japanese cuisine has everything planned to the last detail, ensuring a relaxing evening.

Geysir Bar/Bistro
Aðalstræti 2 | **D6**
Sited in the dignified Geysir Building at the corner of Vesturgata and Aðalstræti, this stylish bistro is always a good place to grab a tasty bite for a reasonable price.

Garðurinn
Klappastígur 37 | **G7**
"Ecstasy's Heart" is a simple, friendly, family-run vegetarian restaurant on Klapp-

parstígur. Offers an ever-changing menu of specials and soup du jours, alongside a basic menu

Grái Kötturinn
Hverfisgata 16A | **G7**
Legendary for its early opening ours, the Gray Cat serves amazing breakfasts and coffee that packs a wallop. A splendid way to start you off on your day.

Grillhúsið
Tryggvagata 20 | **E5/E6**
With a menu of reasonably priced home-style food, Grillhúsið has satiated hungry regulars since 1994 with juicy burgers, sandwiches, steaks and fish dishes.

Habibi
Hafnarstræti 20 | **D5**
A reliable source of high quality shawarma and falafel. Important ingredient for successful living.

Hamborgarabúlla Tómasar ("Bullán")
Geirsgata 1 | **D5**
Considered by some to be the best real hamburger in Reykjavík, "Bullán" does serve some mysteriously delicious burgers, guaranteed to take the edge off any hangover.

Hlolla Batar
Ingólfstorg | **D6**
The first sub sandwich shop in Iceland, Hlolla Batar has a large selection of creatively

named sandwiches with equally imaginative contents. Good for an adventurous bite.

Hornið
Hafnarstræti 15 | **E6**
Since 1979, this Italian restaurant has been a longtime Reykjavík staple. Famous for its pizza and stuffed calzones, it proudly offers an affordable menu of high-quality dishes

Hótel Holt
Bergstaðarstræti 37 | **F7**
Housing Iceland's most renowned restaurant, The Gallery, an evening here is an unforgettable experience. Delicious French-inspired cuisine and fine wines await.

Humarshúsið
Ammtmanstígur 1 | **E7**
One of the oldest restaurants in the country, the lobster house is known of course for its lobster and also its impressive cognac lounge. Fine intimate dining.

Hressó
Austurstræti 20 | **E6**
With a spacious neutral interior and a varied lunch menu, Hressó attracts no specific type of crowd. Tap beer and music makes a fair hangout on weekends.

Icelandic Fish & Chips
Tryggvagata 8 | **E5**

Food BRONS

Reviewed by **Sigurður Kjartan Kristinsson** — Photo by Jói Kjartans

I have to say that when I entered the delicately decorated and cool bistro Brons, I didn't suspect at all the kind of feast I had coming. For many years, the premises housed one of Iceland's most cherished café, Kaffibrennslan, but some time ago it sealed its doors and before anyone knew this cosy bistro boasting Mediterranean cuisine took their place.

The service is of a high standard and our waiter welcomed us warmly and in few moments, when Belgian beers had been put before us, we reached the mutual conclusion that tonight we'd have a selection of the chef's finest tapas dishes. As expected we first had the entrée, which was both classic and fulfilling but it was comprised of raw Parma ham, yellow melon pieces and a tasty combination of balsamic syrup and olive oil. I always love when you get the simplest dishes made divine with some hidden secrets, but this dish undoubtedly set the mood for the rest of the meal.

What followed were so many and various small courses that it would take me a lifespan or two describing them

all, but they all had in common a delicious, sweet taste that made you believe, if you put some effort in it, that you were in fact situated in a little bistro in downtown Barcelona. The feeling of being so full that another bite would blow up your insides harassed us over and over again, but when you have such delicious bites waiting in front of you with the only goal of seeing the insides of your mouth you simply can't do otherwise but go on.

Finally when the war had been won, and not only a giant feast of tapas dished had invaded my stomach, but also a combo of a warm and smooth French chocolate cake and strawberry sprinkled ice cream, the waiter decided to spare us, for a while at least, but he begged me to let him at least give us a shot of some lemon based aquavit that he promised would make the inevitable feeling of being overstuffed disappear. Thankfully I let him, for when I finished my espresso along with my deviant lemon shot, I felt as fresh as ever.

Where:
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What we think:
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Not your average fish'n'chips joint, but a healthy restaurant using only organic vegetables and quality fish products. The spiced skyr side a special treat.

Indian Mango
Frakkarstígur 12 | **H8**
Specializing in delicious dishes from the Goa region of India, honed to perfection in the owner's period as head chef at the Four Seasons. Incredible service as well as food.

Jómfrúin
Lækjargata 4 | **E6**
These days, good Smörrebröd can be an elusive delicacy. Lucky for us out in the colonies, it's alive and well at Jómfrúin with fresh eel imported specially from Denmark.

Kaffi Hjómaland
Laugavegur 21 | **G7**
This organic, free-trade café prides itself not only on great lunches and food but being a strong cultural center, hosting live music as well as lectures and poetry nights.

Kaffitár
Bankastræti 8 | **F6**
Kaffitár celebrates good coffee, and serves it in abundance, along with sweet treats and fancy special blends. Eat in or to go, a great way to enjoy your morning boost.

Kaffivagninn
Grandagarður 10 | **D1**
By the harbor, this lunch and coffee place is a gathering place for

all sorts of tough folks. If you want traditional Icelandic food, a great place to see another side of Reykjavík.

Kebabhúsið
Austurstræti 2 | **E6**
The name says it all, really.

Kofi Tómasar Frændu
Laugavegur 2 | **F7**
Nestled in a basement location, Uncle Tom's Cabin has the feeling of a back-alley London Café. On weekends it becomes a happening and diverse bar.

Krua Thai
Tryggvagata 14 | **D5**
We dare you to find a better meal for the same price anywhere else. Every dish is delicious. Just eat what looks best to you on their colorful menu.

La Primavera
Austurstræti 9 | **E6**
Though it sounds strange, La Primavera serves delicious traditional North Italian cuisine using only local produce. A startlingly tasty combination and a local favorite.

Mokka
Skólavörðustígur 3A | **F7**
Operating since 1958, Mokka is the city center's oldest coffee joint and founder of Icelandic coffee culture. Regular art exhibits are always worth a look.

Nonnabíti
Hafnarstræti 9 | **E6**
"Nonni" is one of the more popular junk-food places in town,

renowned for its greasy sandwiches and its unique Nonni-sauce. Open late for a midnight cravings.

O Sushi
Lækjargata 2A | **E6**
Also called "The Train", O Sushi's most intriguing feature is a conveyor belt that runs around the entire restaurant delivering a buffet of authentic sushi straight to your table.

Pizza King
Hafnarstræti 18 | **E6**
This little place serves not only the cheapest but largest slices downtown. A local favorite, and open until 6 on Friday and Saturday nights.

Pizza Pronto
Vallarstræti 4 | **D6**
With a convenient location and late hours, a good place to snack in between bars. Three sizes of pizza with a good selection of toppings. A cheap, if unhealthy, choice.

Prikið
Bankastræti 12 | **F6**
Part of the Reykjavík bar scene for decades, this café/bar has a fairly cheap menu and attracts a mix of students and old regulars. Mostly R&B and Hip-Hop on weekends.

Raðhúskaffi | **D7**
Tjarnargata 11
Located in the City Hall with a great view of the pond, this café has a good selection of pastries and a good place to relax. Regular art exhibits add to the aesthetic.

Santa Maria
Laugavegur 22A, | **F7**
Authentic Mexican food, directly from the stove of the owner's mother, who is an authentic Mexican. Served with a healthy distaste for anything texmex. Also the best quality/price ratio in town with every dish under 1000 ISK.

Segafredo
Lækjartorg | **E6**
The Italian coffee chain makes its way to Lækjartorg Square, bringing strong espresso and Italian lunch snacks to grab on the way to work or just to enjoy on the spot.

Shalimar
Austurstræti 4 | **E6**
Shalimar sports the conceit of being the northernmost Indian restaurant in the world and has fine daily specials. We recommend the quite addictive chicken tikka masala.

Sjávarkjallarinn
Aðalstræti 2 | **D6**
Elegant Seafood Cellar focuses on gourmet seafood and tantalizing asian-fusion dishes. Share the exotic menu, courses selected by the chef, with a friend for the most fun.

Sólón
Bankastræti 7a | **F6**
Truly a jack-of-all trades establishment. By night a decent restaurant, by day a café/bistro and on Friday and Saturday nights a nightclub. Art exhibitions on the walls to top it off.

Sushibarinn
Laugavegur 2 | **F7**
Deceptively ordinary Sushibarinn has recently become the talk of the town among Reykjavík sushi lovers, serving, in our opinion, the very best rolls in city.

Svarta Kaffi
Laugavegur 54 | **H8**
A cosy second floor café, their fame lies partly in their tasty Súpa í Brauði (Soup in Bread) and also in their romantic atmosphere. Good for a few early evening drinks.

Sægreifinn
Verbuð 8, Geirsgata | **D5**
Right next to the harbor, Sægreifinn fish shop is like none other in the country. With a diverse fish selection, exquisite lobster soup and good service, an absolute must-try.

Tapas
Vesturgata 3B | **D5**
For those with a bit of money and time to spare, Tapas serves course after course of delightful miniature dishes. Also serves tasty and unusually affordable lobster.

Thorvaldsen
Austurstræti 8 | **E6**
Dress formally for this fancy spot, and come before 12 to avoid a long line. DJs play Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Tíu Dropar
Laugavegur 27 | **G7**
An old-fashioned café with warm atmosphere and generous coffee refills. A thoroughly

pleasant establishment.

Tívoli
Laugavegur 3 | **F7**
A stylish bistro with a wide variety of selections and positively charming atmosphere.

Tjarnarbakkinn
Vonarstræti 3 | **D7**
Right above the lóno theater, an ideal place to go before shows. Nice views of the pond and outdoor dining in the summertime. The lamb comes especially recommended.

Vegamót
Vegamótastígur 4 | **G7**
Vegamót's kitchen is open until 22.00 daily and sports an appealing lunch menu. Come for a tasty brunch on weekends. If you like Óliver, try Vegamót and vice versa.

Við Tjörnina
Templarasund 3 | **E7**
A Reykjavík classic with menu exclusively of traditional cuisine, as frequented by tourists as it is by locals. A perfect opportunity to try Icelandic delicacies.

Vitabar
Bergþórugata 21 | **H9**
Really a bar, but best known for its hamburgers. Burger and fries for 500 one of the best deals in town, but Forget-Me-Not blue cheese and Garlic Extravaganza are also winners.

Lystin
Laugavegur 73 | **H7**
Specialising in Icelandic ingredients, cooked in a fusion of Asian and French cuisine.

Atson
Fish Leather Design - www.atson.is
handbags/wallets/portfolios/belts/cardholders/coin&key
cosmetic bags/bracelets/earrings/businesscardholders

Atson Shop Brautarholti 4 - 105 Reykjavík
Kraum Icelandic Design Aðalstræti 10 - 101 Reykjavík
Epal Design Leifstöð - Keflavik International Airport

SHOPPING

Clothing: **Hjálpræðisherinn (The Salvation Army)** Models: **Richard & Linda** — Photographer: **Jói Kjartans**



How To Look Fabulous in a Financial Depression

BY RICHARD FOLEY

Inevitably times will be harder for the people of Iceland. It seems the only appropriate thing to do is to prepare for this economic change and face some harsh cutbacks, but don't feel blue. Here is a 10-rule guide to looking fabulous in a financial depression.

- 1 Visit the charity shop often. The cool stuff tends to move quickly. And even if you don't buy anything, the old ladies who work in charity shops are often lonely and most of the time they just want someone to talk to. So a little chit-chat might strike you a better deal next time.
- 2 If you look "hot" in something you've tried on, don't wear it in front of the seller, they will always charge that extra 500 ISK if they know you like it.
- 3 Try to act indifferent and naive, "Oh, I seem to just have 200 ISK, is that ok," most of the time it is. Never feel bad for haggling, if you donate and buy often, it is just one continues cycle and the more often people buy from the charity shop the more charity they will have.
- 4 When going shopping, wear clothes that go with lots and that you like to wear. Some things you try on are bound to clash with one-off pieces, like those MC Hammer pants or your Neon printed Naked Ape hoodie. Always try the clothes on in the shop or market, half the time the clothes you think will look good are awful and the ones you would never put on are the ones you look amazing in.
- 5 Mix cheap clothes with expensive ones.
- 6 Men look in the women's section, and vice versa. Sometimes you find amazing fitting shirts and trousers that no one could tell the difference whether it was for him or her. Also, you are in a charity shop, half the people in there are nuts or crazy.
- 7 Have no shame when looking for items to wear, dig into the pile of clothes when filling up a plastic bag for 500 ISK at Kolaportið flea market.
- 8 Always look for scratches on shoes and strains on clothes. You will be disappointed if you go home then find one, and you can always get it cheaper if it has a stain, it is an unwritten discount rules. When it comes to shoes never buy second hand trainers or high heels as they will always look half chewed; only buy boots or leather shoes. Handbags, Coats, Clothes, Hats and Accessories are all good, but my advice is to buy new shoes, that way you know they will last.
- 9 The Golden rule: wash everything when you get home, they don't call them flea markets for nothing.
- 10 Recycle. The old clothes that you are tired off may look fabulous on someone else. The system only works if everyone participates.



Shopping | Venue finder

12 Tónar
Skólavörðust. 15 | **G8**
A record label as well as a store, all the best new Icelandic music on CDs or live on Fridays at 5 PM.

66°North
Bankastræti 5 | **F6**
High quality Icelandic outdoors clothing, designed for life at 66° North

Aftur
Laugavegur 23 | **G7**
Aftur's internationally acclaimed label is proudly displayed here in their shop/studio.

Álafoss
Laugavegur 1 | **F7**
The downtown outlet for famous makers of traditional Icelandic woolsens.

Belleville
Laugavegur 25 | **G7**
Stuffed with trendy

streetwear designs as well as funky magazines and media.

Blue Lagoon Store
Laugavegur 15 | **G7**
All the natural skincare products from the famous geothermal spa at their outlet here.

Brim
Laugavegur 71 | **H7**
Big surf wear, skate wear, and snowboard shop.

Börn Náttúrunnar
Skólavörðustígur 17a | **G8**
The basement children's toy store sells clothes and toys only made of organic products as well as books about childcare and parenthood.

Cintamani
Laugavegur 11 | **F7**
Featuring quality Icelandic outdoor gear,

you can even book an excursion on the spot.

Dead
Laugavegur 29 | **G7**
Artist Jón Sæmundur Auðarson's own hand-printed Rock and Roll label, Dead, plus others.

Dogma
Laugavegur 32 | **H7**
Dogma offers street clothing with interesting prints. Hooded sweaters and T-shirts made by both Icelandic and foreign designers can be found.

Figúra
Skólavörðustígur | **G8**
This shop features Icelandic designer wear, everything from street clothes to party dresses.

Friða Frænka
Vesturgata 3 | **D5**
A real treasure chest of

antique furniture and vintage accoutrements to perk up your apartment.

G-Star Raw
Laugavegur 86 | **I8**
A store for the Dutch jeans brand, an edgy collection with innovative details and washes.

Galleri Sautjón
Laugavegur 91 | **I8**
Stocking many hip labels, a unisex store offering casual business wear to evening dress wear.

Gilbert
Laugavegur 62 | **H8**
Watchmaker Gilbert Guðjónsson has sold watches and clocks on Laugavegur for over 40 years. Recently, Gilbert designed his own line of wristwatches.

Glamúr
Laugavegur 41 | **H7**

A flashy vintage clothing shop with everything from necklaces to fur coats to kimonos.

Green Apple
Laugavegur 20 | **G7**
The tiny shop combines massage and other relaxation products with organic products.

Gyllti Kötturinn
Austurstræti 8 | **E6**
One of a few second hand shops that have popped up in recent year, Gyllti Kötturinn also offers some pieces by locals.

Handþrjóna-sambandið
Skólavörðustígur 19A | **G7**
All sorts of hand knit woollen clothing as well as fine yarns and knitting supplies.

Ióa

Lækjargata 2A | **E6**
A great source for all kinds of reading material, with restaurants on the second floor.

Kísan
Laugavegur 7 | **F7**
An interesting mix of items from all around the world you won't find anywhere else.

Kisuberjatræð
Vesturgata 4 | **D5**
A lovely gallery/gift shop run by ten artists and designers where they sell their products.

Kolaportið
Tryggvagata 19 | **E5**
Open on weekends, you can get a bargain on almost anything at this indoor flea market.

Kraum
Aðalstræti 10 | **D6**
Featuring the best in contemporary Icelandic design of everyday

items of any kind.

Kronkron
Laugavegi 63B | **I8**
This hip new shop stocks the latest trends in everything from socks to sweaters.

KVK
Laugavegur 27 | **G7**
Small yet stuffed designer shop KVK, which stocks a nice selection of local designs.

Liborius
Laugavegur 7 | **F7**
One of a kind, very high-end shop featuring the latest, crispest designs for both sexes.

Marimekko
Laugavegur 56 | **H8**
Finnish designer brand Marimekko has found its spot on Laugavegur. The Marimekko concept store stocks a wide selection of

the colourfully printed designer products.

Mál og Menning
Laugavegur 18 | **G7**
A multi-level store with games, books, souvenirs and a bustling café on the top floor.

Nakti Apinn
Bankastræti 14 | **F7**
Offers an amazing array of colourful designer wear as well as contemporary media.

Nexus
Hverfisgata 103 | **I8**
The biggest comic book and gaming store in Reykjavík has something for everyone.

Noland
Laugavegur 32 | **H7**
A new skate shop offering fresh tees and sneakers from Krew, Supra and more.

Rökk og Rósir
Laugavegur 17 | **G7**

Second-hand clothing for the fairer sex at a reasonable price.

Skarhúsið
Laugavegur 12 | **F7**
Glittery accessory shop stuffed with cheap jewellery, bags or other small items.

Skifan
Laugavegur 26 | **G7**
Selection of CDs, DVDs and computer games as well as some Icelandic films with English subtitles.

Spútník
Laugavegur 32 | **G7**
One of the best second-hand shops in the country, with recycled clothes at a range of prices.

Systur
Laugavegur 70 | **H7**
For whatever women's lingerie needs you might have, this is the

store to satisfy them.

Trilogía
Laugavegur 7 | **F7**
A collection of trendy designer wear fills the shop, summery dresses, sweaters and skirts.

The Viking
Hafnarstræti 3 | **E5**
This large tourist shop sells all sorts of smart souvenirs to bring back home.

Þorsteinn Bergmann
Skólavörðustígur 36 | **G8**
Since the 1940s this small store has offered a huge selection of household supplies for a laughable low price.

Anatomie
Skólavörðustígur | **G8**
A great little shop with an excellent selection of sportswear.



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Landnámssýningin
The Settlement
Exhibition

Experience Viking-Age Reykjavík at the new Settlement Exhibition. The focus of the exhibition is an excavated longhouse site which dates from the 10th century AD. It includes relics of human habitation from about 871, the oldest such site found in Iceland.

Multimedia techniques bring Reykjavík's past to life, providing visitors with insights into how people lived in the Viking Age, and what the Reykjavík environment looked like to the first settlers.



Reykjavik
City Museum

Aðalstræti 16
www.reykjavik871.is



Turning Things Around

Hlynur Hallsson opens an exhibition in reverse

Yesterday, artist-slash-Left Green alternate MP Hlynur Hallsson opened an exhibition pretty much all over 101 Reykjavík. Even though the show, entitled ÚT/INN (“OUT/IN”) has its official headquarters in the main hall of the Reykjavík Art Museum, it’s concept and execution rely on the goodwill and co-operation of several downtown businesses and institutions, all of whom Hallsson says were extremely helpful throughout the twelve months it took to plan and prepare the venture.

“There was a lot of paperwork involved, and a lot of coordination” Hallsson says over the phone from

his Akureyri home a few days before the opening, “the nature of the project made it so. Everything had to be insured head to toe. Fortunately, the people we approached liked the project and were more than willing to help.”

What Hallsson has effectively done with ÚT/INN is pretty remarkable in and of itself. The idea behind his exhibition – while simple enough in essence – has many philosophical and aesthetic aspects that Hallsson hopes will open up discussion and force the viewer to ask himself some pretty weighty questions concerning the nature of art, the universe and everything.

VARIOUS ARTEFACTS

The “ÚT” aspect of the show sees Hallsson borrowing the Reykjavík Art Museum’s hefty collection of artworks and placing them in various downtown establishments that are frequently visited by the public, thereby exposing it to various works of art it might have never encountered. Subway, Lands-

bankinn, Kaffitár and 10-11 are among the twenty establishments that display works from the museum’s collection (a complete list may be found below).

The “INN” portion goes in a completely different direction. For every object d’art Hallsson places in the participating establishment, he has borrowed an item from their own collection and placed them in “an artistic environment” – more specifically in the large display hall of the Reykjavík Art Museum.

“The artefacts we got from the various establishments represent them in some way, and say something about them. I place them in the gallery as sort of ready made works of art. The new placement in this context will hopefully allow people to ponder their significance in their daily lives and connect to them in a new way. Hopefully, the act can serve to shed a light on the artistic and aesthetic values of the objects that surround us in our daily lives, the things we perhaps don’t pay much attention to.”

“The exhibition is called INN/ÚT – it’s pretty self explanatory. On one hand, the aim is to get the art out to the people, where they spend their day-to-day lives. On the other, we want to get the people in the museum, to see the things that colour their everyday lives in a new light. Hopefully, it will shed some light on our shared values. If I have my way, people will walk from the show viewing their everyday surroundings in a new light.”

THE FOLLOWING ESTABLISHMENTS PARTICIPATE IN ÚT/INN:

Aurum, Brynja, Eymundsson, Gylti kötturinn, Hársaga, Gallerí i8, Kaffitár, Karlmann, Kísan, Landsbankinn, Lyfja, Múltíkultí, Skífan, Subway, Varðan, Verzlunin Bláa lónið, Víkingur, Vísir, 10-11 og 66° norður.



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