

# Iceland

The Place Shapes the Art

# A Quick History

- <https://guidetoiceland.is/history-culture/history-of-iceland>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XhCgfyED14&t=168s>

# Júlíana Sveinsdóttir (1889-1966)

**Júlíana Sveinsdóttir** was one of [Iceland](#)'s first female painters and [textile artists](#). Taught initially by prominent Icelandic artist [Pórarinn B. Þorláksson](#), Sveinsdóttir settled in [Denmark](#) and returned to Iceland in the summers, the visits inspiring her landscape paintings, one of which won the [Eckersberg Medal](#) in 1947.

Sveinsdóttir was an active supporter of artists and the arts. She was an early member of the Danish Female Artists' Society, and sat on the boards of the Charlottenborg Exhibition and the [Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts](#). Though best known for her painting, Sveinsdóttir was also a significant artist working in textiles, her commissions including a rug that decorated the court chamber of the [Supreme Court in Copenhagen](#).

<https://vimeo.com/139098083> (no words--short)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfFjENJAWtE> (no words—longer)

















# Nína Tryggvadóttir (1913-1968)

One of the most important abstract expressionist artists, Nína Tryggvadóttir worked mainly in painting, but also with collage, stained glass, and mosaic. She also wrote poems and children's books. In the early 1930s, she studied at Finnur Jónsson and Jóhann Briem's art school, and from 1935 to 1939 at the Royal Academy of Art in Copenhagen under the tutorship of Kraesten Iversen. Her first exhibition was held in Reykjavík in 1942, and comprised mostly paintings of landscapes and houses. She then moved to New York, where she studied under Hans Hofmann – a key spokesperson for European modernism in the USA – Hans Richter, and Morris Kantor. She was also influenced by Fernand Léger. With the help of the leader of the New Art Circle, J. B. Neumann, N. Tryggvadóttir had exhibitions in New York in 1945 and 1948. She and her husband Alfred L. Copley (L. Alcopley), who founded the Eighth Street Club in 1949, played an active part in the city's cultural life. She developed a concise artistic style characterized by bold textures and warm-tinted colour blocks. She took a step back from the Surrealism and Primitivism to which her fellow artists at the Club were so attached, instead turning abstraction and semi-abstraction into ideas and emotions.













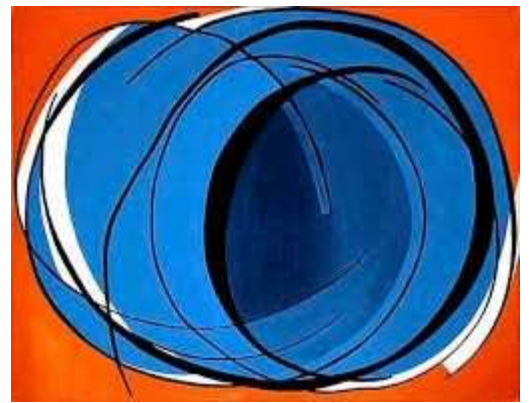
# Karl Kvaran (1924-1989)

Karl Kvaran was an Icelandic painter and draughtsman. He was born in Borðeyri in western Iceland and died in Reykjavík. He is considered one of the principal exponents of the geometric abstractionist school of painting in Iceland in the early sixties.









# Jón Gunnar Árnason (1931-1989)



Jón Gunnar Árnason was an Icelandic sculptor. After studying at the University of Iceland Reykjavík Arts and Crafts from 1944 to 1946 and the School of Visual Arts, he graduated as an engineer from the Technical University of Reykjavik in 1952.

<https://vimeo.com/92847290>













# Contemporary Icelandic Art

On view at Scandinavia House in 2014-15, the exhibition "ICELAND: Artists Respond to Place" focused on the rich and complex relationship of contemporary Icelandic artists to the singular geography of their country—one of the most geologically dynamic places on earth. The exhibition featured 11 of Iceland's leading contemporary artists whose works cover a broad range of formal approaches and media, including painting, photography, sculpture, site-specific wall drawings, and video installations. In this video, ASF presents a virtual guided tour of the Scandinavia House exhibition "ICELAND: Artists Respond to Place" with audio narration.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QT10XlyCoac> (boring)



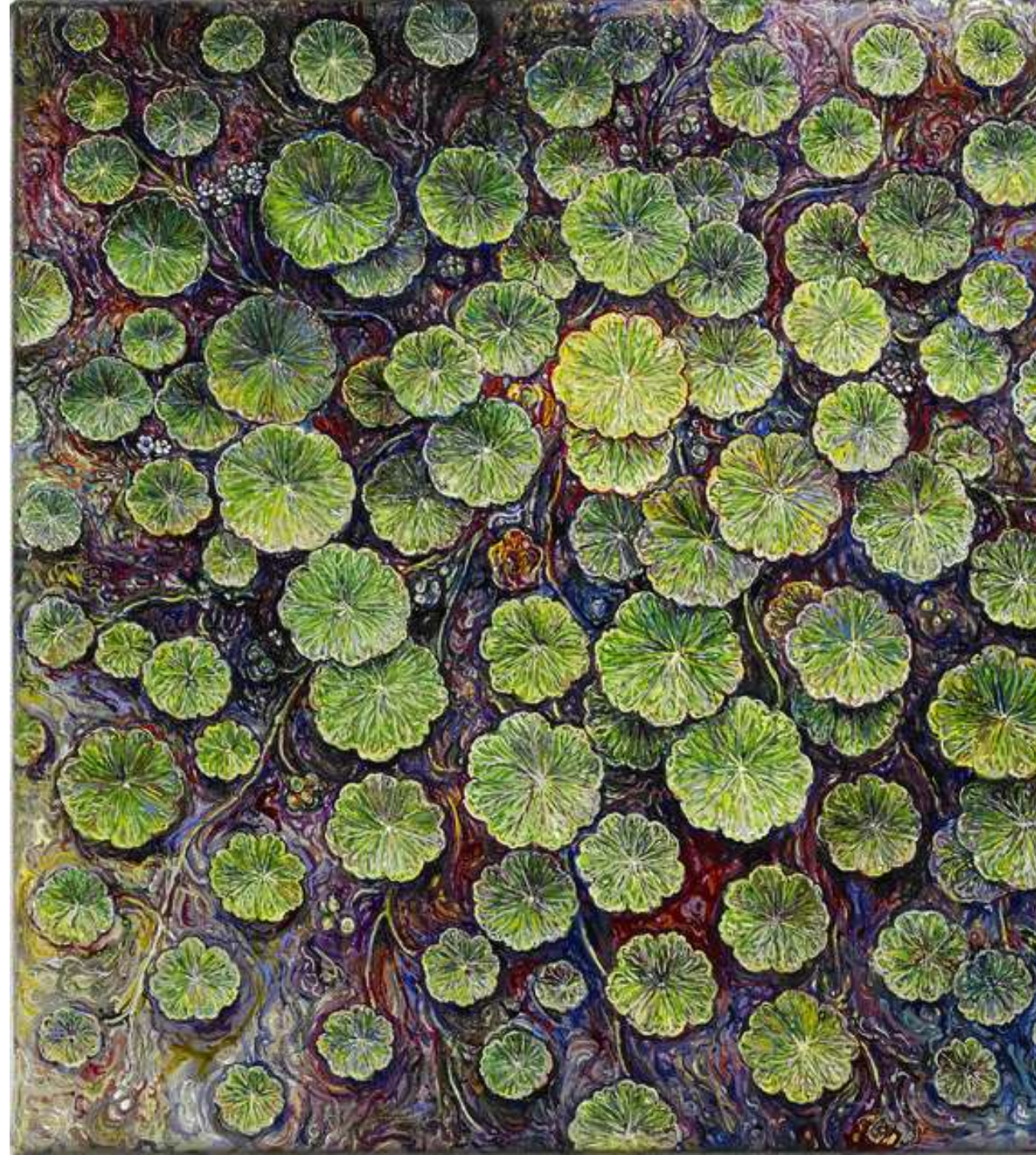
# Eggert Petursson

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=riq0qbCQtzQ>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2wsD4xzhSQ>





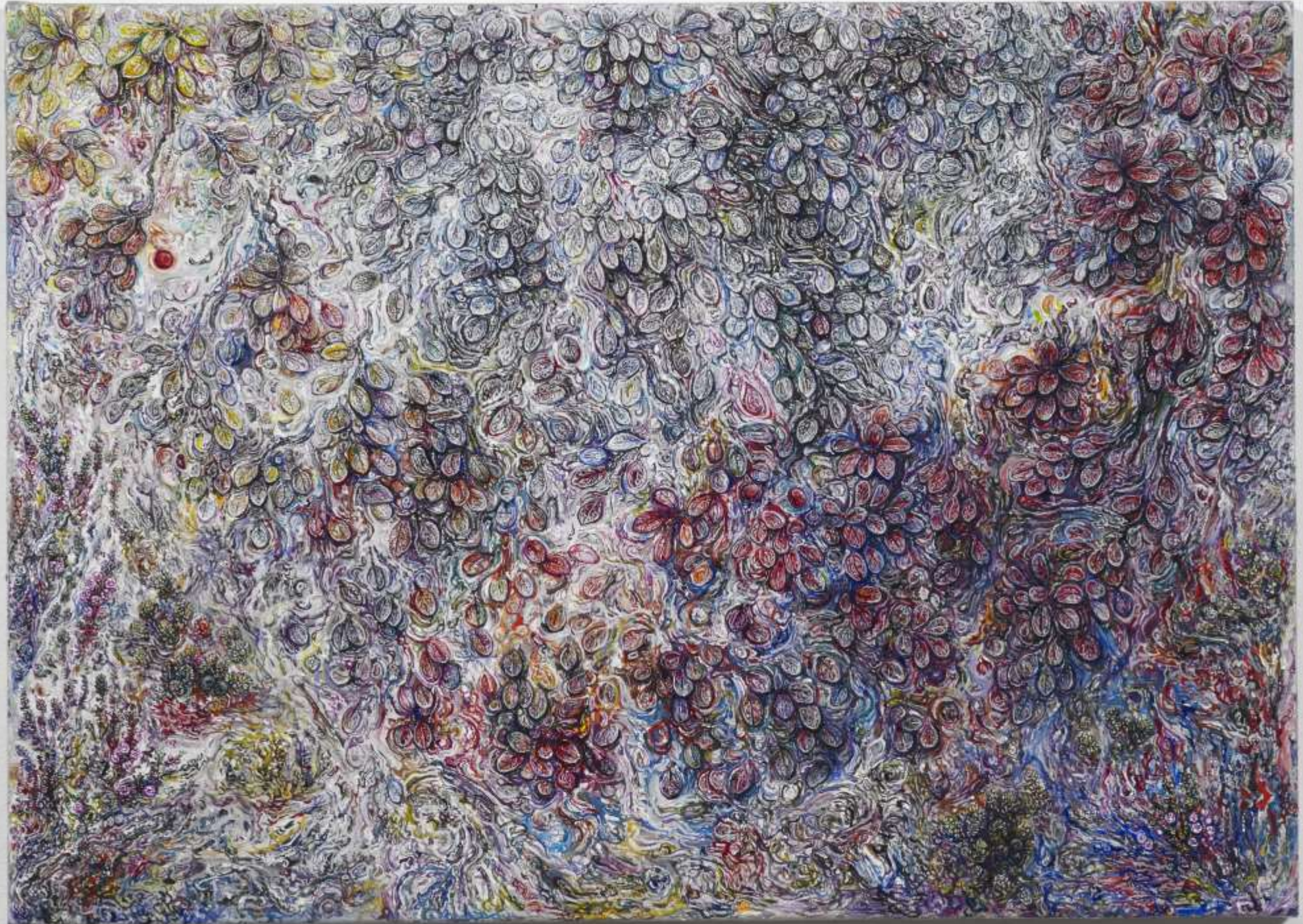
EGBERT PÉTURSSON  
PAINTINGS / MÅLVERK





















# Gudrun Einarsdottir

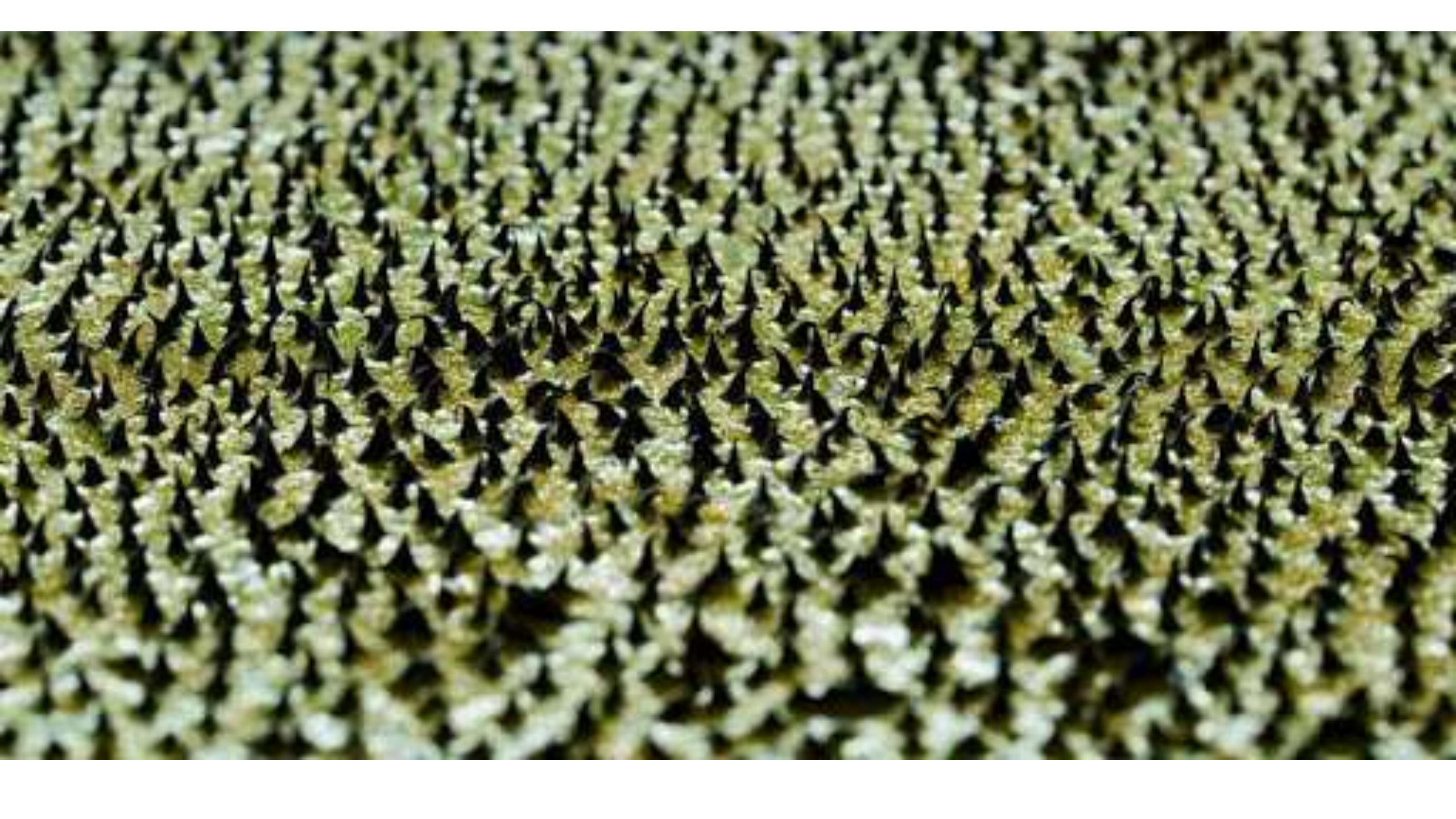
Guðrún Einarsdóttir is an Icelandic artist who was born in 1957. Numerous key galleries and museums such as [Reykjavík Art Museum](#), [Kjarvalsstaðir](#) have featured Guðrún Einarsdóttir's work in the past.







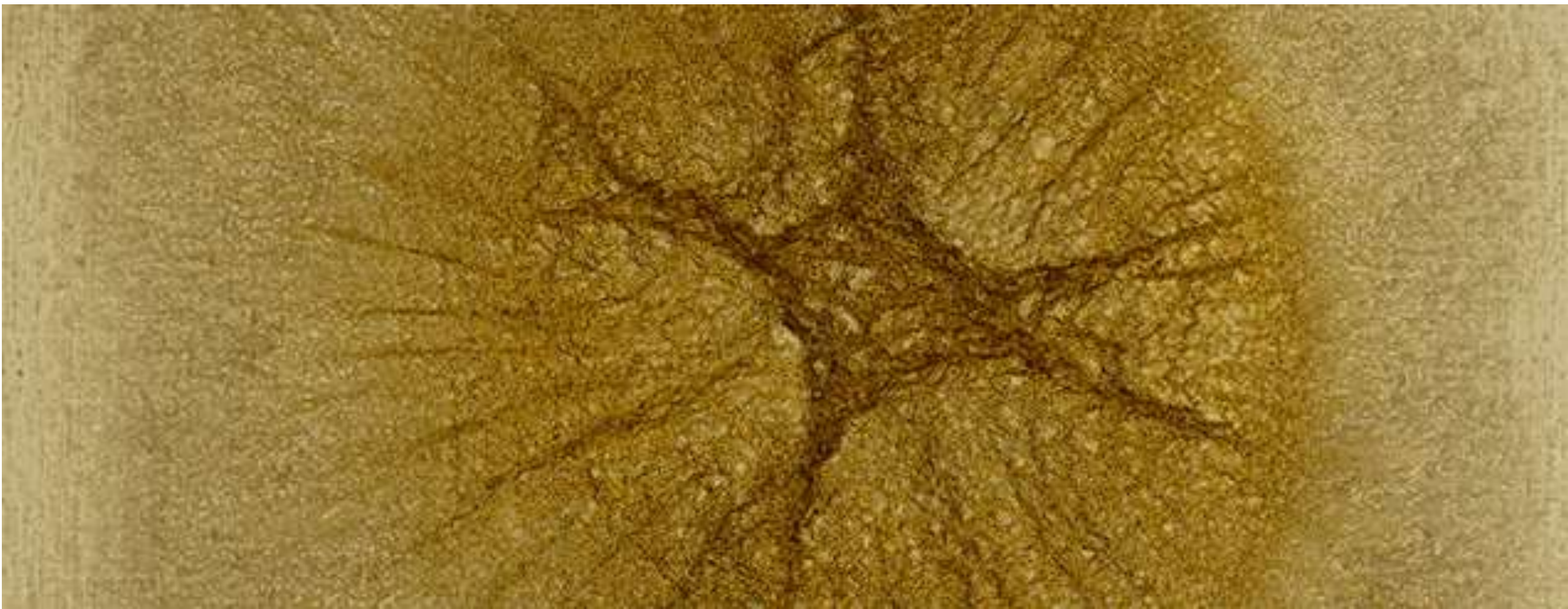


















# Olafur Eliasson

Olafur Eliasson is an Icelandic–Danish artist known for sculptured and large-scale installation art employing elemental materials such as light, water, and air temperature to enhance the viewer's experience. In 1995 he established Studio Olafur Eliasson in Berlin, a laboratory for spatial research.

An artist who has been able to spectacularly manipulate viewers' perceptual and phenomenological experience of the world, Olafur Eliasson has staged a number of enormously popular installations. His work often makes use of scale to completely envelop viewers in fantastical worlds. In his youth, Eliasson studied at the Royal Danish Academy of Arts and traveled to New York, Cologne, and Berlin, experiencing some of the world's greatest metropolises. His work since that time has focused on viewers' experience of the interplay between light, architectural space, and vision. Eliasson often collaborates with various other technicians, craftsmen, and designers for his projects, allowing him to execute grand feats with detailed precision. Eliasson's installation for the 2005 Venice Biennale, *Your Black Horizon*, consisted of a pavilion, constructed to be completely dark except for one continuous break in the wall, which ran around the structure's perimeter. The thin line of light acted as a drawing of space and illusionistically made the building's upper half appear to be floating independently.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fPUX8MMNZuQ>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ksm2eInvuwU&t=31s>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zOLUpX7ZCLI>



















# Katrín Sigurdardóttir

Katrín Sigurdardóttir is a New York-based artist who works in installation and sculpture. Katrin studied at the Icelandic College of Arts and Crafts, Reykjavík and received a BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute and her MFA from the Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University

<http://artistproject.metmuseum.org/1/katrin-sigurdardottir/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btv5f1Rm5sk&t=6s>





















# Egil Saebjörnsson

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43nowl7EVrs>











# GUÐJÓN KETILSSON



GUÐJÓN KETILSSON (b. 1956) lives and works in Reykjavik, Iceland. In his over forty-year career he has held over thirty solo exhibitions and participated in numerous group exhibitions internationally, i.e. Australia, China, the Nordic countries, Spain and the US, as well as in most art museums and art spaces in Iceland. Ketilsson is the recipient of the Artist of the Year 2019 award in Iceland, among other art prizes.

In his works, Ketilsson is mainly occupied with drawing and sculpture. His sculptural works integrate a range of intersecting formal, spatial, material and art historical interests. His study of the human condition is mostly through its primary vehicle, the body and how through its absence and presence, time, memory and history can be explored. In his recent works he explores language, writing and drawing as cognitive tools, as direct extensions and testimonials of our thinking processes. He explores possibilities of regarding text as drawing, of text as image. Found objects that man has designed according to his needs but has set aside, are often given a different role, a kind of afterlife, in Ketilsson's sculptures.













*Substitutes*, 1997  
polychrome wood, unique  
79 x 79 x 3.5"  
Ketilsson

# Ragna Róbertsdóttir

Ragna Róbertsdóttir's (b. 1945, Iceland) practice explores identity, materiality, time, as well as natural and architectural histories. Róbertsdóttir is best known for her minimal sculptures and installations, which often comprise elements inherent to the Icelandic environment, such as lava rock, salt, turf, and clay. Róbertsdóttir lives and works between Reykjavík and Berlin. She has had major solo shows at venues including The Living Art Museum, Reykjavík, and the Reykjavik Art Museum. In 1997, a monograph spanning 23 years of her work was published by DISTANZ.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9d\\_w8TT1p0&t=13s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9d_w8TT1p0&t=13s) (11 mins)

<https://vimeo.com/567089789>

[https://d.facebook.com/watch/?v=231162671830371&\\_rdr](https://d.facebook.com/watch/?v=231162671830371&_rdr)











# Birgir Andresson

Birgir Andr sson (b. 1955, d. 2007, Iceland) was born to blind parents and grew up in a home for the blind in Reykjavik, an experience which uniquely informed his relationship with color, form, and language. Finding subjects in his closest surroundings, Andr sson explored history and memory, as well as the spoken and written word, throughout his practice. In 2022, Birgir Andr sson's work will be the subject of a major exhibition at the Reykjavik Art Museum and a monograph will be published by DISTANZ. The artist had solo exhibitions at venues including The National Gallery of Iceland; Kunsthaus Pasquart, Biel, Switzerland; and Stadtgalerie Bern, Bern, Switzerland. In 1995, the artist represented Iceland at the Venice Biennale.

<https://vimeo.com/104096403>





**APPLAUSE**

COLOURS: 000 00000 000000 40 0000000 000000 000

**INTENSIVE APPLAUSE**

COLOURS: 000 0000 000000 000 0000000 000000 000

**PROLONGED CHEERING AND APPLAUSE**

COLOURS: 000 000000 000000 00000000 000000 000

**ENTHUSIASTIC ACCLAIM, PROLONGED  
SHOUTS OF HURRAH AND APPLAUSE**

COLOURS: 000 000000 000000 40 000000 000000 000



**dark grey bordered with white**

**COLOURS:  
ICELANDIC PANTONE 405  
ICELANDIC PANTONE 614**





# Alda Sigurðardóttir



# Einar Falur

Einar Falur Ingólfsson (1966) is an **Icelandic photographer and writer**. For over a decade he has worked on a few long-term artist's projects which have been exhibited in various forms in museums in Iceland, other European countries and the US.













5.11.2015 - 5.12.2015, vernissage: donnerstag, 5.11.2015, 18:00 uhr

# einar falur ingolfsson - sites and shelters







# Georg Gudni Hauksson (1961-2011)



From 1980 to 1985 Georg Guðni studied at the Visual Art and Handicraft College in Reykjavík and from 1985 to 1987 at the [Jan Van Eyck Academie](#) in Maastricht.

His first solo exhibition at [the Living Art Museum](#) in Reykjavik in 1985 attracted much attention, as it presented a special view of landscape painting with innovative formal and conceptual interpretation.

Georg Guðni won several awards for his work, including DV Cultural Award in 1988, he was nominated for the [Ars Fennica Award](#) in 2000 and three times he was nominated for the [Carnegie Art Award](#). He is survived by his wife, Sigrun Jónasdóttir and five children













