

REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

Húsavík! The town that Eurovision made famous · Kristín Sesselja sings songs to cry to
 · Sigurður Guðjónsson makes the little things grand · Eruptions, vaccines and more!

Atli Guðlaugsson 3



Legendary Planeswalker - Human Singer

- +2 Create a 2/2 Fan Token
- 2 Gain Control of target Black Metal creature
- 5 Search your deck or graveyard for up to five Guitarist, Drummer or Keyboardist creatures. Put them in play under your control.

5/1

Þjarni Egill



Legendary Planeswalker - Human Keyboardist

- +2 Place a +1/+1 counter on up to two creatures you control
- 1 Draw two cards
- 8 Release album: Create a X/X Artifact Album token, where X is the number of Guitarist, Drummer, Singer and Fan creatures under your control.

4

Krilli Þorsteinsson 2



Legendary Creature - Human Bassist

When Krilli enters the battlefield, you may place a +1/+1 counter on two Legendary Human creatures you control.

2/3

JOIN THE QUEST

Power Paladin is just here to have fun... and if a dragon gets slayed in the meantime? Even better!

Kalli Júlíusson 2



Legendary Creature - Human Drummer

Haste

5/1

Þjarni Þór 2



Legendary Creature - Human Wizard Guitarist

- 1 Counter target spell
- 2 Tap target creature

2/2

Ingí Þórisson 3



Legendary Creature - Human Guitarist

- 1 Search your deck for a Bassist, Guitarist, Lead Singer or Drummer card and put it into your hand
- 2 Destroy target Guitarist

4/3



COVER ART:
 Photographer:
Art Bicnick

The photo is taken at the Viking Hotel Fjörkráin in Hafnarfjörður, who we cannot thank enough.

Props were supplied by the one-and-only **Nexus**, your stop for anything nerdy in Reykjavik. Hopefully one day they will outfit our office.



08: POWER PALADIN!

06: Immigrants. Don't. Spread. COVID.
08: The One Shoe-d God



12-13: Fluorescent Art

19: Minningar & The Music Of Glaciers
23: Fighting Fire W/ Fire



26: Erlendur Magazine

27: Tiktok Star Elfgrime Teaches Us Style
28: ALL HAIL SEITAN!

First



EDITORIAL

So, How Do We Want To Move Forward?



When this is written, well over 50,000 Icelanders have been fully vaccinated. Over 100,000 have gotten at least one shot. And if everything goes according to the most optimistic plans of the government, Iceland will have no domestic restrictions connected to the virus at the end of June. In short; we are on our way to restore normality, and able to turn back to our old routine.

That said, nothing will be the same again. It's foreseen that the virus will affect travel in the coming years. What can be taken away from us in one day, like our freedom to travel, takes a long time to gain back. This applies to everything when it comes to freedom.

If we compare the virus to a dictator, history has shown again and again that oppressed countries are not free the day the dictator dies. It takes years, even generations to gain normality

again. To heal again.

Right now, over 3 million people have died from the virus. That's half of the civilians that are believed to have died in World War I. It's one million more than are believed to have died in the Vietnam war. These numbers will only go up for the next months and years. It's a possibility that we will have to live with COVID-19 for the coming years.

It's vital that everyone who is healthy and sound get the vaccine to help reach herd immunity. It's also clear that countries that fail to reach herd immunity will be left behind when it comes to industry, and it will have political and economical consequences. This goes without saying.

But we also have to stop and think with ourselves, how we want to step into this post-virus era. In our opinion, at Reykjavik Grapevine, the biggest feat in the battle against the virus is how the world stood united, developed a vaccine in record time, and billions of people did what they could to protect

the ones they love, and people they will never know, by applying to restrictions connected to the virus.

This should give us hope. Because our behaviour, and the will to sacrifice our comfort to keep others safe probably saved millions of lives all around the world. In Iceland alone, our darkest projection for the virus was that we could have lost over 200 lives if we wouldn't have done anything to prevent the spreading. We lost 29 people, but possibly saved around 170 lives. This is of course a reckless play with numbers, but we can be confident that our actions saved lives, nonetheless.

So how do we want to move forward? I think we already have our answer: united. And we need to realise that together, we can change whatever we want, and there are bigger challenges waiting for us. ♥

Valur Grettisson
 Editor-in-chief



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



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



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



Alina Maurer is a media studies intern at the Grapevine. She studied all things Icelandic at HÍ and can finally distinguish Marvel's Thor from the real Þór. After a year's break in Germany she came back to Iceland due to missing the ocean and Icelandic ice cream. She loves pretzels, clay art and boiling in hot tubs.



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



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



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



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



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

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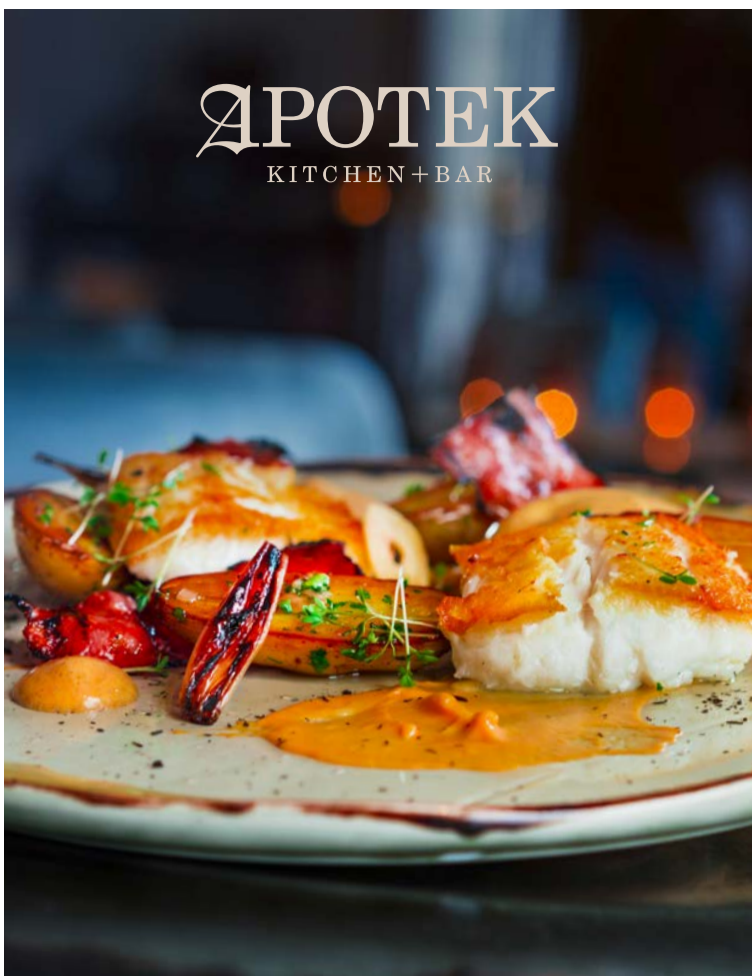


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...uh...wait...was I about to write a caption?

What Are Icelanders Talking About?

Rumble in the jungle

Words: **Andie Sophia Fontaine** Photos: **Psychonaut/Wikimedia Commons & Art Bicnick**

NEWS Drugs! Do you like to do drugs? Well then you may be interested to know that **Parliament is debating whether or not to decriminalise cannabis** for personal consumption. On the one side are the classic arguments in favour: addiction should be treated as a health issue rather than a criminal one, the war on drugs is lost, and so forth. Opposing this idea, however, are the police (unsurprisingly) but also the Icelandic Medical Association, who contend that decriminalisation would lead to more young people trying drugs—contrary to actual research, which shows that places which have decriminalised drugs have seen no increase—and sometimes even a decrease—in consumption. The battle rages on!

Another hot topic in the discourse is **press freedom in Iceland**. This may come as a surprise, considering you don't hear about journalists being jailed, kidnapped or assassinated here. But Reporters Without Borders, in their World Press Freedom Index for 2021, recently pointed out one case in particular that Icelanders have been very concerned about: **fish-ing giant Samherji's campaign of harassment against journalists who reported on the company's wrongdoing**. Samherji has specifically targeted journalists at RÚV,

who were amongst the first to break the story of Samherji bribing Namibian officials in exchange for lucrative fishing quotas. The case has drawn international attention, prompting the Namibia Media Professionals Union to issue a statement of support for their Icelandic cohorts. So no, we don't murder reporters here; we just have corporate and political interests using other methods to silence and censure them.

In happier news, **vaccinations have been kicking into high gear**. A large part of this is due to Icelandic authorities both wanting to relax domestic restrictions completely

and give tourism an extra boost by the time summer arrives. Thousands of people have been getting dosed, in drives so large that the Laugardalshöll stadium has been opened for the sole purpose of accommodating enough people to get their shots. As this is being written, some 40,000 people are set to get vaccines within the span of a week, using a mixed bag of vaccines from Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Janssen. If all goes according to plan, pretty much everyone should be vaccinated by late July. Wish us luck!

Lastly, **the eruption site** just got a lot more, um, lively. We've got lava fountains belching 300 metres into the air. We've got chunks of lava raining down hundreds of metres away from their point of departure. It's a veritable volcanic rager. Quite photogenic, but plans are being made to expand the danger area around the eruption site, so that visitors can stay safe as the situation changes. 🍷



RIP the photographer who took this shot



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NATURALLY PURE

ICELANDIC LAMB – BEYOND COMPARE

Icelandic lamb roam free in the pristine wilderness of Iceland grazing on wild berries and herbs like red clover, Arctic thyme, sedge, willow, thrift and angelica resulting in it having an unrivaled flavor profile. Infused with the flavor of nature, Icelandic lamb is fine-textured, tender and naturally rich in Omega-3 and iron. Icelandic lamb – an exceptionally pure taste experience.

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Viðir Reynisson, the Chief of Civic Protection

autumn when domestic restrictions were relaxed.

Despite this, people have continued to insist that letting people into the country is bad for our health, perhaps deliberately ignoring the fact that the coronavirus was first brought to Iceland by Icelanders.

The virus doesn't discriminate

A recent outbreak at a play school fanned the flames of xenophobia again, as reporters revealed that a foreign-born resident of Iceland had broken quarantine to return to work. This led to a spike in harassment and bullying of foreign residents in Iceland, prompting Chief of Civic Protection Viðir Reynisson to caution people not to single out others as potential virus carriers based on their nationality alone — curious, considering Viðir himself told reporters just two weeks ago that, of those who break quarantine, “actually almost all of them [are] of foreign nationalities.”

With all this in mind, it must be emphasised that foreign residents living in Iceland do, for the most part abide quarantine guidelines, and that tourists and people born in Iceland have also been known to break quarantine. Ultimately, the coronavirus does not care about nationality, nor is nationality any indication as to whether or not someone has or has not broken quarantine. 🍷

Xenophobia & The Pandemic

Fear of the virus turns ugly for foreigners in Iceland

Words: Andie Sophia Fontaine
Photo: Visir / Vilhelm

The coronavirus pandemic has, from the very beginning, often been a vehicle for xenophobia. While the most obvious example is anti-Asian hate, there has been another less discussed side to this in Iceland, where foreigners in general are being blamed broadly for the pandemic and for individual outbreaks in particular.

"Close the borders!"

This arguably began to pick up real

steam in June 2020, when the Icelandic government announced it was going to slightly relax border restrictions to allow people to visit Iceland under very strict conditions.

Almost immediately, the backlash began. Some people loudly proclaimed that this was going to fan the flames of the pandemic and lead to a spike in cases. In retrospect, the data did not support this; domestic cases of the coronavirus stayed relatively low all summer, only to spike again in the

LOST IN GOOGLE TRANSLATION

Maximum Crime, Minimum Punishment

Hey! Are you a no good, lousy, stinking criminal? Do you want to nab as much swag as you can with as few consequences as possible? Well, as a journalist, I have news for you! **The punishment for stealing everything in Iceland is... three months!**

Yes, you read that right. Steal, plunder, rob as much as you want and you'll only have to serve three months in the can. Not bad right? I understand that it might be a hard

task to, you know, steal literally everything. It might take a bit of planning, maybe a few alibis and definitely some balls of steel, but surely it's worth it if you only have to sit in prison for a few months.

This headline from Fréttablaðið certainly caught our eye; especially Polly, who frantically started stealing everyone's shoes from their feet, food from our plates and toys from nearby children. After getting her under

control and before we hatched our grand plan to begin stealing everything in existence, we decided to do what most journalists don't bother to do and read the entire story.

A man in Stykkishólmur has been imprisoned for three months for stealing everything... from the houses he broke into. Even then, he didn't technically steal everything from the houses. The story goes that he burgled five different places

and stole a variety of things, such as a few 66\$ North hats. I assumed the punishment for that would be death, however it seems that the police are a bit more lenient than me. There were a lot of items stolen, but I do think Fréttablaðið might have been a bit misleading with their headline as not "everything" has been stolen. Anything for a click, amirite? 🍷

Briggja mánaða fangelsi fyrir að stela öllu mögulegu



Three months in prison for stealing everything



ASKAN
Expert
Q: Why Is Pornography Illegal In Iceland?

With all the talk surrounding OnlyFans, we wondered—isn't making pornography illegal in Iceland? To learn more, we sat down with **Dr. Thomas Brorsen Smidt**, MA and PhD in gender studies and project and research manager at the GRÓ Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme.

"It is and it isn't. According to article 210 of the Icelandic penal code, whoever prints, imports, sells, or distributes pornographic material, or has it publicly on display, will get fined or jailed up to 6 months. Still, porn is available in Icelandic bookstores, sex shops, and of course via the almighty internet. Very few convictions involving pornography with consenting adults have been made since the law was first formulated in 1869 (with amendments made in 1940 and 1996). Convictions include that of a satiric magazine for some suggestive silhouettes, and a TV channel for broadcasting some lewd Danish films back in the 1990s.

The discussion really flared up in 2010-2014 when the government sponsored a series of meetings to discuss the 'pornification' of Icelandic society, culminating in a conference featuring anti-porn feminist Gail Dines. A work group was assembled to examine how Icelandic police could combat pornography. As it turns out, this is very difficult if the police do not have 1) a working definition of pornography and 2) control of the internet.

Recently, the debate has flared up again after people realised that a lot of Icelandic young people were producing and selling homemade sexually explicit content via OnlyFans. But in a recent interview in Stundin, the Icelandic police said they have not received a single report referencing Article 210 on distribution via OnlyFans and that this is also not among their priorities. So no one cares, even the police.

Why then is pornography still illegal? My best guess is signal value. Sure, it might be appropriate to repeal a dead letter law that no one follows anyway, but because there is still a big divide on the issue of pornography, whoever attempts to repeal the law will still be perceived as de facto endorsing pornography, and so no can be bothered to do it." 🍷

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GODS OF ICELAND

He's gone and put his foot in it now, innit?

Víðarr, The One Shoe Wonder

POV: You've just killed Óðinn and the god of vengeance is coming for you

Words: Owen Tyrie
 Imagine being the son of Óðinn. Imagine being imbued with blood that makes you nigh on invincible, allowing you to defeat one of the most deadly creatures in Norse mythology. Imagine being one of the only gods to survive the literal end of all existence and being forced to live eternally on the plains where Ásgarður once stood. Imagine being all of this and more, but only being remembered for the fact that you wore one large leather boot. Historians can be real pricks sometimes.

You know what they say about a guy with a big foot right?
 Víðarr is the god of vengeance and, boy, will he have good reason to be vengeful. To start with, he's the son of big daddy Óðinn and one of his many side chicks, Gríðr the jötunn. Given his lineage, Víðarr is exceptionally strong—in fact, almost as strong as his more famous brother Þór. However, Víðarr's most notable *feature*, as previously mentioned, is indeed his one very large Timberland shoe, which is made of all the leather waste that mortals throw

Superpowers:
 One super powerful Timberland boot. Survives the literal end of the world.

Weaknesses:
 Only has one shoe.



So when am I going to meet this nice Beelzebub?

JUST SAYINGS

“Þegar skrattinn hittir ömmu sína”

We know you love your grandmother and think she's the world. And perhaps she is. But you haven't met the devil's grandmother yet. The saying “þegar skrattinn hittir ömmu sína” or “when the devil met his grandmother” describes that relatable situation when a tough mother\$#er meets their equal or an even more formidable character. In other words: shit's gonna hit the fan. It's quite an old saying and to be honest, we have no idea where it originated or who the devil's grandmother even is! (If only we had gotten the

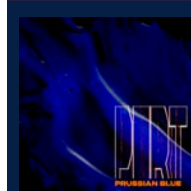
Milton cut of 'Paradise Lost', right?) But we must conclude that she was probably a badass or just pure evil. Either way, this is something that Icelanders often use when telling a crazy story about someone they know. And if someone uses it to describe you? Wow. Call us. VG

away, making it one helluva fashion statement. And, you must admit, an even better curb stomping tool. Now as the god of vengeance, Víðarr (with his boot) had quite the task waiting for him at the prophesised end of the world—Ragnarök. One which he would likely spend his entire life preparing for. His fate? Avenge Óðinn by killing the great wolf Fenrir and survive to tell the tale... ...to no one, as it was the end of the world.

Vengeance... his sole purpose

Once Ragnarök, the unavoidable, unstoppable end of all beings, was upon our mighty smiters, Óðinn was torn a new one and devoured by the massive mighty wolf, Fenrir. As you'd expect, it was now the turn of the god of vengeance to exact his, uh, vengeance on the beast. It is written that Víðarr avenged Óðinn by placing his celebrated big boot on the lower jaw of Fenrir, grabbing his upper jaw with one hand and then pulling the wolf's mouth apart, ripping and tearing until it was done. Quite the feat of strength. After finally finishing the foul beast, Víðarr became one of the sole survivors of Ragnarök, damned to live the rest of their lives in a purgatory called Iðavöllr that lies where Ásgarður was before it was nuked during the end of the world. Metal as f***. As you'd imagine, there's not much recorded about what happens after that event. The survivors of Ragnarök chill out for an eternity contemplating whether surviving the event was really worth it, whilst all the other gods wine and dine in Valhalla. That's what you get for surviving the end of the world I guess; he shoe'd have known better.

GRAPEVINE PLAYLIST

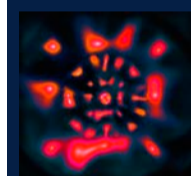


PORT - Prussian Blue
 Did you know that doctors actually use Prussian Blue pigment to treat heavy metal poisoning? While Port is far from heavy metal, their new album is definitely a welcome funky reprieve from the heaviness of the world right now. The track “Prussian Blue”—from which the album is named—is kind of like a very happy Joy Division went to a goth club in Beirut and then had to accompany the belly dancers there after having taken a plethora of downers. “Hats” is another standout, especially if you want to get your roommate high and then fuck with them and make them think they are being tracked by aliens in a late-90s vampire film. Dig up your leather trench coat. HJC

electronica moves from Cigarettes After Sex langour to Grimes-esque sass, taking in a diverse range of references—including Florence Welch—on the way. “Runner Up” stands out; a heartfelt appeal to a lover to show their true colours, produced in a dreamy, reverberant sonic widescreen format. Lush and lovely. JP



Lord Pusswhip - Reykjavik '93
 ‘Reykjavik '93’ will likely be my favourite electro-album of the year. It's brilliant—a fascinating fusion of old-school hardcore from the '90s and modern tones that took me by surprise. And therein lies the magic of Lord Pusswhip. He takes what you already know, fucks around with it, and adds some unexpected extra magic that you would have never imagined. VG



Hipsumhaps - Þjást
 There's nothing I like more than crying at my desk while writing our monthly playlist, you know? The song, which translates to “Suffering”, talks about the insecurity of love. Musically, it has the wash of harmonies and pain that brings up that famous Imogen Heap track and probably the-one-who-got-away or some other sentimental person in your life. If you're reading this... HJC



RAKEL, JóiPé & CeaseTone - Ég var að spá
 “Ég var að spá” (“I Was Thinking”) is a low-key pop superhit with an interesting mashup featuring hip-hop superstar JóiPé, indie folk-rock artist CeaseTone and jazzy pop singer Rakel, who just stepped up as a solo artist but a few months ago. The song is a slick modern hip-hop disco (that's a thing, right?) number that delivers as a solid radio hit, which could easily save a shitty day in the rain. And to be honest, that's all we want. VG



Blankiflúr - Hypnopompic
 Over the course of its nine tracks, this album of sparse atmospheric

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Your Friendly Neighbourhood Power Paladin

Power Paladin is just here to have fun... are you ready to join the quest?

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen** Photos: **Art Bicnick** Props: Provided by **Nexus**



"With great power comes great metal."

Character class: Paladin (c. 8th century AD)

A sect of knights in Emperor Charlemagne's court. Crusaders, who nobly and valiantly protected the empire from heathens and other non-Christian folk. Warriors of God and chivalric healers who rode through the empire fighting for good and healing people through prayer and bandages. Best compared to the Knights of the Round Table.

Character class: Paladin (c. 20th-21st century AD)

A staple species in digital and tabletop role-playing games such as Dungeons & Dragons and World of Warcraft. Clerical warriors who usually have a proclivity for white magic or healing spells. The poster children for lawful good, (but relatively violent in their quest for it).

Character class: Power Paladin (c. 2021 AD Iceland)

A power metal band. Local cult favourites. Best known for their unexpected Spider-Man themed debut hit "Kraven the Hunter"—which spent more than a month on top of the X-ið Dominos Chart—as well as their live gigs that often involve sword fighting, costumes, and glam rock-style choreography. Debut album forthcoming and highly anticipated.

Now, it's here that one could spin some sort of grandiose Charlemagne-level metaphor to say that it's clear that the Paladin is the perfect character for our Power Paladin to be named after. To do this, one could perhaps claim that the sextet are warriors fighting against the otherwise dreary and sombre Icelandic music scene with a staunch moral code of wackiness and fantasy. One could say their healing powers are rooted in escapism. One could even say they are spreading the gospel of a niche genre in a country in which it's never been accepted.

Or one could just say the band is here to have fun and, man, isn't it cool to be named after a knight?

ONWARD, GREAT KNIGHTS

"With great power comes great metal," singer Atli Guðlaugsson says formally when asked to distil down the magic of Power Paladin. The seriousness in his statement—a Spider-man reference for anyone who didn't get that—immediately causes the rest of the band to burst into hearty laughter, which Atli returns, his former visage dropped in favour of a warm smile. "No, that's what we're printing on the back of the 'Kraven the Hunter' shirts though," he grins.

The band was formed in 2017 on Atli's volition, when he essentially reached out to anyone he thought might possibly be interested in being in a power metal band. There's not a big power metal community in Iceland, so it ended up being a rather small group—most of them already close friends. That said, for all current members it was a rare

opportunity, garnering an immediate and enthusiastic yes from each.

POWER METAL: LEVEL I

For those unacquainted with metal genres, power metal is known for its clean vocals, bombastic arrangements, rapid guitar work and fantastical themes. But a description like that doesn't really cut it. The main defining feature of power metal is the feeling it evokes in listeners. Power metal is cheesy, unabashedly so. It's uplifting and fun, music you're supposed to pump your fist and smile to. At all times, power metal strives to be as epic as possible in as visceral a way as it can—and then it adds a key change at the end, just for good measure. Lyrics speak of quests to join your brothers-in-arms to find—who knows?—a dwarven broadsword to defeat an evil wizard who lives far over the misty mountains. Then there's a two-minute guitar solo, a children's choir and, afterwards, the whole fellowship gets drunk on a keg of elven mead. It's the music of people who'd probably enjoy playing games with a Paladin character.

"Epicness," drummer Einar Karl 'Kalli' Júlíusson says simply, when asked what attracted him to the genre.

"It's the Eurovision of metal," keyboardist Bjarni Egill Ögmundsson chimes in. Guitarist Bjarni Þór Jóhannsson smirks. "You know that's actually a sub-genre of power metal," he corrects his bandmate. The two are no doubt the jokers of the group—constantly one-upping the other in ridiculousness, like a power metal Bert and Ernie. "It's the biggest of music," Bjarni Egill continues. "You can basically get away with everything. Add ten choirs and everyone's like, you know, we can definitely make room for one more!"

NICHE MUSIC

But despite power metal being one of the most popular metal genres in Europe, it's the above qualities that have always made the genre somewhat on the outs in Iceland, where metal tastes have usually swayed towards harsher and uglier types. In fact, there's no hyperbole in saying that Power Paladin is the only power metal band in Iceland. They are, quite literally, on a raid of their own.

"The black metal, death metal and extreme metal scenes have always dominated here. So nobody expected there to be a power metal band," Atli explains. Moreover, they never expected there to be such a beloved one. Ingí Þórisson, guitarist, nods. "We're a genre that nobody listens to. We play niche music," Ingí laughs.

"Power metal has always been rooted in European metal festivals—it's made for big stages and arenas, so in a small scene like Iceland, music lends itself to opposition. Maybe with the weather too, that led towards harsh music," Atli continues. "But heavy metal has always

been about that. It's small man's music. It's outsider music. So you always want to go against the grain and then music goes in waves. What's the current wave and how can you be the opposite of that?"

He pauses to mull it over; is the nicheness of power metal due to more than just run-of-the-mill nonconformity? "Power metal is so specific as well," he answers. "It's not just heavy metal pound-your-fists-in-the-air music, which is easy listening as far as metal goes, it's also so rooted in nerd-ism and shit like that," he laughs. Hence their hit song about a formidable Spider-Man villain. "Power metal is not that user-friendly. It might [musically] sound user-friendly but at least before nerd culture became [more mainstream], like 10 years ago, power metal was not seen as cool at all."

This causes another round of laughter from the group, who, without a doubt, definitely seem baffled by their now-cool label.

THE KRAVEN- LORE

Power Paladin was, from the beginning, a passion project for the group. Playing a rather obscure genre in the already obscure Icelandic metal community, the band never even thought that people they weren't friends with would come to their shows—much less that they'd be topping Icelandic charts and sharing live television billing with acts like BRÍET and Bubbi Morthens, which they just did on the Hlustendaværðlaunin 2021. And now they're booked for Iceland Airwaves in November, too.

"That was the first time that it really dawned on us—wow people actually like us," Bjarni Þór laughs, when asked about the TV gig. "We had no clue."

Despite being active locally for years, the band only entered mainstream Icelandic culture in 2020 after dropping their aforementioned first single "Kraven the Hunter" in early December.

"I'm a huge Spider-Man fan so I wanted to do something weird with that, but still keep it fantasy," Atli says, prefacing his explanation of the Kraven-lore. "So it's a story about Spider-Man travelling through dimensions to go into a medieval world where there's another Spider-Man who has been transformed into a Spider-Monster." It's at this point that Kraven the Hunter, the world's greatest big game hunter and Spider-Man's sworn enemy, arrives. "He's hunting the Spider-Monster down, but when the original Spider-Man shows up, Kraven mistakes him for the monster and starts hunting him." Cue the epic battle, betrayal, and bridge.

Musically, the track is about as power metal as it gets. A roaring, soaring sing-along chorus drives the anthem, revolving around the lyrics, "Hunted by the enemy tonight!" with Atli's voice flying higher than helium. There's even a good ole' duelling guitar solo that collapses in a dramatic acoustic interlude, cour-

tesy of Ingí. So if this is Iceland's first introduction to power metal—well, it's basically a greatest hits of the genre.

POWER PALA- DIN ON THE RADIO

The band released the single with little fanfare, barely expecting it would even get radio-play in Iceland. But then, it quickly went to the top of the X-ið charts, where it remained for more than a month. It seems Kraven had hit a target, (though hopefully not the one on Spider-Man), and to call the band shocked by the reception would be an understatement.

"The last thing I thought would happen is that we would get to number one," Bjarni Egill relays fiercely. "I thought, maybe if we were super lucky, we would maybe scrape the bottom of the list. And then we'd say, 'All right! Time to move on!' But then week one, we're top. Wow, we did not see that coming."

"And four weeks later, we were still one," Bjarni Þór interjects, and you can't help but feel in your gut how genuinely humble and grateful all of them are for the reception. "We'd never expect people would love a song that is based on a villain in Spider-Man."

Atli smiles brightly, though you can tell there's still a part of him that remains in disbelief. "It's the goofiness of the whole song. It's power metal. We sing it in English. We just never thought people in Iceland would like it," he grins.

"Well there's never been music made like this in Iceland," Bjarni Egill points out. And it's true—Power Paladin is, without exaggeration, the only one. They're in unexplored territory here, having just released the first Icelandic power metal single and being on the cusp of dropping the first Icelandic power metal album. That said, Bjarni's quick to note that this isn't because the band is completely revolutionary—it's more circumstantial luck. "What we're doing, it's been done abroad a lot, but not here," he continues. "So this might be something completely new to people."

"It's just the wackiness of it all," Atli responds. "Us being named Power Paladin. The song being about a villain from Spider-man. And now it's on the radio."

WELCOME TO WORLD 626

Internationally, the song reached another target audience—to even goofier and wackier results.

"There was a comment on Reddit by some guy who was obviously a huge Spider-Man fan," Bjarni Þór laughs. "It just said... 'They got the canon wrong,'" he says in a mock-pseudointellectual voice with the exact deadpan intonation

"Heavy metal is small man's music. It's outsider music."

you'd expect of a guy who corrects power metal bands on Reddit. It's hilarious, and at this, the band loses it, despite probably having heard that punchline hundreds of times before.

But apparently, getting "well actually"-ied by some know-it-all on the internet was a formative experience for the group—or maybe just a validating one—and they seem even more jazzed by this achievement than any chart position. And don't worry; they've got an explanation for said commenter's confusion.

"'Kraven the Hunter' is based on the multiverse, which is a huge thing in the comics. See, in comic books, different dimensions have numbers assigned to them," Atli explains. "Ours is 626, which doesn't exist in the comic books."

"So it's technically canon," Bjarni concludes. Silly commenter.

A LICENSE FOR FUN

But when asked why they think their song got such a reaction in Iceland, the boys pipe down. They don't really have an answer. For them, they're just a group of power

metal fans that make fun traditional power metal songs—the fact that it's caught on with both the metal community and the mainstream rock crowd was surprising. A shocking turn in a quest they would have happily continued on alone.

Atli attributes people's connection to Power Paladin to the contrast they offer. "The mood shifts when we're playing with other bands that maybe play a lot of minor chords," he explains. "We're giddy and upbeat. Maybe it's refreshing."

For Kalli, Power Paladin gives people a much needed opportunity to relax, creating a space where they can revel in their nerdiness unself-consciously. "It probably takes them back to that time where they can enjoy the simpler stuff. Enjoy nostalgia, without all the worries about being super [hardcore or cool] or whatever," he reveals.

But it's Bjarni Egill that manages to put it in the fewest words: "You have a license to smile," he says of their work and power metal in general. And that's the truth—you'd be hard-pressed to find anyone not having a blast at a Power Paladin show.

Because if heavy metal is, as Atli said previously, driven by opposi-

tion, Power Paladin is the absolute antagonist to everything that's happened over the past year and a half. In contrast to our world, which in the late-pandemic haze now seems so dark and untethered, Power Paladin is uplifting and hopeful. Their multiverse, full of ships, stars and a Spider-Monster, is simple—there's an evil emperor queen and a chosen one to defeat them. Their music is playtime, a sharp escape from the gritty and sad vibes that have so dominated not only mainstream art, but the news, too. It's no wonder that a disheartened public has found such a beacon in their wholesome music.

In fact, Power Paladin's recent show at Gaukurinn was one of the first to happen after gathering restrictions were lifted and it was here that this contrast was seen in high definition. It was just fun, with a diverse crowd of fans who showed up early to guarantee one of the coveted 50 spots. And when the intro started—an orchestral version of the Spiderman theme song, mind you—people were unabashedly happy, pumping their fists and indulging in some epic escapism together as Atli waved a sword around (safely) and the band engaged in some machine-gun guitar choreography. Not only could audience members finally sit with their friends and watch

"It's the goofiness of the whole song. It's power metal. We sing it in English. We just never thought people in Iceland would like it."



live music again, but they got to do that while singing about entering a magical forbidden forest. It was like restarting and finding yourself suddenly at level 70.

Because perhaps coming out of this pandemic, a license to smile is just what we need. Perhaps people just want to have fun.

Perhaps Power Paladin will soon be the standard.

THE HATRED HARPSICHORD

They will continue the fun, they promise, vowing that everything the band started on Kraven will be continued on their upcoming debut album, which should be out any day now.

"It's all carefully written down. You just have to listen to the album to understand," Ingi urges—sarcastically—when asked if there is any overarching lore in the album, as is so common with power metal bands. "Yes, it will all connect," Bjarni Egill smirks. "I mean the Lord of the Rings took three books! So in the three albums..." Ingi adds, trailing off as a chorus of snickers from the group swallow the conversation.

They do though explain that while "Kraven the Hunter" is the greatest hits version of a power metal single, the album will fulfill all the other tropes of the genre and more. There's a keyboard intro that lasts minutes, a choir section featuring more vocal tracks than they'd like to admit, and even a harpsichord solo, which was apparently a rather divisive decision.

As he recalls making "Ride The Distant Storm," Bjarni Egill can hardly hold back the laughter. "Atli was like, 'A harpsichord solo would be a really good idea here!' and then

Ingi was like, 'Hell no, it's not. Let me show you why it's a bad idea. So Ingi wrote it and was like 'Oh my god! This is amazing!'"

Paladin seem to love this story. "Yes, we have a harpsichord written out of pure spite," Ingi admits. "A hatred-harpsichord solo," Bjarni Egill declares.

YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBOURHOOD PALADIN

But ignoring any hatred-filled keys, the boys of Power Paladin are already happy, just grateful for all the opportunities and support they've been given. As they constantly reiterate—they never expected any of this.

"Our dream has always been to just publish an album, something that we love and get it printed, mostly for ourselves. That's all that ever mattered," Atli says. "And really, that was the starting position. And then extras from that would be to play some fun gigs in Iceland, some of the other festivals—that'd be super awesome."

"And a heavy metal cruise," Bjarni Egill jumps in. "Yes, our first goal with the band was always to get famous enough so that we just get to play on the heavy metal cruises and nothing else," Bjarni Þór piles on. Once again—the jokers.

"We'll see what the future holds and just be your friendly neighbourhood Paladin," Atli smiles, taking us back to the Spiderman references. "As long as we are having fun."

Happening

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"When you start a book, you don't introduce its leading characters at the end. They are placed in the order of importance."



"We need to not let it go. Be active and make these elections meaningful."

Libia says. "So this exhibition for us is marking that time." The rooms are, as Libia explains, a place both to reflect on the past and also determine the best way to make a better future. "That's why we have this project space-in-progress," she continues. "We are using this space to produce new work and for activism meetings. We are all thinking together how to continue the campaign."

And in that way, the exhibition treads through an undefinable space between history lesson, contemporary art museum and activist hangout. But this murkiness, as Libia illustrates, is necessary to the overall meaning of the show.

"The movement of going into a museum allows you a space of reflexivity, of reflection, but you also go out of the museum and that becomes an action, an intervention into society. So in this show, many of the works and how the whole installation is made up follow this frame of thinking—the porosity between society and life," Libia explains. "So for example, when you are in the entrance, those banners that are put up are both paintings and banners. They fulfil both of those different roles. They go into the history of conceptual painting, textile works, art and feminism and they also go into activism."

"And we are still using them like that," Libia continues proudly. "We can take one down and go into the street. So then [the banner] is activated, [serving] another role and another function, and then we put it back in the installation."

But what can we do?

Thinking beyond the scope of art and protest, what can one tangibly do to fight for the new constitution?

"Absolutely informing themselves," Libia states. "Inform themselves about the differences: What is this new one? What is the old one? Also the context—how have they been written? What is this idea that the people in this country had always wanted to write a new one?"

But as a representative democracy, Libia continues, it's really in the political parties' court in the end. Unfortunately, it'll be them that choose whether or not to ratify it.

"The sad version of this answer is that there is not enough one can do with just voting," Ólafur interjects. "The parties aren't clear enough on their positions. It comes to the sad cliché of broken promises."

Libia nods. "So before the elections, it's very important that people inform themselves and that they actually vote for parties that put this at the centre," she urges. "Even if they are maybe not totally in agreement with the whole political programme of the party. If they want the new constitution, they need to think of that when they vote."

For Ólafur, even if the fight can often seem relentless, it's necessary to keep going. Even the two artists have seen their art and activism challenged—in fact, on May 2nd, the city of Hafnarfjörður unceremoniously removed their pro-new constitution banners, which hung outside the museum with no warning. The town council claimed they didn't have permission; something which has never been an issue in the past.

But remember, as Ólafur reminds us, the people already spoke their mind and supported this new constitution, so the government should follow suit—and a watered-down version isn't the answer.

"We need to not let it go," he concludes. "Be active and make these elections meaningful." 🇮🇸

CULTURE NEWS

There's The New Constitution

Libia Castro & Ólafur Ólafsson will never stop fighting for what they were promised

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen

Photos: Art Bicnick

For almost 10 years, the cry of 'Hvar er nýja stjórnarskráin?' ('Where's the new constitution?') has been heard around the country as Iceland's "crowdsourced" constitution remains unratified by the government, despite overwhelming support in a public referendum. But what you might not know is that that cry has been going on for many years longer—decades longer in fact.

"So when Iceland decided to break away from Denmark in 1944, there was a period in that early process when Iceland considered writing a whole new constitution," artist Ólafur Ólafsson explains. At the time, the former Kingdom of Iceland lived under the monarchic Danish constitution. "But they found they didn't have the time. It was more complex than they thought. So they went to make the least changes that were necessary to adapt the Danish constitution into the new Icelandic one." This hastily made document was heavily based on the monarchic one with some very notable changes, of

course—such as the role of King being shifted to President. That said, structurally it wasn't too different. A proper long-term constitutional committee was put together to write a new wholly-Icelandic one, but after three years, it faded away and the rudimentary constitution remains in use to this day.

"So it's a 19th century constitution," Libia Castro, Ólafur's artistic partner, emphasises. "And it was meant to be a temporary solution," Ólafur adds. The meaning is clear: Iceland was always meant to write a new constitution.

The two artists and activists, known for their provocative works exploring identity and nationhood, have been pushing Iceland's understanding of their own constitution for decades. Now they are back with 'Magic Meeting — A Decade On', their newest exhibition focusing on the battle surrounding the proposed Icelandic constitution.

Searching for magic

The exhibition—which uses the word decade due to it being 10 years since the original Constitutional Council—is a continuation of their 2020 collective performance 'In Search of Magic – A Proposal for a New Constitution for The Republic of Iceland' which took place on October 3rd, 2020 at various places in Reykjavík, including the Reykjavík Art Museum Hafnarhús, Prime Minister's office and in front of Alþingi. There, a diverse group of composers, artists, activists and members of the public joined together to create a multivocal work that brought to life all 114 articles of the proposed Icelandic constitution.

The new exhibition at Hafnarborg features a plethora of objects relating to the performance, including the sketches of the original plans, banners from the protests, photographs, and much more. Most notable is a five-hour video of the show, stitched together from video footage and cell phone recordings interspersed with archival foot-

age from the financial crash. Lastly, a special work area has been created downstairs for activists and artists to continue their work campaigning for the ratification of the new constitution.

How different is different?

"A fundamental difference is the order of appearance," Ólafur explains, when asked about the specifics of the new constitution. In the current constitution, the first 25% defines the role of the president, which is largely symbolic. From there, it goes to parliament, the government, institutions, the church and, after all of that, come the people and human rights. "When you start a book, you don't introduce its leading characters at the end. They are placed in the order of importance." The new constitution flips that, starting with the public.

"We felt so strongly then that [our performance of the new constitution] had to be a collaborative work," Libia continues. Thus, they featured participants of all backgrounds and styles, both in composition as well as performance, as well as languages as diverse as Greenlandic and Filipino.

With their performance, they also set out to underline the topical differences of the proposed constitution, which features new sections on the rights of nature and natural resources. In a particularly moving moment, Erla Bolladóttir, known for being wrongfully convicted in the 1974 Guðmundur and Geirfínnur case, read Article 27, the new declaration of freedom.

Standing on the precipice

But the exhibition also stands on the cusp of the upcoming elections in September—elections that could determine the fate of the new constitution.

"To get the new constitution implemented, what is most important is the parties that are going to be elected,"

Info

'Magic Meeting — A Decade On' will run until May 30th at Hafnarborg



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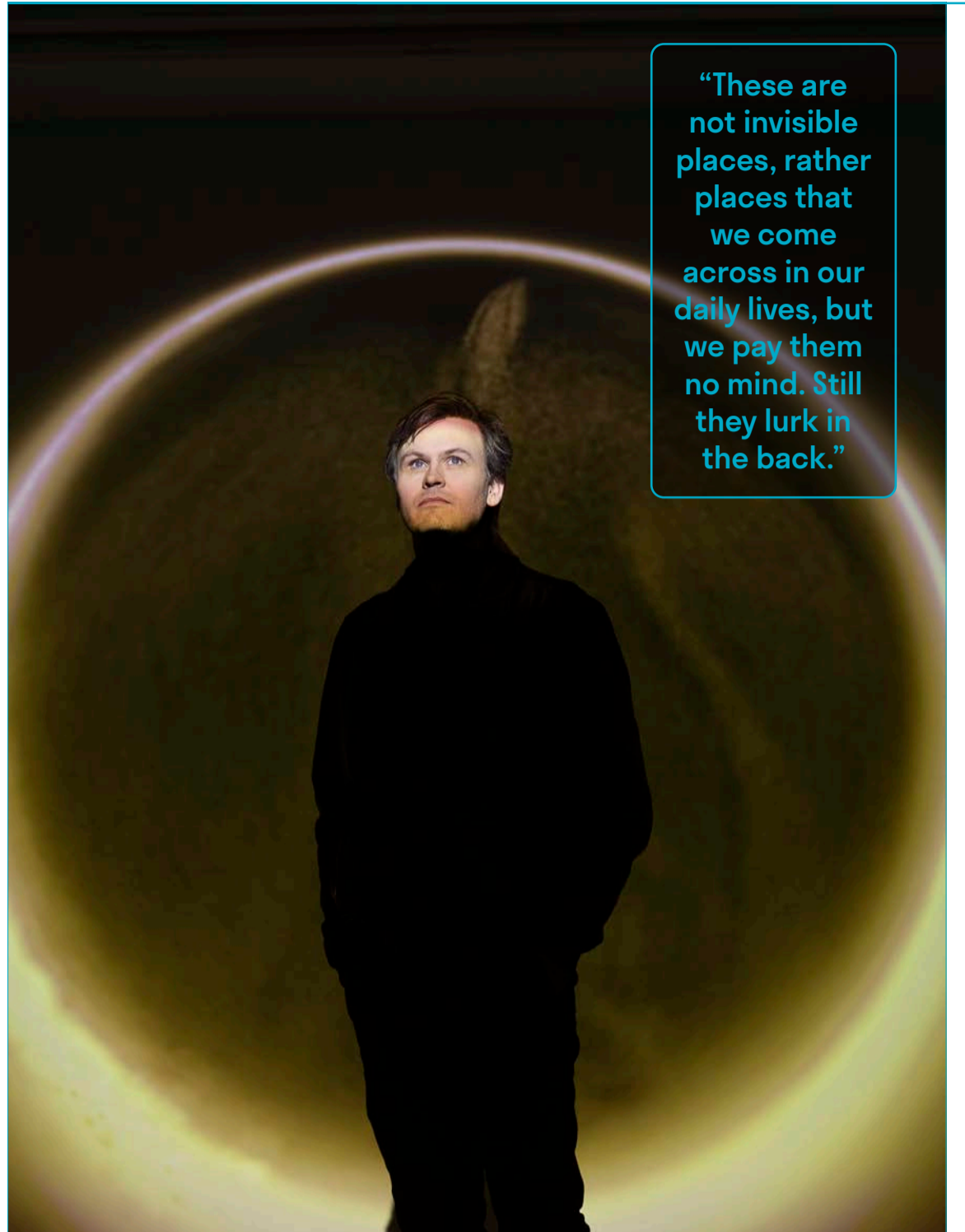
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The artist & his halo, pictured in the museum (not heaven)

“These are not invisible places, rather places that we come across in our daily lives, but we pay them no mind. Still they lurk in the back.”

The Poetics Of Technology

Sigurður Guðjónsson and the unseen world

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen** Photos: **Art Bicnick & Provided by artist**

Exhibit

‘Unseen Fields’ by Sigurður Guðjónsson will show at Berg Contemporary until June 5th, 2021

“The title of the exhibition is ‘Unseen Fields’, which is a direct reference to places, spaces or things that I seek as a resource,” explains Sigurður Guðjónsson of his newest exhibition at Berg Contemporary, which includes two of his pieces ‘Fluorescent’ and ‘Enigma.’ Known for his immersion in machinery and otherworldly audio-visual works, the artist will soon represent Iceland at the 2022 Venice Biennale. “These are not invisible places, rather places that we come across in our daily lives, but we pay them no mind,” he continues. “Still they lurk in the back.”

Machine magic

“I like to look at technology in a poetic way,” Sigurður relays simply, when asked about the ethos behind his work. He speaks quietly and with great reverence, as if afraid of disturbing his own

rumbling videos—the aforementioned ‘Fluorescent’—which project around him in the Berg gallery. “I’ve always been curious about the inner workings and parts of things,” he continues. “And since 2010, I’ve been experimenting with machines and tools in conjunction with more lateral elements.”

In the past, Sigurður explains, these machines and tools have included now-archaic innovations such as slide projectors, cassette decks and those combo radio/television units, each of which were considered the height of technology at one point or another. All of these, Sigurður dismantled to their cores to capture the everyday minutia typically associated with the object.

“One of my main starting points is that I want to create a world that the viewer is able to travel through, rather than creating a singular object or memorabilia,” he says.

No mercury here

In ‘Fluorescent’, Sigurður dove into, as you might guess, fluorescent lights.

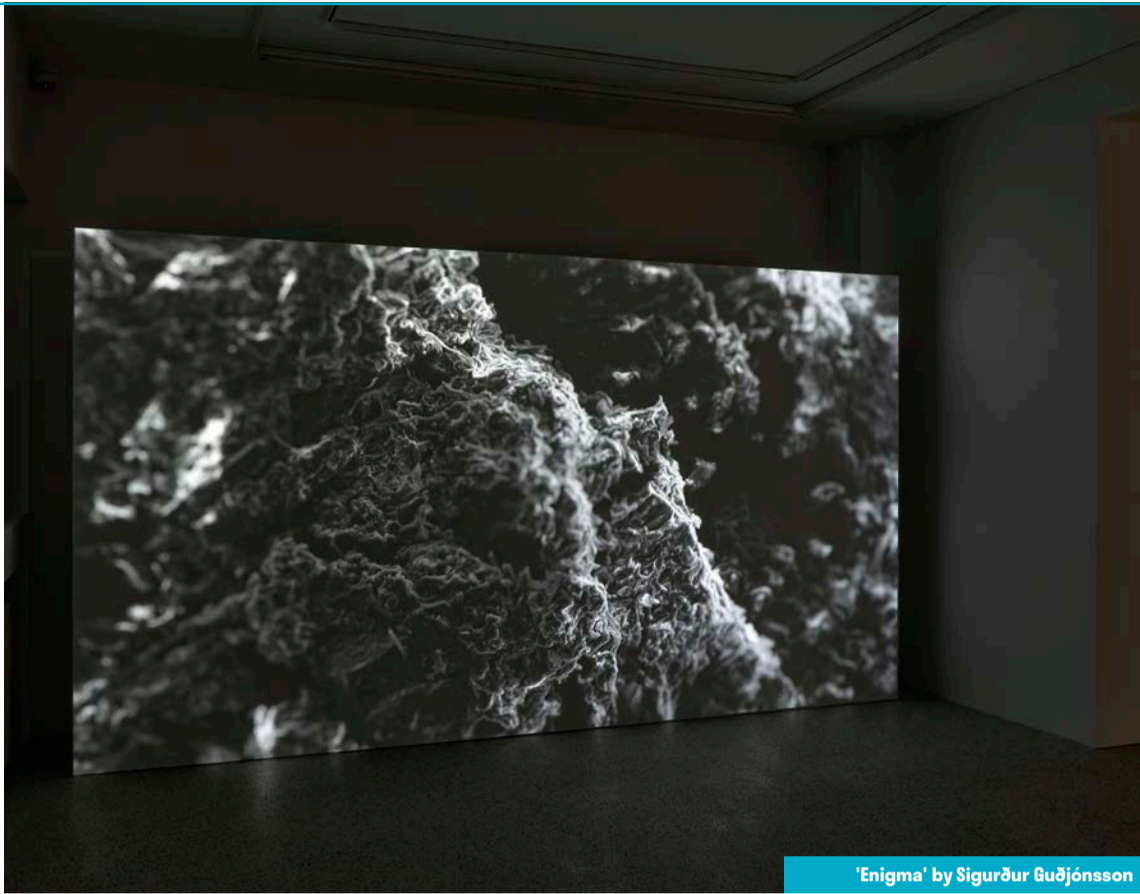
The work contains a two-channel video and sound piece that is projected onto opposing walls. Perfectly circular, each spiraling video shows a hypnotic and methodical sequence that almost resembles sand or a kaleidoscope. It’s eerily meditative and with soft droning in the background, it’s a piece you could easily stand in front of for aeons, gazing into its tantalising void.

In reality though, it’s footage from inside a fluorescent lamp taken by a macro lens.

“It’s magical and mesmerising to look into the glass tube where the luminescent material becomes visible through the movement as it flows and forms a kind of vortex,” he explains. “I thought the work fit extremely well with this space and it can be said that the length of the space points to the bulb itself.” He’s referring to the expansive rectangular area occupied by the opposing videos. In fact, for ‘Unseen Fields’, it seems Berg Contemporary has truly become somewhat of its own kind of fluorescent lamp—sans the phosphorus or mercury, of course.

The low humming sound that accompanies the video, he reveals, is merely the signal from the lamp, which he captured using a special magnet recorder and fiddled with in audio programs.

“I have talked about this installation as a visual-sound work, because the feeling in the work is, in a certain way, that you can hear sound through the world of images. I then tried to shape the world of sound so that it fits in with the works themselves and the



'Enigma' by Sigurður Guðjónsson

exhibition space so that it becomes almost intertwined.”

“I’m always thinking through sound,” he concludes, pausing to let the purr of the installation sink in. “Even if it’s still, I experience motion.”

Magnifying hidden things

Along with 'Fluorescent' is 'Enigma', another mystical video piece that, at first glance, might resemble a flickering lava field. But it takes just a moment for the viewer to realise that the picture is far more jagged and dark than any place in Iceland could be. To put it concisely, 'Enigma' does not seem to be of this Earth. No, it occupies an alien landscape, full of sharp falls and pulsing tephra bubbling around like the most terrifying places in the deepest outposts of space.

But, as Sigurður explains, the work is actually but a fragment of charcoal filmed with an electron microscope, which magnifies the texture up to one million times its size.

“In 'Enigma', we get deeper into the idea of material. The electron microscope scans the black charcoal inside a vacuum, inside a totally vacant space,” he states, pointing to the tiny crevasses in the rocks. “Then I put that into the computer and played with it. And from there

the poetry comes. When you create an emotion and focus that from one site to another, then you experience it in a different way.”

For Sigurður, it’s the quantum texture of the carbon that grabs him most. “The space inside the material,” he says, nodding. “I experience it both visually and through sounds.”

'Fluorescent' and 'Enigma' have a common thread in how they approach documenting the peculiarities or specificities of an object. Moreover, what way best showcases the uniqueness of said object. Sigurður consciously chose to present the components of the lamp that—for it to be practical—must remain hidden. Likewise, he displays charcoal, which is but wood removed of all its constituents but carbon, in a way that the human eye could never regard it.

“The title 'Enigma' is a reference to the unspoken something that is not so easy to put into words,” he says. “And with the title 'Unseen Fields', I’m quoting the space I’m taking the source from, the visual source. It’s not invisible space, it’s just hidden inside things.”

The next machine

Unfortunately, Sigurður can’t divulge just exactly what he has planned for the Venice Biennale—it’s a secret—but he can say it’s a

large scale video sound installation. Notably, he’ll be located in Arsenale, the main exhibition space, working in collaboration with the Icelandic Art Center and curator Monica Bello, who is the Head of Arts at CERN. Through his work with Monica, he was actually granted access to the facility.

“It was amazing—going 100 metres down into the Earth to see some monster machines,” Sigurður raves. It’s a place that one can imagine is artistically just up his alley—or perhaps, his particle accelerator. “Of course, it’s super interesting what they are doing. But for me, everything is very visual there.”

Since the Biennale was postponed for a year, Sigurður has even more time to examine whichever machine or piece of matter lies at the centre of his Venice work. And it’s here that Sigurður sees the silver lining in the delay. “This experimental process is so important. When you get to play with a material and find out how it speaks to you,” he says smiling.

“I’m very curious to see where it goes. In the process of a project like this, there’s so many things that happen,” he concludes. “This is something you cannot foresee.”
Alas—another unseen field. 🍷



'Fluorescent' by Sigurður Guðjónsson

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Mirror mirror in the square, which design festival is most fair?

Finally, DesignM(ay)arch

Here's to Lucky 13 and a sustainable future

Words: Andie Sophia Fonatine & Hannah Jane Cohen Photos: Kevin Pages & DesignMarch

After delays due to some sort of world event, the 13th iteration of DesignM(ay)arch has finally arrived! And with over 100 exhibitions and 250 events, it's clear nothing has dampened their drive for innovative design. This year's theme is sustainability, showcasing how design can be a driving force for innovation during this time of global uncertainty. While this year's program is stacked, here are some of our not-to-miss events.

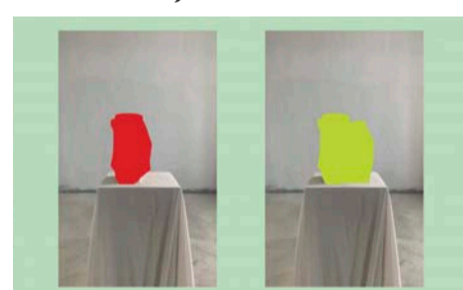
the pinnacles of this year's DesignMarch—a number of up-and-coming artists give their own takes on the problems of today and the solutions for tomorrow. Ecological depletion, the future of sustainable fashion production, widespread social anxiety, the dissonance of virtual reality and many more new-world issues are all tackled head on by a selection of architects, graphic designers, fashion designers and more. **HJC**



Follow Us

May 20th-30th - Gerðarsafn Kópavogur Art Museum

Is our future safe? In this exhibition—one of



Object-ive

May 19th-29th - Ásmundarsalur

Remember that CD rack you got free with your Motorola LX2 pager? It's in your garage—next to your Segway! Yes, there are many things that have lost their purpose as the years have passed, from crimping irons to floppy discs.

The Icelandic Product and Industrial Design Association seeks to rectify that with an exhibition of repurposed objects, culminating in an auction on May 29th at 17:00. Stop by, but be warned: you'll have to pry our 1999 phone books out of our cold, dead hands. We're sure they'll come back soon. **HJC**



As Told by Mold

May 19th-23rd - Lækjartorg, Greenhouse

Design has put a great deal more focus on sustainability of late, usually in terms of housing and infrastructure. At the same time, one of the things killing this planet is planned obsolescence—products that are designed to fail after a limited amount of use, so new products must be bought on a regular basis. This is especially the case when it comes to computer hardware, such as printers. In the spirit of this, As Told By Mold, a project by Valdís Steinarsdóttir, Arnar Ingi Viðarsson and Sigrún Thorlacius, proposes a novel concept: using fungi in a controlled setting instead of toxic inks for printing. While unlikely to replace those overpriced cartridges any time soon, this novel experiment may point the way for practical applications in the future. And it's awful fascinating to witness. **ASF**



Kiosk Extravaganza!

May 19th-23rd - Kiosk

Kiosk—your one-stop-shop for Icelandic fashion design—will play host to three installations this year. First up, the bold and unpredictable Eygló has teamed up with Hugleikur Dagsson for a wearable interpretation of his sci-fi graphic novel 'Opinberun' ('Revelation'). Bring your nerdy friends, but maybe leave grandma at home. Next up, a collaboration between the always elegant Anita Hirlekar and British luxury eyewear brand Cutler and Cross, which can be pre-ordered at the store. Lastly, MAGNEA's new collection, which, as the designer explains, uses traditional Icelandic

wool in unseen ways. Talk about a triple threat! And don't miss the special opening event on the 19th from 17:00 to 19:00. **HJC**



Man In The Woods

Guided tours on May 22nd & 23rd, but the exhibition will remain permanent after the festival - Elliðaárdalur


When it comes to Icelandic design, you might think of Hallgrímskirkja, or Harpa, or any of the exhibitions in this article. But one of the greatest achievements of Icelandic design is Elliðaárdalur—in particular, the forest that grows there. This forest was deliberately planted, by Reykjavík Energy amongst others, starting in 1951. Today, it's a beautiful place to get to just a stone's throw from Reykjavík. In honour of this, Stúdíó Flétta, Sóley Þrafnadóttir, and the duo of Kristín María Sigurþórsdóttir and Friðrik Steinn Friðriksson have set up exhibitions at Elliðaárdalur that both honour and seamlessly compliment the location. Well worth checking out, especially as the daylight hours grow longer. While there will be guided tours on May 22nd and 23rd, the exhibition will remain after the festival. **ASF**



Design In The Gaming Industry

May 20th - Gróska/Online

No coverage of the concept of design would be complete without a discussion of game design. As a medium it has evolved from the blip-bloop-dots-on-a black screen domain of nerds to fully fledged worlds in themselves, replete with all the challenges that constructing new worlds bring. How do you make your world accessible? Sustainable? How can you structure a game in such a way that anyone can make the most of it, regardless of level of ability? As we move further into the 21st century, game designers will have to answer these questions and then some. CCP Games, home of Iceland's own MMORPG Eve Online, will be participating in this event and will likely have much to offer on the subject. **ASF**



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May 7th—June 3rd

In Your Pocket



Reykjavík Map

Places We Like

Best Of Reykjavík

Perfect Day

Dance, jive & have the time of your life



“Champagne and spirits are flowing as we dance on the top deck well into the night.”

Words: **Jewells Chambers**
Photo: **Art Bicnick**

Jewells Chambers

Jewells Chambers is the creator and host of the award-winning All Things Iceland podcast and YouTube channel. Whether you plan to visit, live in Iceland or you are just interested in this small island nation, you're in for a treat. Here's her perfect day in the capital city.

First thing in the morning

To get the full experience of my perfect day, a staycation is in order, so my husband and I would check into the Esja Corner Suite at the **Reykjavik Tower Suites** the night before. This suite sits on the 20th floor of a building downtown and the floor-to-ceiling glass windows allow for stunning unobstructed views of Esja and parts of Reykjavik. After the gentle sunrise streaming through the window wakes us up, we enjoy the vegan breakfast delivered to our suite by the concierge assigned to us. We then head out at 9:00 a.m. to meet our paragliding instructor at **Paragliding Iceland**. While this is in an area that is a 30 minute drive outside of Reykja-

vik, it's a fun and thrilling way to see parts of Iceland from above.

Lunch

After our adrenaline has worn off from paragliding, we are extremely hungry. We head over to **Kól** restaurant on Skólavörðustígur, just a stone's throw away from the famous Hallgrímskirkja church, to enjoy a delicious meal. The atmosphere is relaxing and casually elegant, which sets the tone for the rest of our day.

In the afternoon

After taking a stroll downtown, we make our way over to the **Reykjavik Spa at the Grand Hotel** to have full body massages and relax in the hot tubs. A few hours of melting away all our cares in the world renews our bodies for the fun night ahead. We slip into some fancy threads and drive over to the next spot.

Evening

A few of our friends meet us at the bar in the **Reykjavik Konsulat Hotel**.

This swanky setting has a tasteful mixture of modern and antique furniture. Plus, the cocktails are delicious. We recount stories of our adventures that day and just enjoy each other's company.

Our dinner reservation is at 7:00 p.m. for a scrumptious three course meal at **Austur-Indiáfélagið**. The stunning decor and aromas of succulent Indian food wafting in the air transports us into another world. After savouring every flavour of our delicious meal, we head to our last activity for the day.

In the heat of the night

The night is young and we intend to keep the good vibes flowing by sailing on a private yacht courtesy of **seatrips.is** with our closest friends around Reykjavik. Champagne and spirits are flowing as we dance on the top deck well into the night. The summer sky is bright and we are energized by the spectacular views and fun time. To cap off the evening, we head back to our suite to snuggle up and rest. 🛏



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Venue Finder

Venues	Museums & Galleries
ART67 Laugavegur 67 F7 Open daily 9-21	The Penis Museum Laugavegur 116 F8 Open daily 10-18
Ásmundarsalur Freyjugata 41 G6 Open Tue-Sun 8-17	Kirsuberjatróð Vesturgata 4 D3 M-F 10-18, Sat-Sun 10-17
American Bar Austurstræti 8 D3	Kling & Bang Grandagarður 20 A4 W-Sun 14-18, Th 12-21
B5 Bankastræti 5 E4	Listastofan Hringbraut 119 Open Wed-Sat 13-17
Bió Paradís Hverfisgata 54 E5	Living Art Museum Grandagarður 20 A4 T-Sun 12-18, Th 12-21
Bravó Laugavegur 22 E5	Mokka Kaffi Skólavörðustíg. 3A E5 Open daily 9-18:30
Dillon Laugavegur 30 E5	Museum of Design and Applied Art Garðatorg 1 Open Tu-Sun 12-17
Dubliner Naustin 1-3 D3	The National Gallery of Iceland Frikirkjuvegur 7 F3 Open daily 10-17
English Pub Austurstræti 12 D3	The National Museum Suðurgata 41 G2 Open daily 10-17
Gaukurinn Tryggvagata 22 D3	The Nordic House Sturlugata 5 H2 Thu-Tu 11-17, W 11-20
Hard Rock Café Lækjargata 2a D3	Hafnarhús Tryggvagata 17 D3 Open 10-17, Thu 10-22
Hressó Austurstræti 20 D3	i8 Gallery Tryggvagata 16 D3 Tu-Fri 11-18, Sat 13-17
Iðnó Vonarstræti 3 E3	
Kex Hostel Skúlagata 28 E7	
Kaffibarinn Bergstaðastræti 1E4	
Kiki Queer Bar Laugavegur 22 E5	Kjarvalsstaðir Fókagata 24 H8 Open daily 10-17
Loft Bankastræti 7 E4	Ásmundarsafn Sigtún Open daily 10-17
Mengi Öðinsgata 2 F5	Reykjavik City Library Tryggvagata 15 D3 Mon-Thu 10-18, Fri 11-18, Sat-Sun 13-17
Nordic House Sturlagata 5 H2	Árbæjarsafn Kistuhúfur 4 Open daily 13-17
Ölsmíðjan Lækjargata 10 E3	The Settlement Exhibition Kistuhúfur 2 D3 Open daily 9-18
Paloma Naustin D3	Reykjavik Museum of Photography Tryggvagata 15 D3 Mon-Thu 10-18, Fri 11-18, Sat-Sun 13-18
Prikið Bankastræti 12 E4	Saga Museum Kistuhúfur 4 B2 Open daily 10-18
R6013 Ingólfsstræti 20 E4	Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum Laugarnestangi 70 Open Tu-Sun 14-17
Röntgen Hverfisgata 12 E5	SÍM Hafnarstræti 16 D3 Open Mon-Fri 10-16
Reykjavik Roasters Tjarnargata 1 F5	Tveir Hrafnar Baldursgata 12 G4 Open Fri-Sat 13-16
Tjarnarbíó Tjarnargata 12 E3	Wind & Weather Window Gallery Hverfisgata 37 E5

Vital Info



Useful Numbers

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

Post Office

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

Pharmacies

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

Opening Hours - Bars & Clubs

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

Opening Hours - Shops & Banks

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

Swimming Pools

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

Public Toilets

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

Public Transport

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

A



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The Map

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

Dining

1. Mandi Pizza

Hafnarstræti 9

Mandi Pizza is the answer to the question: what can I eat if I've had Mandi shawarma six days in a row, and I want something different? Try the kebab pizza, and make sure to cover it in sauce. And don't worry—they also got their famous hummus on stock so you can pick some up to quench your post-pizza health kick.

2. Eriksson Brasserie

Laugavegur 77

It's hard to categorise Eriksson with its Italian-French leaning menu. The interiors and menu whisper nouveau riche indulgence, the 'fancy' ingredients are a giveaway. But all these reservations aside, they dish out a mean veal, good steaks and a smattering of pasta and pizzas.

3. Bastard Brew & Food

Vegamótastígur 4

This downtown bar/eatery is a bit of a palace. It's an English pub style environment, without the sense of history—everything from the tables to the plush leather seating are catalogue-fresh—but with eleven beers on tap, a medley of burgers, sharing plates, and comfort food, it's one of our favourite post-work hangout spots. Their tacos are unreal by the way. Swoon.

4. IDA Zimsen

Vesturgata 2a

This peaceful spot is equal parts café and bookstore, so you can get a coffee and a snack while you leaf through your purchases. Everything in there is interesting, and if the magazines fail, people-watching never does.

5. Sandholt

Laugavegur 36

Well-known for its sourdough bread, Sandholt has consistently delivered great baked goods since its inception. The laminated pastries are hands down the best in Iceland; try the buttery croissants or seasonal Danish pastries, locally known as "vinarbrauð" with rhubarb and raspberries, or the classic, vanilla custard.

6. Sumac Grill + Drinks

Laugavegur 28

Sumac's vibrancy seeps into

everything—the food, ambience, service and its mix of diners across age groups. By focusing on flavour profiles unique to the cuisines, it is a successful transplant from Beirut to Reykjavík. For an indulgent spread, we recommend getting all the dips and a few flatbreads.

7. Borg29

Borgartún 29

Wait—a NEW food hall? Hurray! Yup, Borgartún now has its own haunt, and you can bet that we've already tried it all. Our favourites so far include Pronto Pasta. We've been saying for years that Reykjavík needed a good ole' quick pasta stop and now we're there. We're also obsessed with Hipstur, which serves up that kind of healthy food that feels so unhealthy, which is very much the vibe at the Grapevine.

8. Makake

Grandagarður 101

Named after the hot tub loving meditative monkeys, Makake throws down the gauntlet for casual Asian dining. They've got dimsum brunches, pop-ups with guest chefs, and vegan tasting menus in addition to their staple fare of a selection of dumplings, small plates like the braised pork belly, an interesting assortment of vegetable-forward plates and desserts like mochi and anko.

9. Chickpea

Hallveigarstígur 1

Tucked in next to downtown's Kronan supermarket lies Chickpea, a new bijoux vegetarian eatery. The restaurant is based around falafel, which is delicious, bringing to mind the fresh bites you'd find on the carts of the Middle East—and the salad is equally as visceral. Many of the ingredients are locally sourced and seriously—try the kim chi. It's a family secret and positively to die for.

10. Búllan

Geirsgata 1

An oldie but a goodie, Búllan slings a solid burger that seals Iceland's reputation as a worthy burger destination. It was the winner of our Best Of Reykjavík 2020 Best Burger award and man, does it deserve that. Go for a nice greasy hangover meal or go on a date—either will be, as Chandler would say, perfection.

11. Þrír Frakkar

Baldursgata 14

To get a sense of Icelandic food culture from a time before it was

fashionably New Nordic, pay a visit to Þrír Frakkar. This restaurant has not let anything sway them from tradition—you'll spot everything from foal, to black bird, to cod throats and plockfiskur that are sure to remain long in your memory. A visit to this place underlines that good old-fashioned Icelandic cooking can be all kinds of memorable.

Drinking

12. KEX Hostel

Skúlagata 28

KEX is stronger than ever right now. Out of the pandemic haze, they've come out guns a'blazing with a series of fantastic concerts and events that shows they are one to compete with for the cool artistic crowd in Reykjavík. So if you're one of those people who enjoys Joyce as well as Cardi B, this is probably the place you'll meet your like-minded peeps. (JK, no one has really read Joyce.)

13. Kaffibarinn

Bergstaðastræti 1

While many Reykjavík bars come and go and redecorate and rename and put on bells and whistles, Kaffibarinn has stayed the course for almost three decades—because it's just a really good, reliable place. It plays host to Reykjavík's artistic intellectuals, creative talents, and, well, downtown characters and consistently puts on a show. Basically, you'll never have a boring night at KB. It's no ordinary watering hole.

14. Gaukurinn

Tryggvagata 22

With dim lights, leather sofas, and gender-neutral bathrooms, Gaukurinn is the preferred hangout for the unorthodox Reykvikingar, so if you're looking for like-minded peeps, here you go. The venue hosts everything from metal to drag extravaganzas, so you never really know what you're gonna get on any given night. That said, you know it'll be something you can only get at Gaukurinn.

15. Skúli Craft Bar

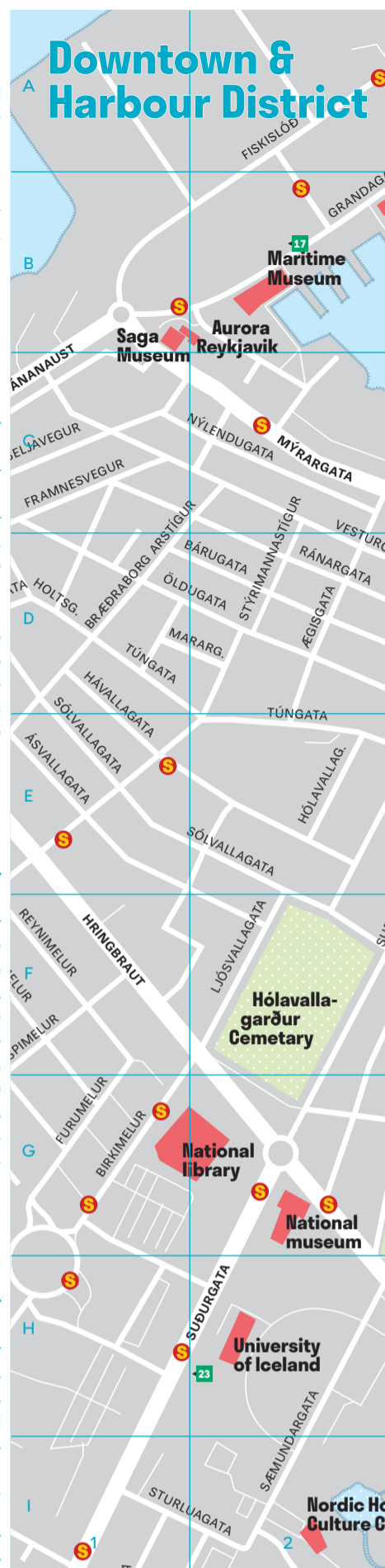
Aðalstræti 9

For a quiet drink, the real beer nerds hole up in Skúli. The cosy drinking hole offers a great selection of local and guest craft brews, with the option of a flight of beers for the indecisive or curious. Make sure to stop by in the summer, they've also got some great outdoor tables.

16. The Irishman

Klapparstígur 27

If your idea of fun involves pints of Guinness and Kilkenney, have we got a place for you! With a spacious wrap-



around bar and a great downtown location, this one has a better vibe than most; while it is undeniably cheesy, like a tiny, cartoonish Dublin-themed Disney World located on Klapparstígur. Most importantly—they have KARAOKE ROOMS to rent! So when you need to get drunk and sing Aqua to your crush, there you go.

17. Luna Flórens

Grandagarður 25

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

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New In Town ☆



Vegan World Peace

Aðalstræti 2

What sounds like a call for battle is actually an urban chic, Vietnamese and—obviously—plant-based restaurant. Creative, unusual and exotic dishes convince even the toughest meat lover. Everything, including the Peking duck and the crispy prawn is vegan and made from fresh ingredients. Not only impressive to one's taste buds but as well candy for the eyes. World Peace might not be achieved after finishing the meal, but we are definitely one step closer to it. **AM**

vegan cake. Yum.

18. Kaffibrennslan

Laugavegur 21

Located right smack in the centre of town so you can easily pop in for a quick one on your way, or stay and drink the evening away, it's just a cool, casual, calm place with friendly staff, good beers and tasty snacks. Their happy hour is one of the biggest secrets—you can't get much cheaper for a beer, and you probably can't find a better atmosphere to drink it in.

19. English Pub

Austurstræti 12

If it's football you're hankering for, go to those that know it best: the

English. This pub serves up a dark wooden Anglo-kitsch interior, a long bar with plenty of staff, and loads of comfortable seating, and, best of all, a plethora of screens. Make sure to yell loudly and berate Gylfi Sigurðsson when he misses his penalty—you wanted an authentic pub experience, right?

Shopping

20. Memoria Collective

Hverfisgata 52

A tattoo parlour that does most styles and does them f\$%&-ing well. That said, Balli's got some particularly stellar neotraditional and we must also shout out the

black and grey work of Emii Dun (who has tattooed the author of this map many times.) No favouritism here, folks.

21. Aurum

Bankastræti 4

Aurum is a wild and woody brand that still seems chic and modern. The store, which occupies one of the best spots on Laugavegur, serves up finely-crafted pieces firmly based in Icelandic nature. We're longtime fans of the store, and were we to win the lotter, we'd go there more.

22. Kokka

Laugavegur 47

Kokka is a fancy fantasy-land

for food and homeware lovers, filled with all sorts of utensils you didn't even know you needed (but, obviously, you do). For those looking for new toys to furnish a modern and really, really stylish kitchen, Kokka should be your first stop.

23. Bóksala Stúdenta

Sæmundargata 4

Located within the main building of Háskóli Íslands, the university bookstore runs the gamut from speciality academic texts to classics, new fiction, notebooks and much more. Another plus? The on-site coffee shop serves up what are potentially the fairest priced coffees in town, as does the Háskóli Íslands cafeteria next door.

24. Geisladiskabúð Valda

Laugavegur 64

Valda is by far the most obscure shop in the city. You'll find things in this store that you won't find anywhere else in the world, from black metal cassettes to Japanese bootlegs. It's a true gem.

25. 66° North

Laugavegur 17-19

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



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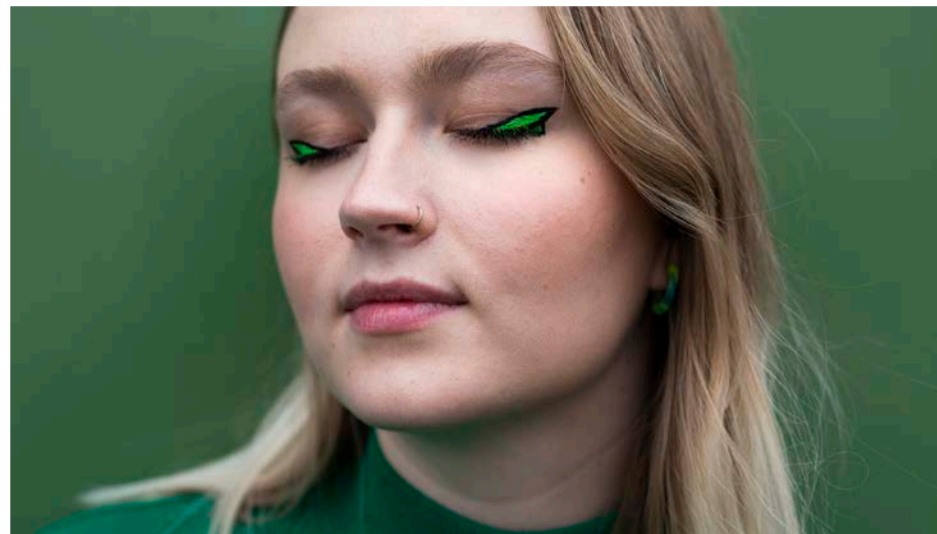
AMERICAN BAR

REYKJAVÍK

AUSTURSTRÆTI 8 • REYKJAVÍK



We'd dance with Kristín Sesselja in a storm in our best dress, would you?



(what am I supposed to do)", is potentially the singer's most personal, combining Kristín's experiences with heartbreak with her current relationship, which, she explains,

is going great. It starts a cappella, with Kristín describing her music in two succinct lines:

*"I write a lot of sad songs.
It's kind of my thing."*

"[Sad songs] just hit the hardest," she says, when asked about this lyric. "I've liked a lot of guys that didn't like me back and I'm just a hopeless romantic." She smiles. "I just love love, but I also love heartbreak."

Check out Kristín Sesselja on all streaming platforms and catch her live and in person at this year's Iceland Airwaves. [👉](#)

Kristín Loves Heartbreak

Kristín Sesselja turns breakups into bops

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

"I'm so pathetic, when it comes to boys.

I let them push and play me like I am a box full of toys."

And so, over a jumpy, sparkling pop beat, begins Kristín Sesselja's "FUCKBOYS".

It was the song that brought the singer to the attention of the Grapevine, and it was one that immediately sparked an obsession in the office. An empowering, confessional anthem about getting screwed over by a fling, the track tells Kristín's story of being a hopeless romantic and always falling in love in the worst places, culminating in a chorus of "Fuck boys!"—a play on words to emphasize, if you still didn't catch it, the type of guys she's singling out. Gross.

It's fearless

Kristín began playing piano and guitar when she was but 10 years old. "I started learning guitar by watching YouTube videos and studying Taylor Swift songs," she says. "After that, I began writing songs and I've just been writing since then."

Laughing, Kristín calls her early attempts at songwriting "dramatic"—potentially a result of her longtime Swift obsession, she notes. She rolls her eyes when divulging her first song, called "Trust Me."

"I was on the way home from school and I was looking in the sky, seeing an ex's face. But I'd never been in a relationship. I was like 12," she giggles.

That said, that first song sparked a desire to write honestly and fearlessly about love, regardless of age or experience. "I remember in eighth grade, I had a crush on a boy and wrote a song

about him. I put it online and told one friend who the song was about. Of course, then the whole school found out and they would sing it to me in the hallways when the guy walked by," she explains. While Kristín could have been embarrassed by the attention, she took it in stride. "I was like 'Oh, that's so cool! Everyone knows my song!'" She laughs. "Now I know they were making fun of me, but hey, writing songs is now my job so, like, joke's on you."

Kristín doesn't see her stark honesty as brave, though, even though most others would. For her, it's just who she is. "I always want to share what I'm thinking. I don't have any secrets. I'm the type that just meets someone at a party and tells them my whole life story," she says, smiling.

Fuck boys

In truth, it's hard not to be inspired by Kristín's self confidence. She has a knack for saying what others are thinking, even if they wouldn't dare to say it out loud. The aforementioned "FUCKBOYS" is emblematic of this—it's a healing work. Everyone's been fucked over in love and, finally, there's an earworm you and your girlfriends can throw your middle fingers up and laugh it off to.

"I originally saw the song as this badass anthem that makes you want to go to war because you're just so angry," she explains. Her producer put a bouncy pop riff underneath it, and the whole work fell into place. "[The beat] makes the song funny instead of just super dark and emo. I'm not actually hating on boys!"

Hitting the right notes

Her newest effort, "W.A.I.S.T.D.



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Event Picks



Músiktilraunir 2021 ★

May 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th & 29th - 19:30 - Harpa - 1,500-2,000 ISK

What do Of Monsters And Men, Mammút, Vök and Jónsi all have in common? Other than having been

on the cover of the Reykjavik Grapevine, that is. The answer is that long before hitting the big time,

they all participated in Músiktilraunir ('Music Experiments'). The annual competition is a beloved event on Iceland's social calendar and has always been a magnet for Iceland's best and most promising music talents before they become world famous. Although the evening is filled with unpolished gems, it's also a great place to see what the youngsters are thinking about music-wise. So if you want to discover the next Sigur Rós, this is the place to be. For couch potatoes, it'll be broadcast live on RÚV. **VG**



Ash Walker & Laville ★

May 7th - 21:00 - Mengi - 2,500 ISK

"Relentlessly killer grooves." ...and so spoke respected tastemaker Gilles Peterson on the jazzy tunes of Ash Walker. Need we say more? (BTW: This is quite possibly one of the first times an international musician has performed in Iceland for more than a year now. So savour it. Arrive early.) **HJC**



KARAOKE!! ★

Tuesdays - 20:00 - Gaukurinn - Free!

GAUKURINN'S FAMED KARAOKE IS BACK, BABY!!! KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS? You can finally have that perfect meet-cute moment where you and your secret crush perform "Rewrite The Stars" from The Greatest Showman together and it's all very magical. Not that that's a fantasy of ours, btw. Just kidding, we love you Zac. **HJC**



MUSIC NEWS NOVEMBER 3rd TO NOVEMBER 6th. ICELAND AIRWAVES 2021. GET READY! Yes, our favourite

fall festival just announced thirty more acts that'll join their lineup this year and we couldn't be more excited. Leading is Brit **Arlo Parks** whose debut, "Collapsed in Sunbeams", you need to listen to right now! Other internationals who will be flying over include **Sad Night Dynamite, KeiyaA, Barteos Strange, Black Pumas** and **Crack Cloud**. On the Icelandic front, you've got **Laufey, Eydis Evensen, Ouse, Power Paladin, Kælan Mikla, Axel Flóvent, Vök, Countess Malaise, Holdgervlar, Inspector Spacetime, Briet, Daði Freyr** and many, many, many more, of course. **HJC**

On Tuesday, you best believe we'll be at karaoke... It's the start of something new.



No one told Minningar there'd be a wind machine!

Documenting A Delicate Present

Minningar showcases climate change through the sounds of the glaciers

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen** Photo: **Art Bicnick & Daniele Girolamo**

Album

Check out 'From the Ocean/To the Ocean (Memories of Snæfellsjökull)' by Minningar on Bandcamp. See them live at Mengi on May 25th.

The thought experiment "If a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?" is one that challenges unperceived existence. It asks but one question: How do things act when humans are not there to experience them?

But take that experiment and move it one step deeper: What of things that are, even when left alone, constantly bombarded and affected by the choices of humanity? How do we perceive the existence of an object that cannot exist separate from the one hearing it? Such is the fate of many natural phenomena worldwide, such as the glaciers, which are, at all times, being slowly destroyed due to global climate change caused by humans.

Composed of Eyrún Engilbertsdóttir, Úlfur Hansson, Magnús Bergsson and Daniele Girolamo, Minningar is a new musical project that seeks to document the existence of such objects. They recently released their debut album 'From the Ocean/To the Ocean (Memories of Snæfellsjökull)', which is based on field recordings taken from the

Snæfellsjökull glacier last summer, in the midst of the pandemic. The album features a few of these recordings laid bare, along with two that the group has improvised intricate and impassioned soundscapes over. The end result is a documentation of a moment in glacial time that already, only months later, seems lost in the ether.

The leviathan

Minningar began with Eyrún and Daniele. Together, the duo set out to do a musical project to bring attention to climate change. Daniele subsequently pulled legendary field recorder Magnús Bergsson into the mix and, later still, a chance meeting brought Úlfur into the fold, along with his newest custom built synthesiser, the Orichalcum.

"We decided on Snæfellsjökull because it is disappearing," Daniele explains. "I was there two years ago and there's so much less now. But it's a magic place that you can even read about in the Eddas, such as with Bárður the giant who slept in Sönghellir, the singing cave." So inspired by the tale, the group decided to record one song there, which features improvised kalimba by Eyrún. Entitled "Sönghellir", it's a wistful track, underlined at all times by the expansive echo of the cave and silky

sounds of rushing water.

"There's something in the air out there. You almost feel like you are standing next to a leviathan. The glacier has a presence," Úlfur says. "And, of course, it is the entrance to the centre of the Earth."

Fragile beauty

Poignantly, it was the COVID-19



Analogue photos taken by Daniele Girolamo while recording the album

pandemic—which, as many experts say, has its roots in the zoological and sociological disruptions caused by climate change—that allowed them to make the record.

"Due to COVID, there were no tourists so we could get really good field recordings," Daniele smiles. "So we were lucky. Maybe it's the only good thing COVID brought."

That said, the three cannot help but fixate on the tragic remnants of climate change wherever they go. And even in Iceland, which has remained relatively unscathed by the wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural wreckage caused by climate change, the threat of global warming is uncomfortably close.

"Ok is officially gone, which is crazy," Úlfur says, referring to the former Okjökull glacier near Langjökull, which was the first Icelandic glacier to disappear due to climate change. "We have all this expansive beauty to take in whenever we want, but it can all go away. It's very fragile. We need to preserve those things," he continues mournfully.

Eyrún nods. "There are not that many places you can drive half an hour and see a volcano," she adds. "That's the sad part. There's a goodbye feeling in [this album] as well."

"I cry when I think that the next generation could never see what we have seen," Daniele concludes, softly. "And this is, together, [Minningar's] goal. It depends on us. We can't do everything but we can leave a small sign of right now." 🍷



Daði Freyr—who by the time you are reading this, might have won Eurovision 2021—has had a busy year. In preparation for Eurovision, he, along with his trusty sidekicks in **Gagnamagnið**, dropped a special mobile game called "Think About Aliens", which, according to the artist, is the sequel to "Think About Things" and the sequel to this year's Eurovision entry "10 Years", detailing how Gagnamagnið become monster-fighting superheroes. He's also released a special-edition beer entitled **10 Beers with Borg Bruggþús** and, if that's not enough, his previous Eurovision effort, "Think About Things", just went silver in the U.K., meaning it has sold more than 200,000 copies. Oh! And of course, **Strætó's legendary Gagnavn is back, too.** **HJC**



"Húsavík" did not win the Best Original Song at the 2021 Oscars, despite a massive social media campaign by the residents of the tiny Northern fishing village. Viewers, though, were treated to a special performance of the song direct from Húsavík by **Molly Sandén**, who provided the vocals for Rachel McAdams' character in the film. Filmed in the harbour, surrounded by sailboats, backlit by the northern lights and accompanied by the lopapeysa-clad Húsavík children's choir, it was potentially the cheesiest Icelandic event to ever occur and we could not have loved it more. Unfortunately no whales made an appearance, though, as we know from the song, whales can live there 'cause they're gentle people. Oscar winning lyrics, people. **HJC**

CALLUM INNES
15 April - 29 May 2021



Sorry, your invitation must have gotten lost in the mail

Almar Atlason's Party Funeral!

Beauty & suffering coalesce in a colourful daze

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

Exhibit

'Funeral at the beach' by Almar Atlason will be open until May 16th.

"The paintings were all done on La Réunion, which is an island in the middle of the coast of Madagascar," Almar Atlason says, motioning to the series of large, colourful works that dot the walls of Mutt Gallery behind him. He's in the midst of his newest exhibition, entitled 'Funeral at the beach', which will be up at the gallery until May 16th. "It's about as far away as you can get from here on a European art grant," he laughs.

Every time, I try...

"The amazing graphic designer Gréta Þorkelsdóttir taught me about chromophobia—the fear of colour—where everything that is not black, white, grey, or beige is savage art. It's less refined and worse," Almar explains. "This exhibit as a whole is just experimenting with colours, taking away all the fanciness. What can you do with simple lines and colour without the malerei, as they say in German? How can you create and portray feelings?"

Laughing, he points to an explosive, bright yellow and orange painting entitled 'Manneskja með kaffi' ('Human With Coffee'), hanging on the left wall of the gallery. A boxy, prismatic work that, Almar explains, has been the most popular of the exhibition so far, it's an effort that instantly transports the viewer into a hopeful world of blazing sunlight and warmth—potentially representative of the island on which it was painted. On it—as you might have guessed—a chunky figure walks towards you holding a coffee.

"This is a good example of what I'm trying to do with portraying

feelings and probably the only positive emotion in the exhibition," Almar says. "I have a friend and whenever I see him, I know I'm safe—if only for 15 minutes. So I wanted to capture that feeling of just seeing someone on the street and feeling like you're at home."

Along with this focus on feelings, this exhibition also continues Almar's ongoing obsession with symbols. "I have this extremely weird fascination with symbols, so many letters, words, and obvious symbols work their way into these works. It's not my doing, it just happens," he shrugs.

Grinning, he walks towards a painting in the back room of the gallery, 'Stóll, barn og þrjár manneskjur' ('Chair, Baby and Three Humans'). At the bottom, written in stocky, rumpled handwriting, are the lyrics of "Everytime" by Britney Spears. It's considered Britney's most personal and painful work. In the video, she famously commits suicide due to the pressures of fame. "That is the best song that has ever been written and has been featured in all my exhibitions," Almar says; his voice jovial in spite of the dark song. "It is the height of beauty."

An exploration of pain

Because under the surface, like "Everytime", Almar emphasises, the exhibition deals with pain. In fact, he's reluctant to dive deep into his works and even asks if we are allowed to discuss certain topics in the Grapevine. He asks this because the one he will openly dissect is 'Tvær manneskjur og veggfóður' ('Two Humans and Wallpaper'), which was inspired by the drawings that children make at police stations when they are describing domestic violence. "The hands are always super big," Almar says starkly, explaining the skewed proportions of the figure

in the work. "And there's maybe a beautiful sun and a dandelion and then a haphazardly drawn brutally violent scene in the corner." Looking at the art and you'd never guess it was inspired by something so tragic—it's a cartoonish work, but it's this dichotomy that is completely representative of the absurd world Almar creates. One where pain is found in both trivial pop songs and the horrors inside police stations.

Because Almar's art—even when it's bright and beautiful—always contains an undercurrent of suffering. And these feelings are, he explains, one of the primary factors behind not only this exhibition but also his pilgrimage to La Réunion.

"If I kill myself 1,000 times in my head every day, why not do it somewhere where it is not cold and horribly expensive? Why not have a party funeral every night?" he asks, referencing the name of the series with both a shrug and a smile. "This has always been one of my fascinations—the beauty in the sadness." ☺



'Manneskja með kaffi'

27.03.–19.09.2021

Eilíf
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Etern
Recu
rence

Jóhannes S. Kjarval &
Eggert Pétursson
Egill Sæbjörnsson
Einar Garibaldi
Gjörningaklúbburinn
Guðrún Einarsdóttir
Guðrún Kristjánsdóttir
Hrafnkell Sigurðsson
Katrín Elvarsdóttir
Katrín Sigurðardóttir
Kristján Guðmundsson
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Our Picks



★ Sumarnótt / Death Is Elsewhere

Until September 19th - National Gallery of Iceland

Ragnar Kjartansson's opus "Death is Elsewhere" made its debut in 2019 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Now, it's back in the artists hometown for a summer long residency at the National Gallery. Featuring ya fav musician twins GYÐA, Kristín Anna, and (randomly) those two brothers from the National, the seven-channel video installation sees a single song played without end in a continuous loop. Filmed around the summer solstice in southern Iceland, "Death Is Elsewhere" is a referential work that turns romantic clichés on their head with irony, nihilism and absurdity to spare. Everyone loves Ragnar (except maybe his Mother, who famously spit on him every five years for an art project) so stop by and marvel at the beauty of nature—and the ever-lurking specter of death. **HJC**

Until May 23rd - Pula
Let's be real: Everyone knows there are socially-accepted bodies and bodies that are shamed. As a species, we are stuck in the constant search for physical perfection, but luckily, photographer Anna Maggý is here to make us question those boundaries. Can we see past imperfections? **HJC**



★ The Perfect Body

Until August 1st - Nordic House

Man-made climate change is pushing our climates into new territory and things are moving more rapidly than we could have ever imagined. This special exhibition dissects the nature of that instability in the light of the four Nordic countries and their history and future. **HJC**



★ Nature in Transition - Shifting Identities

Until May 29th - i8

Fifty watercolours come together to make one single, complete work in an exploration of colour, form and the medium and possibilities of watercolour in general. Callum Innes is one of the most significant abstract painters of his generation—so feel blessed he's even painting for us in general! Others are still in lockdown. **HJC**



★ Callum Innes: A Pure Land

Until May 29th - i8

Until May 29th - i8

May 7th-June 3rd

Art Listings

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

Send your listings to: listings@grapevine.is

Opening

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - ÁSMUNDARSAFN

Sirra Sigrún Sigurðardóttir & Ásmundur Sveinsson:

As If To Demonstrate An Eclipse

Sirra's work is cosmic in nature, often connected to speculations about our position within the inner workings of nature, physics and the forces that drive the world. Her works often display our position as individuals, our significance and insignificance. As an existentialist paper, who ruminated on our own obscurity, we can't agree more.

- Opens on May 13th, 2021
- Runs until October 17th, 2021

Design for sculptor Ásmundur Sveinsson

Five product designers take over the museum shop at Ásmundarsafn with objects inspired by Ásmundur Sveinsson's world and heritage.

- Opens on May 13th, 2021
- Runs until October 17th, 2021

MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART Kristín Porkelsdóttir

You've probably seen Kristín Porkelsdóttir's work before though you might not know it. She's designed the packaging of countless foods as well as the banknotes in Iceland, among other famous items. Here, come see her progression as an artist.

- Opens on May 20th, 2021
- Runs until January 30th, 2022

Behind the Scenes — Natural Dyes: A Modern Perspective

Where do textile colours come from? Nowadays many are chemical, but this project shows the wide range of colours one can produce naturally in the Iceland.

- Runs until May 20th, 2021
- Runs until September 12th, 2021

LIVING ART MUSEUM

Never the End

Presenting the annual graduation show for those who have just completed a master's degree in art at the Iceland University of the Arts. Expect to find the brightest art stars in the country—and later smugly brag to your friends that you were there first.

- Opens on May 8th, 2021
- Runs until May 30th, 2021

HÍÐ ÍSLENSKA BÓKMENNTAFÉLAG

Abstract Reality

The ground floor of the Hotel Saga will play host to a series of abstract art works by Valtýr Pétursson. He used abstraction to express sudden cultural, social and political shifts in Iceland, so his pieces are the perfect thing to stare at and reflect on our own relatively abstract times. But don't worry: it's an uplifting and colourful exhibition, so no need to bring the tissues.

- Opens on May 14th, 2021
- Runs until August 31st, 2021

Ongoing

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ICELAND Of The North

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

- Runs until January 9th, 2022

HELLO UNIVERSE

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

- Runs until January 9th, 2022

EINAR JÓNSSON MUSEUM

Permanent Exhibition

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

REYKJAVÍK CITY MUSEUM

Settlement Exhibition

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

REYKJAVÍK MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY

The Silent But Noble Art

Sigurhans Vignir (1894-1975) left the museum an archive of around

40,000 photographs. Many of these document everyday Icelandic society just after the creation of the Republic of Iceland in 1944—a christening, labourers at work, people skating, the occupation of Iceland during World War II by British troops, a beauty pageant, a birthday party, a wigmaker... and so on.

- Runs until September 19th, 2021

The Arctic Circus

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

- Runs until May 30th, 2021

REYKJAVÍK MARITIME MUSEUM

Fish & Folk

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

Melckmeyt 1659

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

MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART

Peysa Með Öllu Fyrir Alla

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

- Runs until May 29th, 2021

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - HAFNARBÚS

Ragnar Axelsson:

Where The World Is Melting

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

- Runs until May 9th, 2021

Hulda Rós Guðnadóttir: WERK - Labor Move

Hulda Rós Guðnadóttir's installation in the lobby of the museum consists of a three-channel filmic work, sculptures, and a video recording of the assembly of said

sculptures. It's an exploration of the multi-layered global economy—featuring dockworks mimicking their own work in repeated choreography. Ooph, that really puts our work into perspective, right?

- Runs until May 9th, 2021

D43 Auður Lóa Guðnadóttir: Yes/No

Auður Lóa Guðnadóttir—the print-size sculptor and Princess Diana scholar—is here with more than 100 new sculptures. So come experience house pets, internet cats, found photographs, historical reproductions, Instagram pics and more put into physical form, exploring issues as vast as post-colonialism and institutional discrimination to good ole' humour.

- Runs until May 9th, 2021

Raw Power

Wait, another Erró exhibition? You bet! This one places Erró's works from different periods in the context of contemporary Icelandic art and features some Grapevine favs like Arngrímur Sigurðsson, Sara Riel and Ýmir Grönvold. The show features diverse selection that, as always, contains the numerous media references Erró is known for.

- Runs until May 16th, 2021

Knowing the Ropes

A DesignMarch 2021 special! Come explore ropes as a bearer of cultural and structural meaning within a Scandinavian framework. You *knot* that?

- Runs until May 9th, 2021

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - KJARVALSSTAÐIR

Eternal Recurrence

Jóhannes S. Kjarval—after whom the museum is named—is here put in dialogue with a number of prominent contemporary Iceland artists including Ólafur Elíasson, Ragnar

Kjartansson, Steina and Eggert Pétursson. Now that's a lineup.

- Runs until September 19th, 2021

GERÐARSAFN KÓPAVOGUR ART MUSEUM

Castles In The Sky

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

- Runs until May 15th, 2021

HAFNARBORG

Magic Meeting - A Decade On

Spanish-Icelandic art duo Libia Castro and Ólafur Ólafsson haven't done a solo exhibition at Hafnarborg in 10 years. Now they're back with an exploration of the Icelandic (not yet official) Constitution. Remember? That document written in 2008 that the public agreed with in a referendum but someone Parliament won't officially ratify?

- Runs until May 30th, 2021

KLING OG BANG

Yes, a falling tree makes a sound (and it has a lot to say)

Curated by Helena Aðalsteinsdóttir, Kling og Bang's new exhibition presents a series of works inspired by feminist science fiction. Artists such as Brokat Films, Tarek Lakhri and more showcase reimagined futures, rewrite patriarchal narratives and offer artistic recentralisations of marginalised identities.

- Runs until May 9th, 2021

MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART HÖNNUNARSAFN ÍSLANDS

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Until May 30

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Opens May 20

Behind The Scenes
Natural dyes: a modern perspective
Opens May 20





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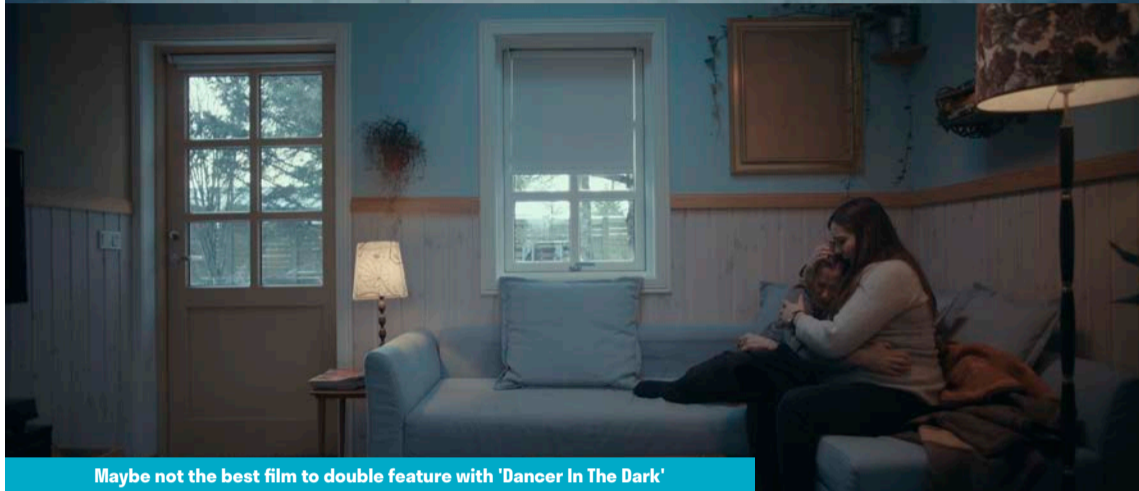
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Film



Maybe not the best film to double feature with 'Dancer In The Dark'

Tragedy Begets Togetherness

Marteinn Thorsson 'Þorpið í bakgarðinum' explores the beauty of human contact

Words: Owen Tyrie Photo: Stills from 'Backyard Village'

Times are tough. For many, human contact has been lost as people live governed by meeting restrictions for what already feels like an eternity. What does one need to stay hopeful? A reminder of what we are; a reminder that we are social beings who need others to help us in times of need.

What we need is a film like director Marteinn Þórsson's newest effort 'Þorpið í bakgarðinum' ('Backyard Village')—a work that, above all else, celebrates the goodness of human contact.

Building connections

'Þorpið í bakgarðinum' follows Brynja (LaufeY Elíasdóttir) and Mark (Tim Plester) who, after a chance meeting in a Hveragerði guesthouse, slowly form a bond over their shared past traumas. It's a real and grounded look at how people deal with grief, set in a cold, harsh environment which, in itself, is a bit of a metaphor for how the characters feel with their trauma; alone, cold and hostile.

Physically, the film is centered around a guesthouse—which the director actually owns—where both main characters are staying in an effort to escape their troubles. We follow them on visits to nature, sit with them outside late at night and see them at their lowest, allowing us to connect with them at the same time as they connect with each other.

"The idea was to make a low-budget movie with what we already had, so the guesthouse was a good start," Marteinn says. "But then, what is the story? Well, the story

came about because Guðmundur Óskarsson, who wrote the film [and I] were talking about mental illness because there is a health centre in Hveragerði. I've been there myself; I went through a period of depression and rehab."

"Now, I am a firm believer in human contact, in people talking, in dealing with things together," he continues. "I like the phrase 'Alone we go faster, but together we go further.'"

Keep on keeping on

The film thematically revolves around trauma and grief. It's made clear early on in the story that the characters have something eating away at them inside—though giving any more away would spoil the plot. That said, watching them slowly come to terms with their pasts is fascinating. It must be said that both LaufeY and Tim nail their roles, delivering genuine, real performances that make it easy to sympathise with their characters.

"I love working with [these] actors," Marteinn remarks about

their performances. "I loved rehearsing with both LaufeY and Tim because it was so important for the film. LaufeY was already perfect; she already felt like the character Brynja from the moment I met her. Tim told me that he was enjoying working on the film a lot. He said that when working on bigger films, you don't get proper rehearsals. Without that rehearsal time, it's hard to connect with other actors or actresses when filming."

Would you imagine that?

In a work that is based around humans forming connections over shared problems, it's safe to say that a viewer might assume the film was made in response to or inspired by the COVID-19 pandemic. Funnily enough, this was not the case.

"The entire film was shot prior to the pandemic," Marteinn reveals. "We finished filming in late 2019, around December and then the pandemic started a few months later. It's funny, because the theme of the movie became a lot stronger after the lockdown began."

But even ignoring the pandemic, it's hard not to connect with 'Þorpið í bakgarðinum'. Most people have experienced some form of trauma in their life and the message this film sends is definitely one that more people should hear. Life isn't about being alone; life is about building connections with others.

It's human nature, after all.

"I am a firm believer in human contact; in people talking, in dealing with things together."



Marteinn's film is a nuanced exploration of grief

AIR-BORNE FIRE-FIGHTERS

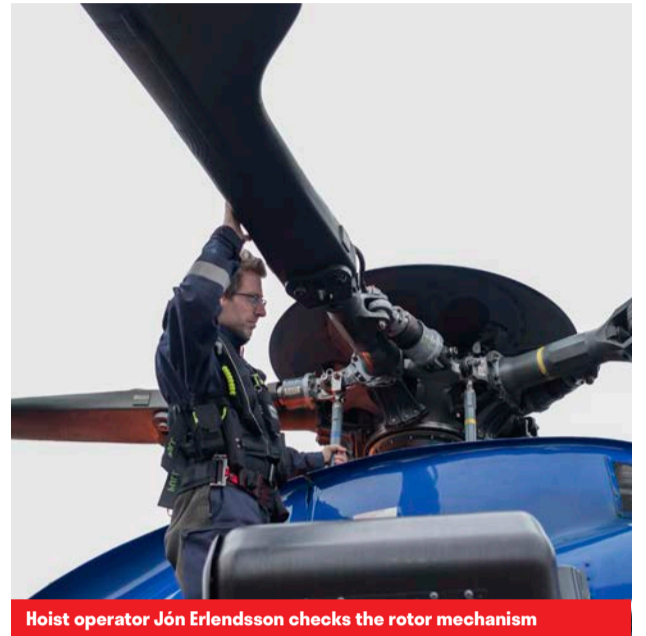
Words & Photos: John Pearson

Iceland has no armed forces, but the nation's coast guard often steps into the gap to undertake certain specialist tasks. One of those is fire-fighting from a helicopter using a large container—known as a “bambi bucket”—slung underneath to drop water on the flames.

We joined a coast guard helicopter crew at their Reykjavik base and hitched a ride to Skorradalavatn, a lake in the west of the country, to watch them tackle a fire-fighting training exercise.



Chief pilot Sigurður Wíium briefs pilots Brynhildur Bjartmarz and Haukur Harðarson



Hoist operator Jón Erlendsson checks the rotor mechanism

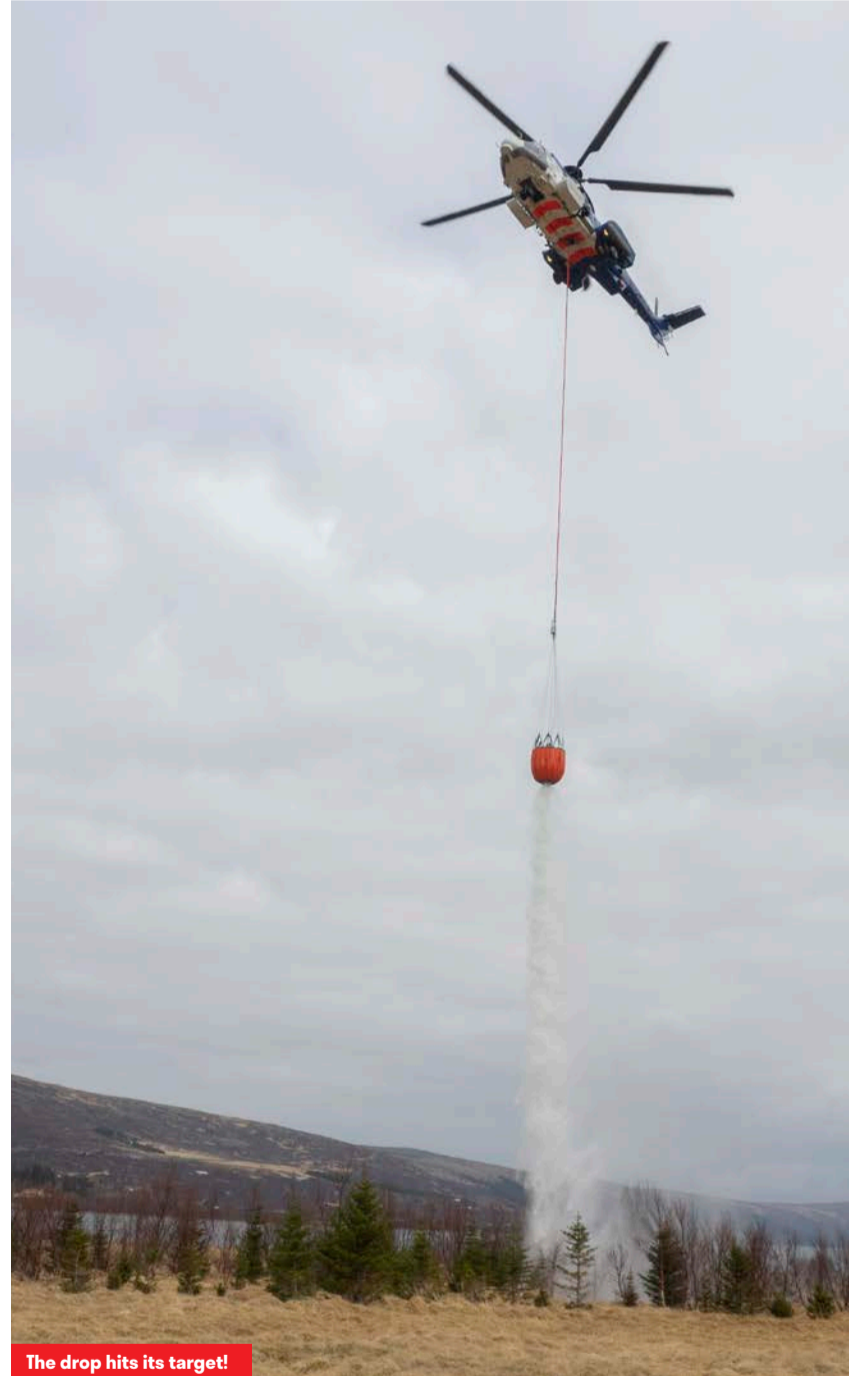
On our way, over the Reykjavik rooftops



Brynhildur pilots the Super Puma H225



Sigurður oversees operations from the cockpit



The drop hits its target!



The bucket can scoop 1,660 litres of water from a lake



The crew, including navigation officer Jóhann Eyfeld, have a debrief

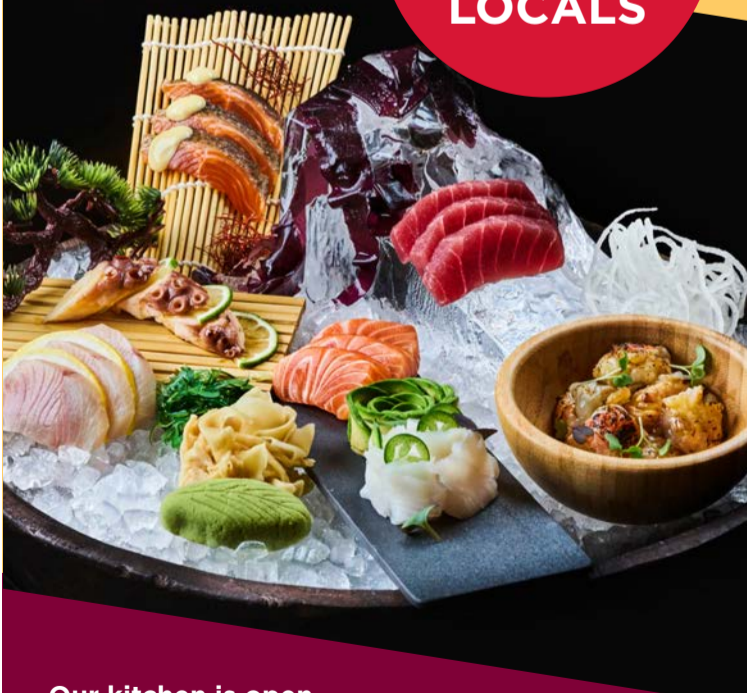
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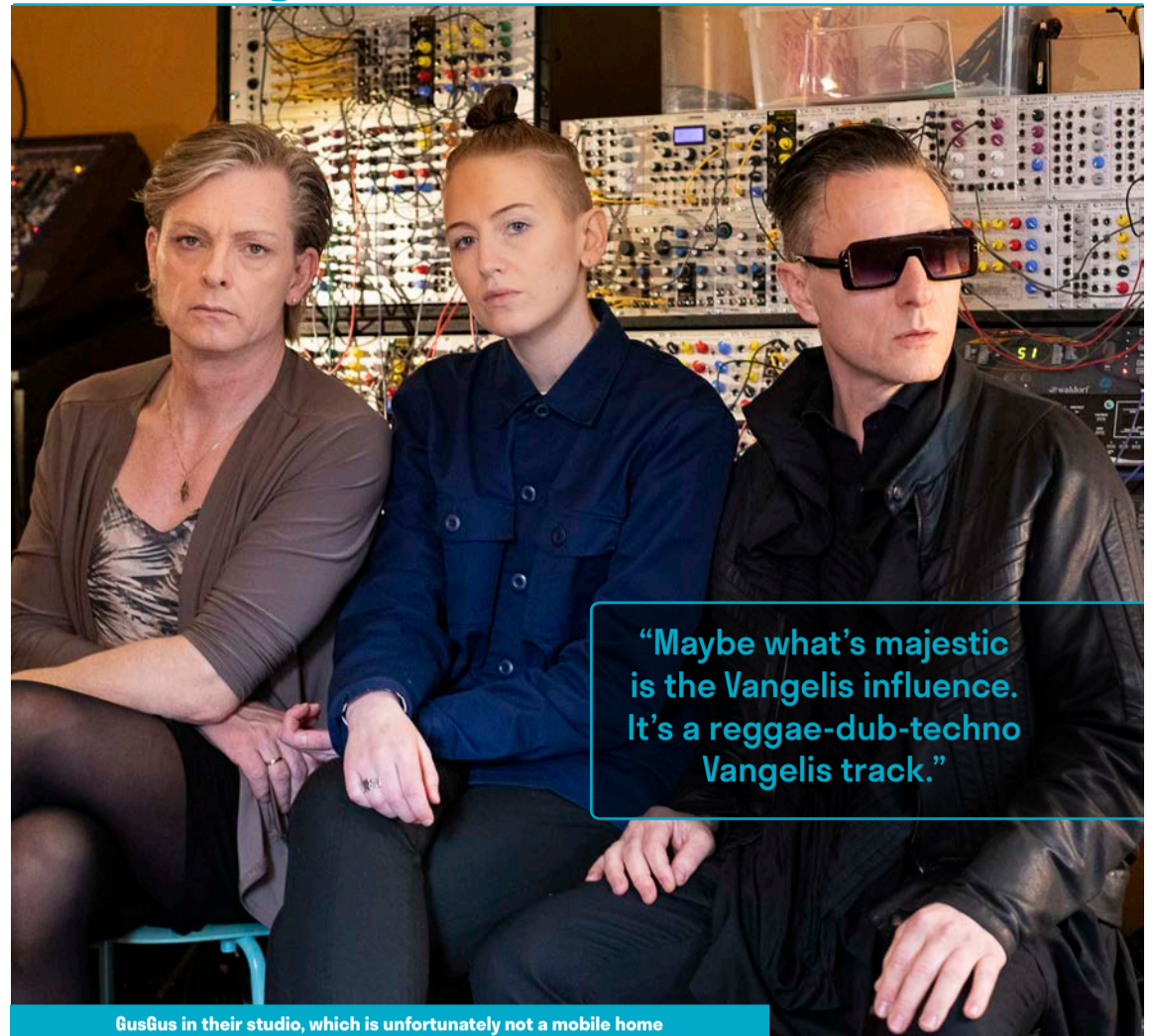
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GusGus in their studio, which is unfortunately not a mobile home

“Maybe what’s majestic is the Vangelis influence. It’s a reggae-dub-techno Vangelis track.”

‘Mobile Home’ by GusGus

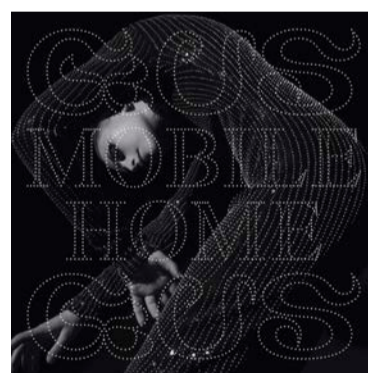
The legends of Icelandic electro talk through their new album, 80s synth arpeggios and the devil on roller skates

Words: **John Pearson** Photo: **Art Bienick**

Track By Track

‘Mobile Home’ will be released on May 28th across all platforms.

GusGus join forces with Vök vocalist Margrét Rán on their new album ‘Mobile Home’, as well as hooking up with former bandmates Siggí Kinski and Stefán Árni for lyrical and visual collaborations. Grapevine met GusGus mainstay Biggi Veira, fellow founding member Daníel Ágúst and Margrét Rán at the band’s Reykjavík studio to talk us through the album.



Stay The Ride

Daníel: “Stay The Ride” is about the disorientation of a person and his connection to reality; creating his virtual reality through a smartphone.

Biggi: This track has a massive chorus featuring Dan, but we felt that it needed an extra voice. Margrét tried it and I thought, “Yes, this is what’s needed to finish the album; her just doing the final touches.”

Higher, feat. Vök

Margrét: Biggi sent me the demo and I was like “That’s an odd one, but really cool.” I was really into

watching ‘The Crown’ at the time, so I linked the song to the whole concept of majesty and power. The characters were so powerful, in a way, but in another way so powerless and isolated from reality.

Daníel: And the concept of isolation from reality comes up in more lyrics on the album.

Biggi: Maybe what Margrét feels is majestic is the Vangelis influence. It’s a reggae-dub-techno Vangelis track.

Simple Tuesday

Daníel: The guy in “Simple Tuesday” is totally lost. He’s not even trying to be the best version of himself. He’s lost in procrastination and trying to decide when he’s going to be himself. When can he stop being so lost and just get a grip on his life?

Love Is Alone

Daníel: When working on new tracks, you sometimes come up with stupid lyrics like this, as placeholders just to create a melody. That phrase kind of rang in my head.

Margrét: And you sometimes create gold by doing that.

Daníel: But in the final lyrics we decided to keep this strange concept of love being alone, because it is sadder than sad to say that love is alone.

Our World

Daníel: It’s about the frame that society puts you in, which we then just carry around because that’s how people want us to be. And that’s how we think we should behave for others.

Biggi: Or maybe it’s the frame that you choose in context with the reality you want to seek. You say “I want to be like this,” and then you have to fit into that frame.

Daníel: Yes. So it’s a self-made frame, basically.

Original Heartbreak

Daníel: The broken heart of youth. It’s about unrequited love and a very fragile relationship between people who are attracted to each other, but shouldn’t be because it’s...

Biggi: ...socially illegal. It’s love and shame. And then it’s discovered, and the bomb blows up.

Daníel: And that’s when the original heartbreak happens.

Silence

Daníel: This was one of the demos that I really loved. That arpeggio was just so fast, busy and hypnotizing that it pushed me to write about silence. Because it was so noisy, so busy, and so eager to grab you, I used silence as a weapon against the noise.

The Rink

Daníel: We share this fond memory from our teenage years—roller skating in those rinks that had been set up in town. We shared that experience, and then we came up with this idea of a struggle between good and evil in this supposedly innocent recreational world.

Biggi: Yeah, “The Rink” is a song about a fight between good and evil on roller skates.

Flush

Biggi: And the story is over. So where do we go from here? Just flush it down the toilet so it gets washed away, and start again.

Daníel: Clear the mind and start over.

Biggi: So basically that’s what “Flush” is about. It’s just a spiraling toilet flush. 🍑

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A selection from

Every Happy Hour

in 101 Reykjavík

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16:00 to 19:00.
Beer 500 ISK,
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BRAVÓ
Every day from
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Beer 700 ISK,
Wine 900 ISK.

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

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

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

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Every day from
16:00 to 19:00.
Beer 800 ISK,
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Every day from
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Wine (On Wed.)
800 ISK.

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KALDI
Every day from
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Wine 750 ISK.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RÖNTGEN
Every day from

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Featured Drinking Hole

LEBOWSKI BAR
LAUGAVEGUR 20A

If you're looking to work on your tan while also eating a really good burger in a 90s movie themed restaurant, wow! You have very specific tastes! Luckily there's the roof deck patio at Lebowski Bar

to tick all your boxes. Happy hour is everyday from 16:00 to 19:00 and features beer and wine from 800 ISK. Notably, their roof deck also has heating lamps and blankets, but when it's sunny out that place is basically Tenerife (with a better crowd.)! 🍷

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- Dominos**
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- Tapas Barinn**
Every day
17:00 - 18:00
Half off of selected tapas
Various prices

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

Sushi Social
Every day
17:00 - 18:00
Truffle potatoes 1,000 ISK
Avocado fries - 690 ISK
Lobster sushi, ribs & more - 890 ISK

1,500 ISK And Under

Hamborgara-búlla Tómasar
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Vegan option

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Sólon
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Ceasar salad - 1,490 ISK

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

1,095 ISK
Vegan option

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

2,000 ISK And Under

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

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

5,000 ISK And Under

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11:30 - 16:00
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From England To Akranes To Erlendur

Erlendur Magazine promotes diversity in the Icelandic media

Words: **Valur Grettisson** Photo: **Art Bicnick**

When Bianca Hallveig Sigurðardóttir and her mother, Carlotta Tate-Olason, were in quarantine a year ago, they were going through Icelandic media. At that moment, they realised something was seriously missing in the mainstream publications: diversity.

Feeling left out of the discussion, they decided to found their own magazine, Erlendur, which means ‘foreign’ and serves as an Icelandic male name.

Small headline, big story

“We wanted to promote cultural diversity. We quickly felt that Icelandic media was not promoting diverse voices well enough, so we made a list of these platforms, finding out that there was not much to offer,” Bianca Hallveig explains. She says that she and her mother, who is the editor-in-chief of the magazine, set out to showcase the immense talents of immigrants in Iceland, who are often ignored due to the notorious barrier

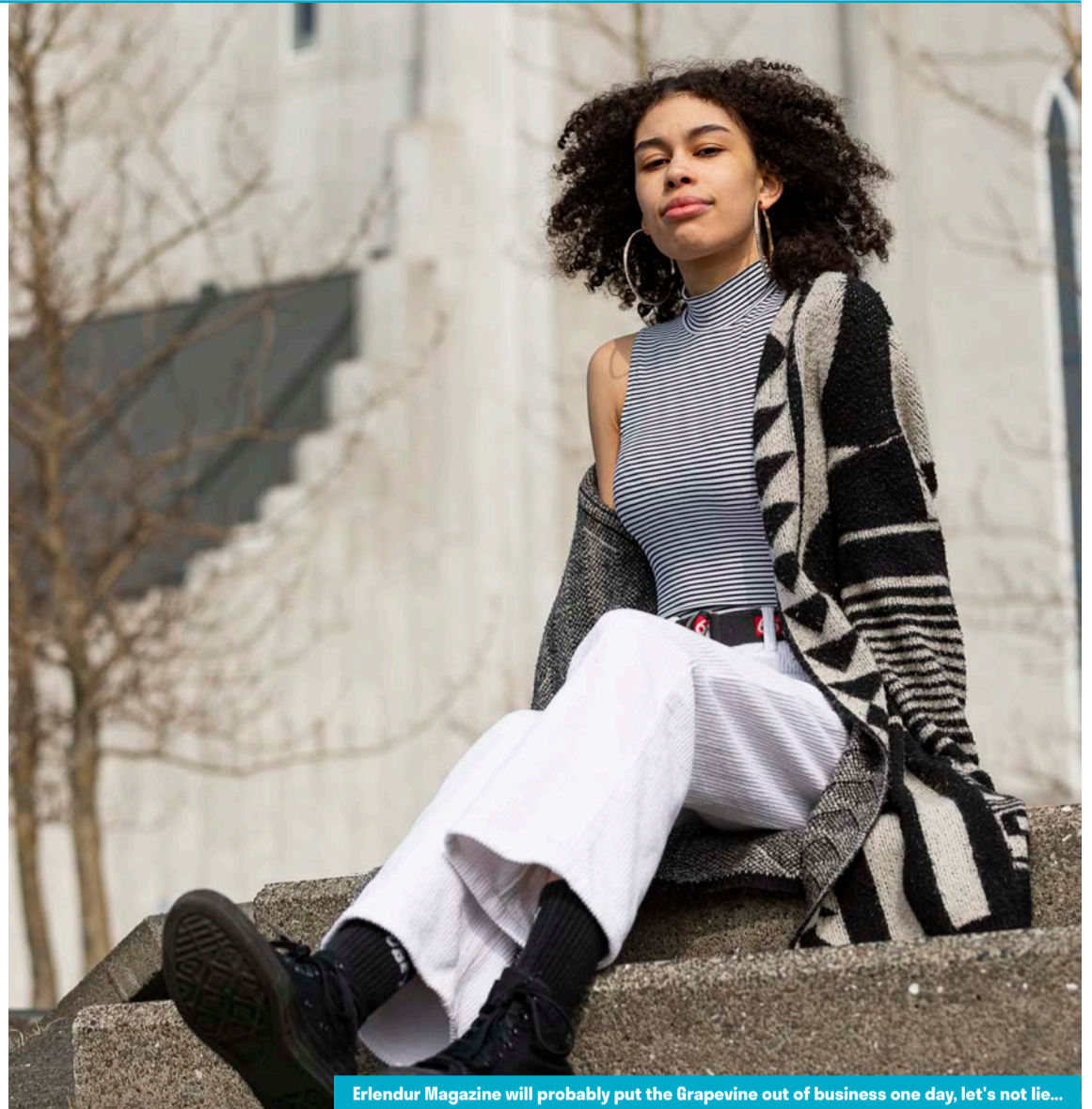
created by the Icelandic language.

“It was very challenging to start the magazine. It was rocky at the beginning, but as soon as the first magazine was launched, people became more engaged,” says Bianca Hallveig of their first issue, which sported Patience A. Karlsson, a Ghanaian transplant and proud co-owner of Afrozone, standing in the snow, with the Hafnarfjörður harbour serving as a backdrop. It could not be more Icelandic. The headline: “It takes patience to bring Africa to Iceland”.

“It was definitely a success and messages started pouring in,” says Bianca Hallveig.

Since then, they’ve published six issues, covering subjects as diverse as fashion designers, nurses, coffee shop owners, adventure guides and musicians—all of whom are immigrants. They even covered some of the Grapevine’s favourites, such as Venezuelan-born author Helen Cova, whose most recent book ‘AUTOSARCOPHAGY, to eat oneself’ wowed the Grapevine staff, as well as fashion de-

signer Marko Svart, originally from Stockholm, whose brand and store SVART by Svart has been a long time favourite of ours. Erlendur’s got their finger on the pulsy.



Erlendur Magazine will probably put the Grapevine out of business one day, let's not lie...

From England to Akranes

Bianca is half-Icelandic. Her mother is a Jamaican immigrant, while her father is Icelandic. Though she spent most of her summers in Iceland as a child, she lived with her mother abroad until she was 13 at which point she moved to Iceland. It was a big change, even more so due to the fact that she moved to Akranes, a small fishing village 40 kilometres away from the capital city. The transition was extreme, to say the least, for the young women coming from the bustling and multicultural environment in the U.K.

“I moved here from England, straight to Akranes. Growing up there, as a mixed child, I felt that people behaved differently around me,” she explains.

Akranes is no stranger to immigration. In fact, the town has repeatedly hit the national news for their positive attitude towards refugees. In 2008, they took in 30 Palestinian refugees and, in 2015, they gained national attention by imploring the government of Iceland to send them refugees from Syria. This was at the same time as prejudice against refugees and asylum seekers was prevalent in Iceland.

But Bianca Hallveig was no immigrant. She was half-Icelandic, with an Icelandic middle name and, as is tradition in Iceland, a patronymic last name. So the fact that people treated her differently definitely revealed the subconscious discrimination in the hearts of her countrymen. She was Icelandic, yet, somehow, she wasn’t part of Iceland.

“It took some time for people getting used to that I was different,” says Bianca Hallveig. “But I definitely feel like Iceland is still growing and learning about different cultures. They are becoming more accepting of different cultures, but there were people in the countryside, individuals that were not that open when I moved here at 13 years old.”

“But where are you really from?”

Many Icelanders are still getting used to the idea that well over 15% of the population are immigrants with different backgrounds. And many immigrants and non-white Icelanders feel this divide almost everyday.

“Everytime I leave the house, I’m asked where I’m really from,” Bianca Hallveig explains. She says that she doesn’t experience it as racism or meanness, but it does become tiresome when she’s repeatedly explaining that she is, in fact, Icelandic.

“Perhaps this is understandable,” she says, “Icelanders see each other as white people,” she adds. But she believes that is changing.

Big dreams and perhaps a book

Bianca Hallveig and her mother have big dreams for Erlendur. They celebrated their first anniversary in April—no small feat for any new magazine in the pandemic. Now they want to go global.

“We want to try to go global with the magazine,” Bianca Hallveig says. “That’s the next step.”

Bianca Hallveig says that she is especially proud of the fashion section in the magazine. She wants to become a designer in the future and is currently working as a freelance stylist. She also has a popular cultural podcast in Iceland called IceBloomers that she says has helped a lot of people in Iceland.

“I’m also thinking about writing a small book about how it was for me to move to Iceland. It was such a different experience, and I would love to write a book about it,” she says.

As Erlendur has proved, not much is published in Iceland about an experience like that—but it should be and we can’t wait to read it.

Check out Erlendur Magazine at erlendurmagazine.com.

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

Álfgrímur a.k.a. Elfgrime



Words: Hannah Jane Cohen

Photo: Art Bicnick

Álfgrímur (24) is a TikTok King (@elfgrimetiktothetok) and Spanish student at HÍ.

Wearing:

- Mesh top and jeans from Jaded London, which is my favourite brand
- Random 2000s-style belt
- Shoes from Buffalo London
- Jewellery from Harajuku Chains
- Jacket is thrifted, I think it's originally from Spúútnik.

Describe your style in 5 words:

Flashy. Colourful. Trendy. 90s. Hot.

Favourite stores in Reykjavík:

All the thrift stores. If I'm shopping in Iceland, then I'm usually shopping at the **Red Cross** or **Fatamarkaðurinn**. Other than that, I love these new shops that are popping up where people get their own stalls to sell their own clothes, like **Verzlanahöllin**, **Hringekjan** and **Extraloppán**. But I mainly shop online—I made an oath two years ago to stop buying new clothes, so if I want something from a brand like my favourite Jaded London, then I always try to find it on **Depop**. I don't want to directly support fast fashion and give them my money.

Favourite piece:

Mesh tops. I have so many that it's actually become quite an obsession of mine. Most of mine are from Jaded London, but for my birthday, I got a mesh top from Hildur Yeoman. My sister crowdfunded it with my siblings and friends—they all chipped in! I also love my Buffalos. I've been wearing Buffalos for almost eight years at this point. I wear them until they break and then get a new pair.

Something I would never wear:

Bow ties. I think they look stupid on me! Or maybe it just feels like a clown thing to wear.

Lusting after:

There are many things I want but can't afford, but if money wasn't an issue then I would love the Vetements platform boots. That would be quite an upgrade from the Buffalos. Also—as I said, I have an obsession with mesh tops, so I would love to have a Jean Paul Gaultier mesh top, but it'd be crazy to buy a mesh top for like \$400, so I'll stick with mine! 🙄

FJALLKONAN

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

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ICELANDIC PLATTER

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

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

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Food



Soup it up, baby!

How To Enjoy Icelandic Kjötsúpa After All The Sheep Are Gone

(Or if you just don't want to eat lamb)

Words & Photos: [Andie Sophia Fontaine](#)

It has recently come to light that there are now fewer sheep in Iceland than there were over 100 years ago. It's highly unlikely, but there may come a time when there are no more sheep in Iceland. It also must be said that people who don't eat lamb, or any kind of meat, are missing out on a lot of traditional Icelandic dishes, and that includes that classic Icelandic staple: íslensk kjötsúpa (literally "Icelandic meat soup"), a hearty blend of Icelandic lamb meat, root veggies, herbs and broth.

With that in mind, I'm here to show you how to make kjötsúpa without using any animal products at all. If you want a recipe with exact measurements, well, too bad. That's not the way this girl cooks.



Fortunately, kjötsúpa is the kind of thing where you don't really need exact measurements. It's soup. If it's too strong, add more water; if it's not strong enough, reduce it some more or add more stuff to it. It's kind of hard to screw up soup.

Step one: making seitan

The meat substitute we're going to use here is seitan, which is basically wheat gluten, so if you're allergic to gluten, this recipe is not for you.

Seitan has been a staple meat substitute in many Asian cultures for centuries. It's not a recent fad. It's also cheap and easy to make, provided you're a patient person. All you need is white flour, water and time.



First, you need to mix your flour and water. For best results, use a 3 to 1 ratio of flour to water. So if you use six cups (816g) of flour, you're going to mix that with two cups (568mL) of water. Mix them together and knead it into a nice, consistent, big ol' ball of dough, then put the dough ball in a large bowl completely covered with cold



water. Let that baby soak for at least two hours.

Now comes the fun part. Dump the dough ball into a colander in your sink, and begin rinsing the dough under slightly colder than lukewarm running water while squeezing, pulling, stretching, and squishing the dough ball. Within minutes, you'll notice the starch begin to wash away. Keep squish-



ing and working the dough under the water. It's going to significantly reduce in size, and change texture, becoming something like a stretchy, spongy blob.

Eventually, it's going to look like a springy mass that's about a fourth the size of your original dough ball. This is wheat gluten. When the water coming out the bottom of the colander and the water you see when you squeeze the gluten is mostly clear, you're ready for the next step: the flavour.



Step two: making seitan taste like lamb

At this point, the gluten doesn't really taste like anything. It needs to be imbued with flavour, and in this case, we need it to taste like lamb. How do you make something taste like lamb when there are no sheep in the country?

For this, we're going to use these ingredients: one mushroom stock cube, a palmful each of dried rosemary, garlic powder, and smoked paprika, just a light splash of white vinegar, a generous splash of soy sauce, and a teaspoon of MSG (which you can get in any Asian food market in town) in 1.5L of boiling water.



"Whoah, hang on, MSG?," you say. "Isn't that stuff dangerous?" No, it absolutely isn't. The hysteria around MSG is completely unfounded in science, but probably has a lot to do with anti-Asian racism. It makes stuff taste savory. Trust me on this.



Now, we want the gluten to have the consistency of slow-boiled lamb meat, so instead of pressing the gluten, as you would normally do for making seitan, pull it apart into bite-sized chunks. Drop these chunks into your boiling broth, then reduce it to a light simmer, and let it simmer for an hour.

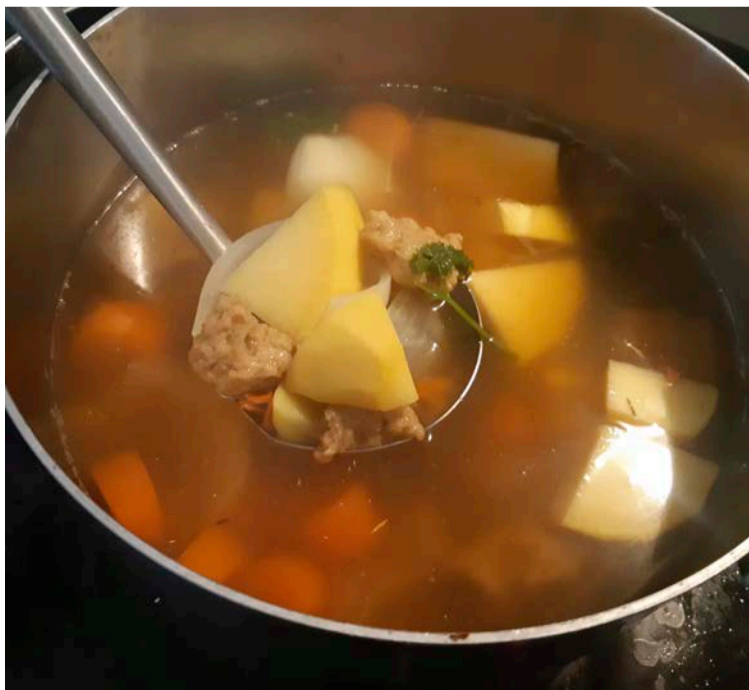


Step three: making the soup

It's at this point that we get to the traditional side of kjötsúpa: the veggies. For this, you'll need: five peeled and chopped Icelandic (read: small) potatoes, or one big one; one peeled and chopped rutabaga, two peeled and chopped decent-sized carrots, one peeled and chopped white onion, some chopped fresh parsley, and a generous helping of Icelandic súpujurtir, i.e., soup herbs, which are really just dried up bits of various herbs and veggies. If you live in Iceland, you can find these in any grocery store. If you don't live in Iceland, you'll likely be able to find a close equivalent wherever you live.

Personally, I like to chop the veggies into fairly big chunks. They have more flavour this way, and it makes soup more like "food floating in broth" rather than "broth with tiny bits of stuff in it".

Bring a litre and a half of water to a boil. At this point, the seitan should only be in like half a litre of broth, so you can just pour the broth and seitan directly into the pot, then dump in your soup veg-



gies, parsley and súpujurtir. Reduce to a medium simmer and let it cook for 45 minutes.

Throughout this process, keep tasting your soup. As said before, you can always add more water if it's too strong, but you can also add another half of a mushroom stock cube if it isn't strong enough.

Step four: serve and enjoy

Now you're ready to dish out this soup into a bowl and enjoy. This recipe can serve anywhere from four to six regular people, or two to three hungry people. Add some black pepper and salt to each bowl, and garnish with a sprig of fresh parsley for added pizzazz.

One of the things they don't tell you about non-animal analogues of animal-based dishes is it's not going to taste exactly like the "real" thing. It might not even taste very close. But it's going to taste good. So I don't wanna hear that this isn't how your grandma makes kjötsúpa. Block me on Twitter, send an



angry email, report me to MAST, I don't care. For those who don't eat animal stuff, this Icelandic classic can now be accessible to you. And when the day comes when there are no more sheep in Iceland, this may be the definitive recipe for making kjötsúpa. You can thank me then. 🍷



SNAPS

REYKJAVIK | B I S T R O - B A R | EST. 2012

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Travel

Isolated Iceland

Finding the splendid solitude of the North

Words & Photos: John Pearson



Travel distance from Reykjavik:
462 km

Accommodation provided by:
islandshotel.is

Whale-watching provided by:
northsailing.is

Geothermal baths provided by:
geosea.is

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Northern Iceland—where landscape, sea and sky converge just south of the Arctic Circle—is as far north as many of us will ever get to travel.

I recently based myself in the northern coastal town of Húsavík for a few days, exploring the surrounding area as winter gave way to summer. I found that the sparse local population—and Iceland's current lack of tourists—created the perfect conditions for a traveler seeking solitude.

Waiting for whales

On the day I joined Húsavík whale-watching company North Sailing, the massive mammals apparently had better things to do than come to greet us. But the puffins and northern gannets that also live in Skjálfandi Bay showed up, swooping around the boat and bobbing around in the ocean. And although North Sailing can't be expected to make nature perform on cue, the company kindly offered customers a free trip if they wanted to try their luck again.

Solitude score: Pretty good. The punters aboard the 90-capacity boat numbered no more than 15, so there was no fighting for elbow room among photographers seeking that perfect puffin shot.

Getting into hot water

A warmer way to view the bay is provided by GeoSea, a clifftop complex of outdoor pools just outside Húsavík. It boasts a choice of hot pots at different temperatures, with steaming

brine drawn from nearby boreholes. However it's the view of the mountains as you soak that raises GeoSea a notch above the average geothermal baths.

Solitude score: High, with only a handful of visitors in the water.

Game Of Thrones jiggy cave

There was more getting into hot water—or not—an hour's drive south of Húsavík, near lake Mývatn. There, the gorgeous Grjótagjá cave nestles in a lava field, housing the warm pool used to film the love scene between Jon and Ygritte in "Game Of Thrones".

On entering the cave, I found two Speedo-clad tourist boys noisily taking a dip in the hot water, despite the sign asking people not to do so. Thankfully I didn't walk in on a re-enactment of the Johnny and Yggy get jiggy scene, but nonetheless withdrew discreetly to grant my fellow visitors a little time to themselves. But Grjótagjá is so enchanting that I went back the next day to find myself the only soul in the cave.

Solitude score: First day not so good, (unless you're one of the Speedo-clad tourist boys). Second day—perfect.

The power beneath

A short drive north from the Grjótagjá cave brought me to the geothermal power station and dormant volcano at Krafla. You can wander the station compound freely and marvel at the huge clouds of water vapour billowing from the plant at ground level and

crossing the valley.

I took a hike up the snow-covered volcano, from where the valley views are spectacular. I recommend you leave your car at the plant and use a bit of leg power.

Solitude score: Very high—eerily there was not a single soul to be seen at the power station. On the hike to the crater the only other humans were those two tourist boys from Grjótagjá, (this time wearing more than their Speedos).

Bubbling mud and steaming stones

A short distance south of Krafla I found Hverir, a stark volcanic plain where rock pyramids hiss over geothermal vents, and hot mud pools gloop lazily. It's worth spending a while here just to soak up the lunar feel of the land and allow your inner geo-geek to wonder.

Solitude score: Pretty high. I was joined by a lorry driver taking a break in his journey and—yet again—the Speedo-clad Tourist Boys Of Grjótagjá.

Some falls to fall for

The well-known waterfalls of Goðafoss, Dettifoss and Selfoss are all with-

in easy striking distance of Húsavík, and I spent time at all of them. Each one is stunning and unique and deserving of a visit. But the greatest recognition is due to Aldeyjarfoss, a waterfall hidden further into the highlands, which has a much lower public profile than its cousins elsewhere in the region.

Rather than a wide curtain of water—a common format for Icelandic falls—Aldeyjarfoss presents itself as a narrow powerful cascade, plunging into a deep pool at the bottom of a dramatic gorge. Basalt columns frame the falls and bank the Skjálfandafljót river, which carries the water onwards. When I visited, snow and ice clung to the columns, perfectly framing the tumbling torrent of water.

Solitude score: Top marks. For the hour or so spent at the falls, I was the only one there. On the 5km round-trip hike from road to gorge I encountered only two other people; quite possibly the Speedo-clad Tourist Boys Of Grjótagjá, but it was hard to tell underneath all those layers. 🍷



GeoSea rocks



A lonely stroll up Krafla

HORROR-SCOPES

WHAT VACCINE R U?

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen

As ethereal floating beings that live in the depths of the cosmos, the Grapevine's team of amateur astrologists are naturally immune to all diseases except for hysteria and general malaise. That said, they are still doing their best to spread their ample vaccines to all of humanity (except for telemarketers, obviously). Here's the vaccine for you, according to the brightest psychics in the office.

that said, it's a situation we know you're rather familiar with, Taurus. What's it like to always be ignored due to your bad marketing?

Gemini



You are **Johnson & Johnson**. One dose of you is more than enough.

Cancer



Always one for setting a trend, you were an early **COVID-denier**, Cancer. At the beginning, it was a fun, edgy way for you to stay relevant in your various social media feeds, but now, you're trapped in the conspiracy communities, shunned by your family, ditched by your partner and not allowed into any of your fav stores due to your Karen-like aversion to masks. Though you desperately want a vaccine, you'll probably just hold out until everyone else has one lest you have to—gasp!—admit you made a mistake.

Leo



A walking controversy, a Leo is best exemplified by the controversial **Oxford-AstraZeneca** vaccine. Why? Because after allegedly causing a few blood clots

(waaay less than birth control does, not that anyone cared), the world made a rather large media fuss about you for a week or so. And if there's anything Leos are known for, it's making a mountain out of a molehill and then gaslighting everyone into thinking they are the crazy ones for getting worked up about it.

Virgo



Let's be real. **You already had COVID**, and you definitely added it to your woe-is-me-the-world-is-against-me list of problems.

Libra



Always in-the-know, you're the **Novavax** a.k.a. the next big vaccine on the market, bby. Trudeau and the U.K. already ordered tens of millions of you and we can probably expect to start seeing your name everywhere soon. But if that's out, feel free to grab the **CureVac**, the next-next big vaccine on the market. Of course, you already knew that.

Scorpio



Putin tested the **Sputnik** vaccine on his daughter before it was widely distributed. Seems like something a Scorpio would do, right? Maybe. In case Putin reads this, we're not saying anything more than we are huge fans of your daughter's rock'n'roll aerobic dancing and, to be honest, we think you're kind of a hot dude and we've had a few

naughty dreams about you doing some bad boy political stuff to us. Seriously, why do you have such sexual magnetism? Maybe it's just a side effect.

Sagittarius



You were first big one, bursting onto the scene like some twinks at a gay bar when "Toxic" begins playing. Yup, the famed **Pfizer** vaccine is the epitome of a Sag lifestyle. You showed up, you dominated and you've cemented your name as one of the GOATs. Polio could NEVER!

Capricorn



Weirdly enough, your computer keeps crashing every time you try to book a vaccine appointment. Is this fate or merely the result of your frugality, which caused you to not only buy a shitty computer but the cheapest wifi package too? Who knows? In conclusion, **no vaccine for you**.

Aquarius



The underdog of the stars, you, dear Aquarius, are the **Carnivac-Cov**, Russia's new animal-only vaccine. Basically, you're gonna save the Danish mink industry and become a national hero.

Pisces



GET THEM ALL. We'd expect nothing less from the most prolific overachiever we know.

WELL, YOU ASKED



OnlyFans & Coke

Words: Valur Grettisson

I'm a 69-year-old man who just retired from my lifelong job as a plumber. I'm having a little trouble with money, so I'm thinking about opening an OnlyFans account. Do you have any tips?

Uh... yes! Yes I do! Finally, an advice question that's actually interesting.

Now. The first thing you need to do is pick a price. We don't want to go overboard here, but we'd say a reasonable monthly fee is between \$9.99 and \$15.99 depending on your content and posting schedule. Of course, you could opt for the "free subscription" model where you then charge individually for photo sets or videos, but c'mon. It's important that your fans feel like they are purchasing a quality product, but at the same time, purchasing at a low enough price that they will send you lots of tips and requests (accompanied by tips) for other content. Of course, you could you, being 69, could just go all in and charge \$69.69. (Nice.)

Next, you have to promote your stuff online and the best way to do that is via Instagram, TikTok, Twitter and Facebook. As a 69 year old retiree, you might not know what all those are, but check out [google.com](https://www.google.com) for more information. Anyway, consistency and communication is key on social media. But most importantly, it's good to create a movement. An erotic simp revolution where no one needs to be ashamed of themselves.

Then it's about consistency and hard work. Don't give up, keep grinding, and remember that this is a marathon, not a sprint. Also, remember to be positive and open about this new career. You're there to slay, not to hide away from judgemental society. If you have any more questions, DM me.

I was walking home the other day, and found a kilo of cocaine on the street. I have no idea what to do and I really need your help here.

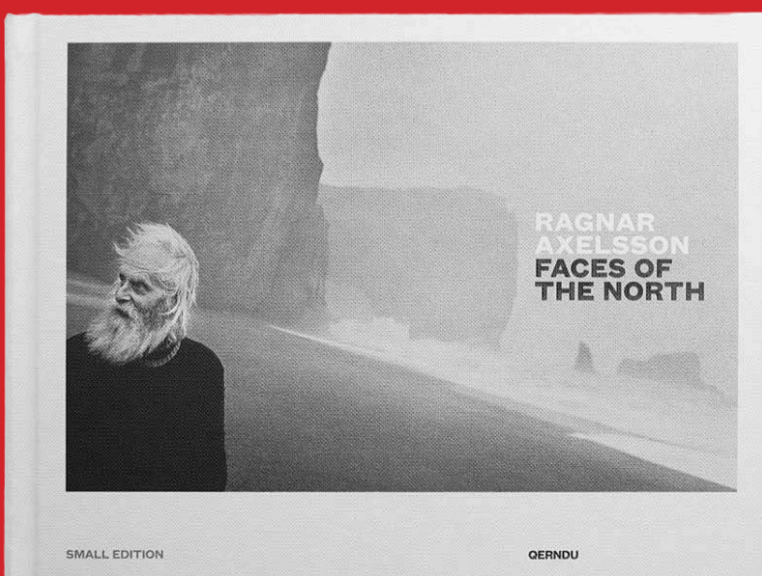
DM me. Seriously. DM ME!



CITY SHOT by Art Bicnick

Run, the volcano is coming

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*You only need to type the URL in once

