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Issue 01

2020

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# REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

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# THE REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE MUSIC AWARDS 2020

plus!

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FOOD



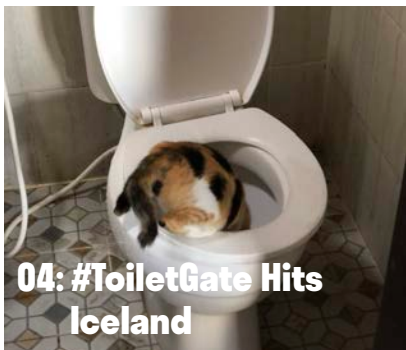


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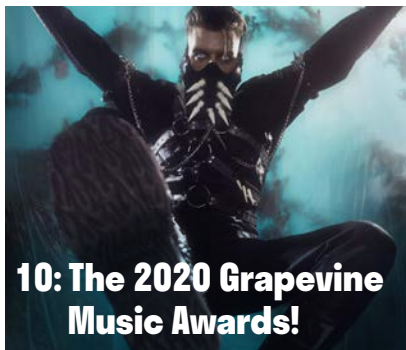
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**ABOUT THE COVER:**  
By far our biggest shoot of the last year, Magnús assembled a giant team in an artists' studio in Grandi.

# First



**04: #ToiletGate Hits Iceland**



**10: The 2020 Grapevine Music Awards!**



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Hátíðni sent their favourite dog, Charlie, to accept their award

## EDITORIAL

# From Leather-Clad Knights To A Golden Globe



The only way to describe the year in Icelandic music now behind us is "Absolutely

wild!" Earlier this year, Iceland got itself into a small international diplomatic crisis when the ultra-BDSM-dark-lords-of-the-inescapable-death-of-materialism band Hatari waved the Palestinian flag at the grotesquely pretentious and odd Eurovision Song Contest.

Apparently, it's not allowed to display state flags on Israeli TV... or is it only the Palestinian flag that can't be shown? Of course, the leather-clad knights of nihilism didn't care and made Eurovision history with their stunt. Naturally, their song,

"Hatrið mun sigra" (Hate will prevail), has been named Song of the Year by the Reykjavík Grapevine Music Awards. You can read the details about Hatari's award and all the other winners from page 10.

Another Icelandic band catching international attention in 2019 was darkwave darlings Kælan Mikla. They managed to charm legendary Cure frontman Robert Smith, with him inviting the talented trio to international festivals to play alongside the likes of The Pixies and the Deftones. We hear the young women managed to bum out those optimistic Pollyannas with their dark flair.

Anybody keeping even a cursory eye on the scene won't be surprised by the powerhouse we've named Artist of

the Year. Hildur Guðnadóttir wrote the music for the biggest cultural events of the whole world when it came to television and cinema: HBO's 'Chernobyl' miniseries and the blockbuster 'Joker.' Her talent has been racking up nominations, winning awards, and making history for women composers.

We at the Grapevine are incredibly proud of all of our musicians. Keep on rocking, and keep on surprising the world with your immense talents.

The Reykjavík Grapevine Music Awards ceremony will be held at Röntgen on January 17th. If you're brave enough, dear reader, you are cordially invited to our celebration of Icelandic music. **VG** 🍷



**Elin Elisabet** is an illustrator and cartoonist born and raised in Borgarnes. At the tender age of 15, Elin moved to Reykjavík and hasn't looked back, except for the annual springtime impulse to move someplace quiet and keep chickens. Elin likes folk music, stationery, seal videos, the country of Ireland, and eggs.



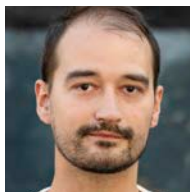
**Hannah Jane Cohen** is based out of Iceland by way of New York. She's known for her love of Willa Ford, David Foster Wallace, and other such "intellectuals." Her visionary work is known for expanding the definitions of emotion, introspection, and above all else, taste. Hannah is also the current Drag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



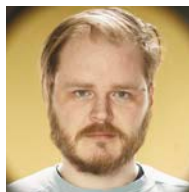
**Alexander Jean Edvard Le Sage de Fontenay** is a Reykjavík-born part-time DJ (under the pseudonym Bervit), event-planner and lover of art, creation and aesthetics. Most recent endeavors include co-producing The Grapevine's own Grassroots concerts at Húrra and LungA Art Festival's busy event schedule.



**Inês Pereira** graduated in Journalism and immediately traded the warm coast of Portugal for the icy landscapes of South Iceland. From a young age she felt she would have to write to express herself, being that she was interested in everything and great at nothing.



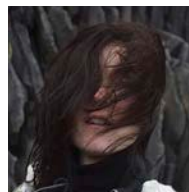
**Samuel O'Donnell** Sam is an English major from The United States. He has his Bachelor's Degree, and keeps telling himself that this is the year he will begin pursuing his Master's. In his spare time, he enjoys playing video games, writing short horror stories, listening to all kinds of metal, and reading.



**Sveinbjörn Pálsson** is our Art Director. He's responsible for the design of the magazine and the cover photography. When he's not working here, he DJs as Terrordisco, hosts the Funkpátturinn radio show, or sits at a table in a Laugardalur café, drinking copious amounts of coffee and thinking about fonts.



**Andie Fontaine** has lived in Iceland since 1999 and has been reporting since 2003. They were the first foreign-born member of the Icelandic Parliament, in 2007-08, an experience they recommend for anyone who wants to experience a workplace where colleagues work tirelessly to undermine each other.



**a rawlings** is Grapevine's literature correspondent, also covering environmental news, travel, and more. An interdisciplinary artist whose work focuses on environmental ethics, dysfluency, and watery bodies, her books include 'Wide slumber for lepidopterists' and 'Sound of Mull.'



**Josie Gaitens** is a freelance arts project coordinator, musician and writer from the Scottish Highlands. She was once erroneously referred to as the Queen of Scotland by a Malaysian newspaper and has been falsely using that title ever since.

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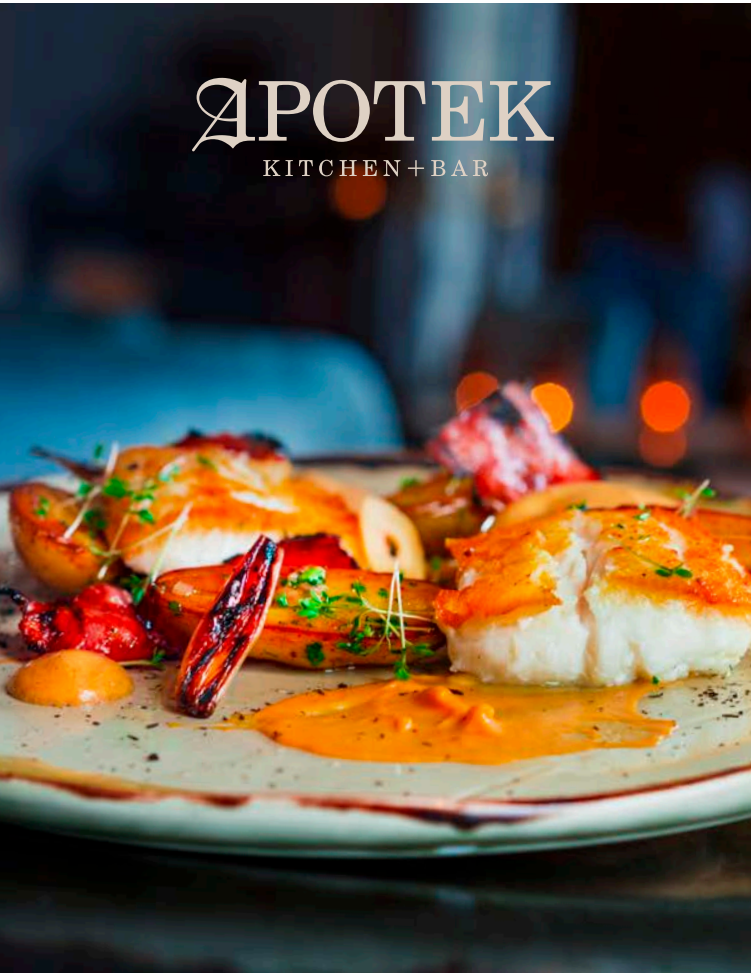
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Birgir Þórarinnsson, pictured with some libs he just triggered

## What Are Icelanders Talking About?

The headlines exploding the comments sections

Words: **Andie Fontaine** Photos: **Grapevine Art Dept.**

**NEWS** One of the weirdest attempts at igniting a social media shitstorm in 2020 came in late December, when news broke that **Reykjavík would be doing away with downtown's green UFO-looking public toilets in 2020**. The coin-operated capsules, seven in all, have cost the City of Reykjavík about 40 million ISK per year to maintain via the contractor who operates them, and long story short, the city simply chose not to renew the contract. Nonetheless, there were numerous earnest attempts at tacking this affront on to the growing list of grievances people have against the City Council majority, with lurid forecasts of the **streets running yellow with effluence**. Much could be criticised about the City Council majority; the decommissioning of seven public toilets was a weird hill to die on.

**Birgir Þórarinnsson**, an MP for the **Centre Party**, has managed to cause a small sensation, as his party is often wont to do. In a New Year's Day speech at a local church, which was then forwarded to the media, he proposed that **Iceland should only accept refugees if they're Christian**, and that Christianity should be taught in primary schools again. Birgir's great concern for the preservation of Christian values apparently does not apply to members of his own party, who were amongst those recorded speaking abusively about their female colleagues in the **Klausturgate scandal**. Perhaps Birgir should open his Bible to Matthew 7:3 before sounding off on the subject again.

The annual debate about **fire-works** got rolling again last month. Environmentalists were diligent



Scene from Reykjavík ToiletCo Boardroom, yesterday

in pointing out the tremendous amount of air pollution that fire-works generate, in the form of particulate matter and various heavy metals, including lead and chromium. Others pointed out how fireworks terrify animals. While polling showed an increase in approval for **a ban on fireworks**, this was not reflected in sales,

which stayed pretty much the same as last year.

The honeymoon might be over when it comes to Iceland as a hot tourist destination, and The Independent has joined the fray of international media outlets advising people **not to visit Iceland** on account of their being **too many tourists** here already, and because **the country is expensive**. This is a refrain we've been hearing for years now, though, yet many people still come to the country each day. That

said, hotel bookings have been on the decline, as have Airbnb listings, so where all these people are staying is anyone's guess. 🍷



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Frozen 3

# Company Leads Tourists On Snowmobile Tour On A Glacier, Requiring Rescue From Storm

39 tourists saved from grave danger on Langjökull

NEWS

Words:  
Andie Fontaine

Photos:  
Landsbjörg

39 tourists, including several children, needed to be rescued from atop Langjökull glacier on January 7th, RÚV reports, when their snowmobile tour was caught in a storm. Several of them have reportedly sustained injuries from frostbite, and a meteorologist tells reporters that a severe weather

warning was issued long before the tour began. Police are now investigating the matter. About 200 rescue workers hurried to the scene when the distress call was made just before 22:00 in the evening. It took great effort to locate and transport the unfortunate travellers to shel-

ter, and the rescue effort was further complicated by very poor visibility and many closed roads in the area.

Storm warning

While there were thankfully no casualties, some of those rescued suffered from frostbite on their fingers, and one woman needed to be transported to hospital. They had reportedly been on the glacier for several hours. Elín Björk Jónasdóttir, a meteorologist at the Icelandic Met Office, told reporters that the tour company in question, Mountaineers of Iceland, should have been well aware that weather conditions were going to get worse. As reported, news of an impending storm was sent out earlier in the morning, and by midday, flights and bus service had been cancelled.

Déjà vu

This is not the first time Mountaineers of Iceland has been in the news for reported mismanagement of a snowmobile tour. Last January, an Australian couple sued the company for allegedly abandoning them on Langjökull and leaving them trapped in a storm for seven hours. A reporter for Fréttablaðið attempted to get a comment from Mountaineers of Iceland, and were told by tour guide Ólafur Tryggvason that they were “looking into the issue” but otherwise had nothing to say. The reporter made several more attempts to call the company before being told by Ólafur to “shut the hell up.” Fréttablaðið also reports that South Iceland police have been interviewing people as they were being rescued, and the matter is being investigated.

ASK A

## Professor

Q: Why Are Casinos Illegal In Iceland?



Daniel Þór Ólason, Professor of Psychology at the University Of Iceland, is the preeminent expert on the science and history of gambling in Iceland. Here, he explains why you'll never need to learn card counting in Iceland. At the beginning of the last century, Icelanders were participating in foreign lotteries, causing the authorities concerns about a flow of capital leaving the country. This led to the country's first gambling law in 1926, which stated that any gambling operation in Iceland was illegal without specific permission and that any participation in foreign lotteries was also illegal. However, a discussion led in Congress in 1933 permitted the University of Iceland to start operating a monthly lottery. Since 1933, only five other licenses for gambling operation have been issued, each by a specific law that specifies the type of gambling allowed for each license. Iceland's policy for gambling could, therefore, best be described as a licensed based monopoly system where certain non-governmental institutions or charities are licensed to operate certain types of gambling to fund their organization. Thus, the legal gambling market today consists of three-monthly lotteries, EGMs (electronic gambling machines), scratch cards, National Lotto, Viking Lotto, Euro jackpot and sports pools. Casinos are, however, not permitted in Iceland, and any forms of organized betting on card games (e.g., poker) including internet gaming (casino games) is illegal. The most probable reason for this is a concern that increased participation in casino games could lead to an increase in problem gambling.

FOOD OF ICELAND

# Malt & Appelsín

You would think that preparing a simple mixed Christmas drink would be banal, but when it comes to preparing Icelanders' favourite Christmas concoction, your life and reputation just might depend on your Malt og Appelsín mixology. But first, what are Malt and Appelsín, the dual ingredients in Iceland's traditional Jólaöl (Christmas ale)? Malt is an old Icelandic drink that we started brewing yearly around 1915. If you can imagine a slightly sweet, non-alcoholic Guinness, then you're close. For decades, the drink was quite expensive, which resulted in the tendency to mix it with other

drinks to make it last a little bit longer. Enter Appelsín, an Icelandic orange soda that Ölgerðin, the biggest brewery in Iceland, began manufacturing in 1955. Icelanders quickly learned that the result of combining sweet Appelsín and heady Malt resulted in a tasty Christmas ale. Now we get to the controversial part: How one combines these drinks is nothing less than a religious custom. Every year, it must be the same family member that takes on this great responsibility—and they better not mess it up if they want to

keep their family membership. For hardcore believers, the perfect blend is 60% Malt and 40% Appelsín, while others swear by a clean 50/50 mix. Be mindful of with whom you discuss the sacred ratio, as the conversation could easily lead to banishment from Icelandic society or a good old fistfight. There are outliers in Icelandic society when it comes to the Jólaöl. Some nonconformists preach a blend of 50% Malt and 30% Appelsín, with Coca Cola making up the difference. In the past, there were even some idiots who preferred Pepsi over Coke, but the Yule Cat hunted them

all down and rid the country of such heresy. So there you are, Malt og Appelsín: The drink that could literally ruin your reputation and status (perhaps your whole life). Enjoy. VG



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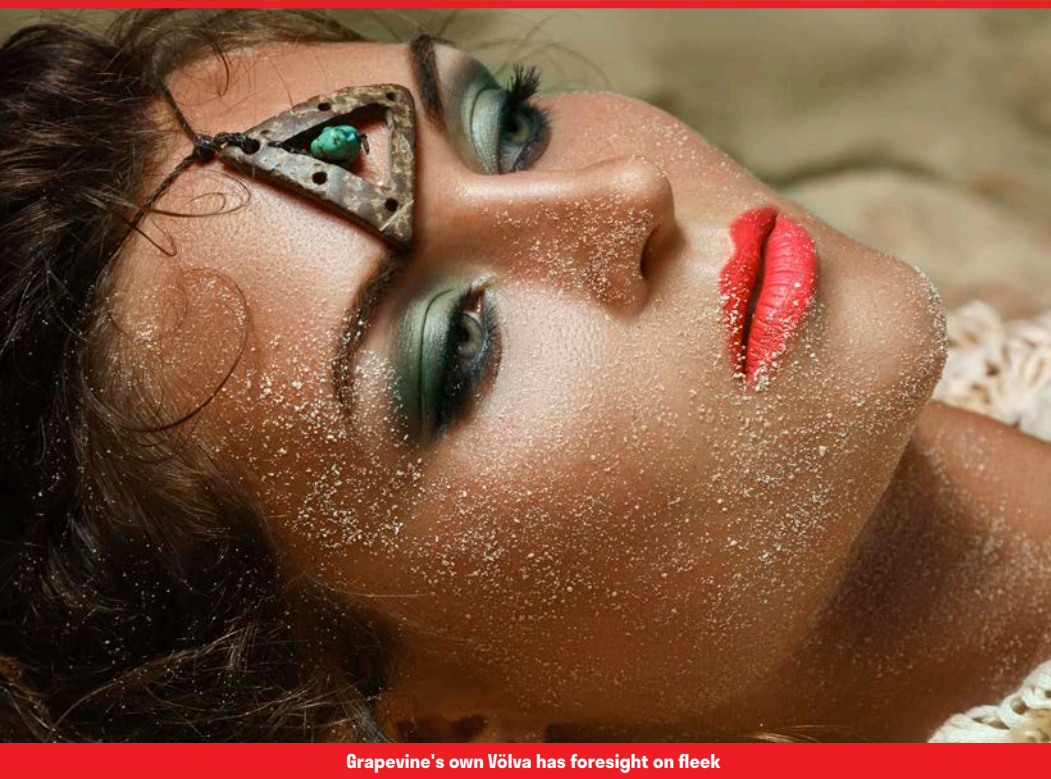
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Grapevine's own Völva has foresight on fleek

# Völvuspá

From doom prophet of yore to fortune teller of next year's gossip

**ICELANDIC SUPERSTITIONS**  
  
Words: **Andie Fontaine**  
  
Photo: **Adobe Stock**

Few Icelandic cultural constructs have undergone as much change as the Völvuspá. Which stands to reason, given that it's a concept that's been around since at least the 10th century. While Icelandic might have changed very little over this period of time, what a Völvuspá is has changed so

much that today's version is essentially a completely different thing from what it was in the Settlement Period. The original Völvuspá is the first poem of the Poetic Edda. Its name can be loosely translated as "the prediction of the seeress," and is for very good reason probably the most popu-

"Its name can be loosely translated as 'the prediction of the seeress,' and is for very good reason probably the most popular poem in the Poetic Eddas."



## JUST SAYINGS

When it comes to cats, historically, Icelanders are not fans. We have the brutal Yule Cat that eats poor children around Christmas and the monster Skuggabaldur (you could translate it as "the burden of the shadow"), the nasry spawn of a cat and a fox that cannot be killed with a gun. The saying "varla upp í nös á ketti" translates to "This is hardly enough to fit it in the nose of a cat," and means that you have such a limited amount of something, you couldn't stuff the freaking cat with it. It's a negative thing to say and often used in Icelandic when you're unhappy with portion sizes. But, keep in mind, anything you have will probably fit up the snout of Skuggabaldur, and that "it" is probably you. So, run! **VG**

“Varla upp í nös á ketti”

## COMIC



**Bjarki - Psychotic Window**  
Bjarki is truly a busy guy. He released the EP 'Psychotic Window' in December 2019, following up on the success of his brilliant album, 'Happy Earthday', which dropped in February. The new album is as diverse as its predecessor, perhaps skewing a little bit darker. The soundscape is as unique as ever, giving listeners the sense that this guy hasn't just evolved as a musician, he is close to achieving some kind of an Electro Nirvana. **VG**

**Jóipé x Kröli - Geimvera**  
"Geimvera" the Icelandic word for "Alien" is a great addition to this new stoner wave of Icelandic pc hip-hop, with a dash of R&B sexiness. I know, I know, it sounds like these words were randomly selected but I can only make sense of how good it sounds by adjectivizing with all the words I like. **IP**

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# THE REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE MUSIC AWARDS 2020

Organised by: **Hannah Jane Cohen**  
Photos: **Magnús Andersen**

## The Reykjavík Grapevine Music Awards Panel:

**Hannah Jane Cohen**,  
Chairman of the Panel &  
Grapevine's Culture Editor

**Alexander Jean Edvard Le Sage De Fontenay**,  
Music Journalist

**Geoffrey Huntington-Williams**,  
Co-Owner of Prikið and  
Founder of Sticky Plötuútgáfa

**Sigtryggur Baldursson**,  
Managing Director  
of Iceland Music

**Maria-Carmela Raso**,  
Concert Curator & MSEA

**Anna Gyða Sigurgísladóttir**,  
Radio Personality at RÚV

# A Year Like No Other

ARTIST OF THE YEAR,  
**HILDUR GUÐNADÓTTIR**  
TALKS TO US ABOUT  
INSPIRATION, #METOO  
AND THE ART OF TELL-  
ING A STORY.

Words: **Josie Gaitens**

ARTIST OF THE YEAR:  
**HILDUR GUÐNADÓTTIR**

"Yeah, how do I explain it?" composer Hildur Guðnadóttir ponders aloud over the phone. She's currently in Berlin, sitting in her studio. "This year, just by complete accident, both projects that I worked on—the reception of them—went beyond my wildest dreams. It's been quite incredible."

The projects in question are two soundtracks: one for the HBO mini-series 'Chernobyl' and the second for the Warner Brothers film 'Joker'. Calling each work "acclaimed" would be an understatement—'Chernobyl' won Hildur an Emmy award and is currently nominated for a Grammy, while 'Joker' nabbed a Golden Globe and is a favourite to take home an Academy Award.

## NO EGO

That said, the two soundtracks could not be more stylistically different. For 'Chernobyl,' Hildur, a classically trained cellist, gave her instrument a break and created a score almost entirely composed of non-instrumental sounds, most of which were recorded by Hildur inside an actual nuclear power plant.

"When you're doing film music you have to put your ego aside and be a servant of the story that's being told," she explains, referring to this non-traditional approach. "So even though I'm normally more comfortable with an instrument, I just felt that the story needed something else," she says. "It was quite an easy decision to make."

## SYMBIOTIC SOUNDS

For 'Joker,' Hildur found her sound in the darkest depths of Arthur Fleck's character. "The strongest moments of intense inspiration hit me after reading the script," she explains. "When I first found his notes, it hit me like lightning in my chest. That was my way into his head and into what I felt like he wanted to say."

This resulted in an intensely symbiotic relationship between the music, acting and direction in the film. Hildur

wrote pieces for 'Joker' before filming even started, which director Todd Phillips played on set while filming. Hildur's work, therefore, became a literal soundtrack to the creation of the whole movie.

"The music ended up influencing the performances, the cinematography and the whole pacing of the film. So much so that in scenes like the bathroom dance, that's [Joaquin Phoenix's] actual response to the music that you hear in the film," Hildur explains, with palpable wonderment in her voice. "When they sent me the scene, I just saw Joaquin responding to this music in exactly the same way in which I had felt it when I first wrote it. We had never exchanged a word. It was such a magical process."

## GIVING AN EXAMPLE

The critical acclaim and widespread media attention that both projects received have thrust Hildur into the spotlight, a position that she doesn't seem fully comfortable inhabiting. "It's quite exposing," she admits. But she also hopes to use this platform to encourage other women to join an industry still dominated by men. She believes the situation is moving in a positive direction, but still has a long way to go.

"I felt a big change after #MeToo. The film music world was definitely more aware of the lack of women in the industry and the numbers say it all. Even last year, it was only around 1% of the 500 biggest grossing films had music written by women, so the numbers are just preposterously low," she explains. "But I think the best way to change that is just to show up and do the work and just give an example, both to the industry and to younger women."

Hildur's Golden Globe win in early January made history in this regard, as she became the first solo woman to win for Best Score.

## BACK TO BASICS

This year will prove to be another busy and varied one for the composer, but in quite a different way from the previous. "I'm taking a little bit of a film break," she admits. "I've had such an unusually extroverted year, it really feels like it's time to go back into my cave."

Instead, Hildur will inhabit other areas of the art world. This month sees the launch of a new exhibition with Ólafur Eliasson, in which Hildur excitedly relays there will be, "a robot playing cello!" Fans can also look forward to the release of a new album.

But whatever project Hildur takes on next, you can bet on it being adventurous and thrilling. "I feel a sense of urgency in almost all that work that I create," she laughs infectiously. "I'm someone who doesn't really do things halfway."



Photo: **Timothée Lambrecq**

"You have to put your ego aside and be a servant of the story that's being told."



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ALBUM OF THE YEAR:  
**'SERMON' BY UNE MISÈRE**

**“A sermon is a form of celebration.”**

2019 was a banner year for metal quintet Une Misère. Record label Nuclear Blast signed them in January, the same month they released their first single ‘Damages.’ In November, they dropped their debut album ‘Sermon,’ which found its way onto essentially every metalhead’s albums of the year list. Now, it has earned them the Grapevine Album of the Year, and for good reason—each track is a well-polished anthem to misery.

## CELEBRATING MISERY

But why ‘Sermon’? “A sermon is a form of celebration,” vocalist Jón Már Ásbjörnsson explains. When Jón conceived the title, he envisioned one of those megachurches where

the minister flies in on a private jet, preaching to a massive crowd about how life is great. “I thought, ‘yeah, that’s proper bullshit,’” he says, laughing. So instead, the band took the idea and inverted it. “[‘Sermon’] is a celebration of misery,” he concludes.

The group may joke about the origins of the album title, but for Jón, every moment of ‘Sermon’ is an intimate one. “The album is written about my times of addiction where I didn’t feel. And I wished I could feel,” he says. “Then I got clean, and I started feeling, and it was awful, but I was still feeling.”

## DON’T FORGET PAIN

While the album centers around Jón’s journey to sobriety, each member has their own emotional attachment to

certain songs. “For the impact factor, the beauty, the anger, for everything packed into one song, for me, it has to be ‘Fallen Eyes,’” says guitarist Fannar. “That one song is every single song on the album.”

The band’s drummer, Benni, zeroes in on the track ‘Burdened/Suffering’. “When we were recording, I finished it last. It was pretty great to finish it, and to feel like the sermon is done.” To him, the song encapsulates everything they’re trying to do as a band, and pays homage to their biggest influences. “I feel like we captured something that we really wanted to in that song,” he says.

Jón’s favourite tracks are either ‘Sin & Guilt’ or ‘Voiceless’. The lyrics for ‘Voiceless’ are about veganism, about which he is very passionate, but ‘Sin & Guilt,’ he explains, is more personal.

“Don’t let me forget my pain,” he says, referencing a lyric of the song. “No matter if someone hurts you or you hurt someone, it’s your pain. I don’t wanna forget that.”

## 2020 VISION

If 2019 was the year Une Misère claimed their metal throne, 2020 will be the first year of their reign. “We’re gonna be really fucking busy in 2020,” Jón says. “A lot of stuff we can’t talk about yet, but the things we can talk about we are really excited about.”

“But we are still recording and rehearsing new music,” Benni interjects. “So it’s just a matter of time until we enter the studio again and do something new.”

Words:  
**Sam O’Donnell**



# THE REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE MUSIC AWARDS 2020

Words: Josie Gaitens

While 2018 saw the release of their breakthrough effort 'Nótt eftir nótt,' it was 2019 that cemented Kælan Mikla as bonafide international goth sensations. The dark wave, post-punk trio burst onto the world stage in 2019, with their first ever North American tour, as well as numerous European dates and some really serious festival slots. Back in Iceland for a brief break before the madness resumes, the trio sat down to reminisce on the past 12 mystical months.

## TOO MANY TO COUNT

"It's hard to keep track," bassist Margrét Rósa Dóru-Harrýsdóttir admits when asked about what they've been up to. "We played Eurosonic in January (2019). We played a lot of festivals. We finished a headline tour around Europe and then did a United States tour up to Canada. We also played in the middle of Russia." She pauses and trails off—there's clearly too much to remember. "Ok, a lot of dates!"

While previous years had seen the young women play to big crowds abroad, most notably in 2018 when The Cure frontman Robert Smith booked them to play two high profile gigs,

2019 brought about an even bigger and broader reach for the band.

"We played at a festival in the middle of Russia, close to the border of Kazakhstan, a city called Perm," synthesizer player Sólveig Matthildur Kristjánsdóttir explains. "It was a really different place and there was a huge crowd there. I was like, 'What? There are people who listen to us here?'" she laughs. "It was so fun."

## PURE INSANITY

Robert Smith's patronage also brought them onstage with some of their idols last year. In the summer, he invited them to play at the exclusive Pasadena Daydream Festival in California, which The Cure were both headlining and curating. With only eight other bands on the programme, including scene giants The Pixies and The Deftones, it was no doubt a highlight for the artists. "To be in a lineup of only eight bands and to be one of those huge names, it was insane," Sólveig emphasises.

But the girls are equally fond of their recent Iceland Airwaves performance, which gave them a rare chance to play to their home crowd. "There were so many people from Iceland who haven't seen us for so long and it's fun to know they can see our growth," Margrét explains. "We've been really focusing on getting our music out there and performing a lot abroad. When finally we got to play this gig at Iceland Airwaves, it was really rewarding," Sólveig agrees.

## TOURING TRIALS

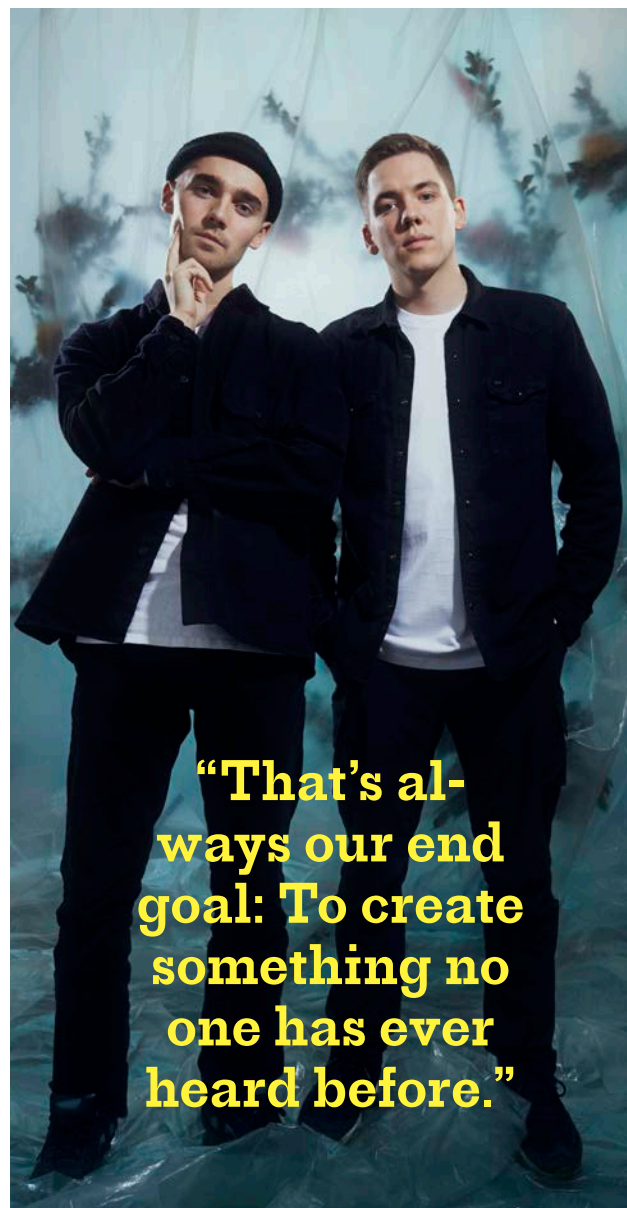
But touring, of course, doesn't come without challenges. "The main way



we cope with everything is that we are all best friends and we take care of each other," says vocalist Laufey Soffia "Everyone goes out of their way and that's how we stay strong together."

Now, the three have their collective sights focused on the future, supporting Alcest on a big European tour planned for February and a bunch of festival slots still to be announced. "We have a really exciting year ahead," says Margrét. "Just as busy as last year—even busier!"

**"We are all best friends and we take care of each other."**



**"That's always our end goal: To create something no one has ever heard before."**

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen

Producers Bjarki Sigurðarson and Teitur Helgi Skúlason could best be described as low-key. In person, the duo—which works under the moniker Ra:tio—exemplifies the word "chill." At first meeting, you'd never guess that every album the two have touched has blown up, and as they stand, they're probably the most talked-about production team in the country. Calling them One To Watch even feels insufficient—so let's revise that, they're One To Follow.

## PURE ENERGY

The duo burst onto the scene in 2018 with their debut release, GDRN's 'Hvað ef.' The album, which actually won the 2019 Grapevine Album Of The Year, was one of the biggest Icelandic releases that year—if not the biggest—and cemented GDRN as one of the foremost singers in the country.

Both Bjarki and Teitur are remarkably modest about their involvement. "It was funny because we didn't have any expectations. We were both making our first records," Teitur explains. "We had no idea what we were doing, but we had this critical voice in our heads, so we just chose the right types of songs that fit. It's a weird energy—hopeful but not serious."

Whatever that critical voice was, it

worked, and from there, they moved onto a hugely popular collaboration with ClubDub. "ClubDub had this mentality straight from the start that as long as they had fun and we had fun in the studio, nothing else mattered," Bjarki says. "That gave us freedom to try whatever we wanted," Teitur adds. The two subsequently began to expand their sound into more club pop territory. "We shifted the focus. It was a fun period."

This year, they released 'energy' by una schram, an R&B songstress and one of the most talked-about newbies on the Icelandic scene. "Una would come to us with written songs. She knew exactly how she wanted to sing the melody and had the lyrics done," Teitur explains. Both artists were impressed by her professionalism. "I really admire her songwriting abilities," Bjarki agrees. "She is so talented and promising. I can't wait to see what she does next."

## COHESIVE COLLABORATION

The pair often seem more like brothers than creative partners. They exist on the same wavelength, anticipating each other's stream of consciousness and often finishing each other's thoughts. Perhaps it's this cohesion that has allowed them to produce such seamless work.

## ONE TO WATCH: RA:TIO

"Bjarki is a big picture guy. He has a musical brain. He always knows what direction the song is supposed to go in." Teitur says, when asked about their working style. "And he's a fun guy to be around. He's always in a good mood."

At that, Bjarki smiles. "I mean, Teitur is just my best friend," he responds, simply. "We connect on the fact that we're both really big perfectionists. Everything has to be right, but we complement each other's weaknesses. We always try and find what could go better in demos of beats. He's also super creative and can always resolve an issue. And again, like I said before, he's an all-around great guy and my best friend."

Teitur returns his smile. "Thanks."

## THE END GOAL

In 2020, the duo plans to expand their horizons. "We're not working on one album. We're doing sessions with a lot more artists," Bjarki explains. "Making one song with each—trying to spread out a little more. It's been fun because we've always been focused on one project for many months, but now we're meeting new people everyday."

Teitur nods, adding, "we're just trying to explore more and develop our sound into something new. That's always our end goal: To create something no one has ever heard before."

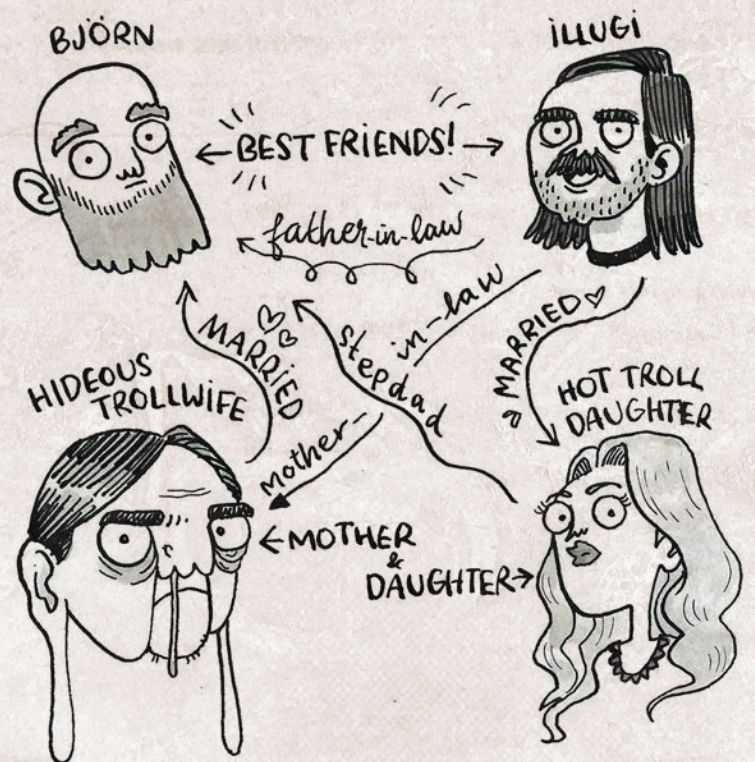


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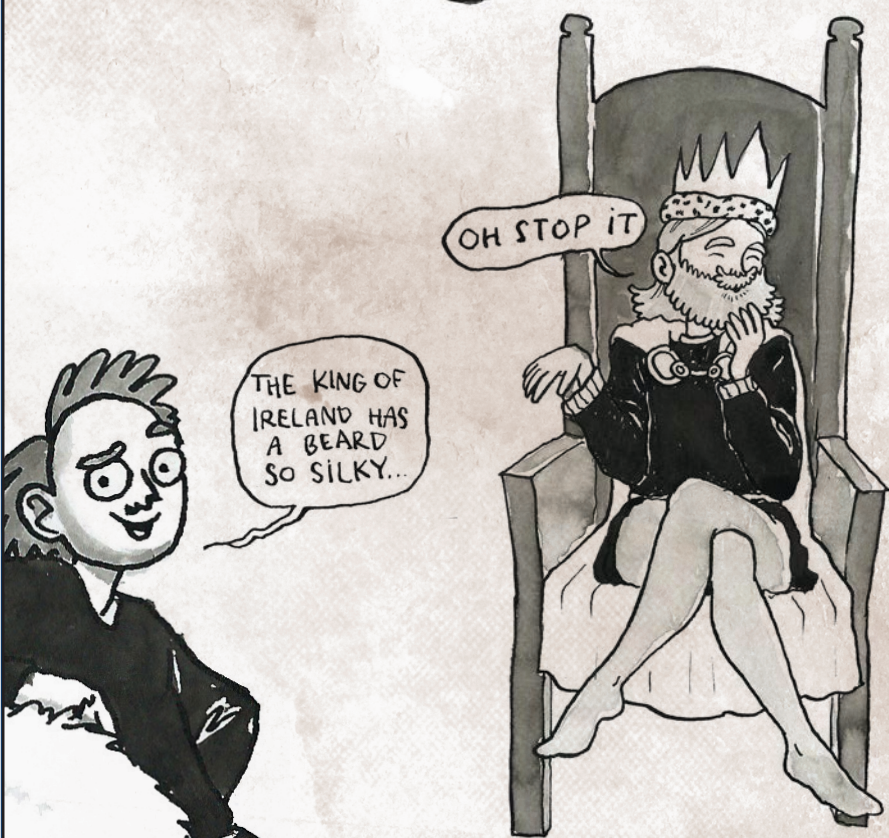
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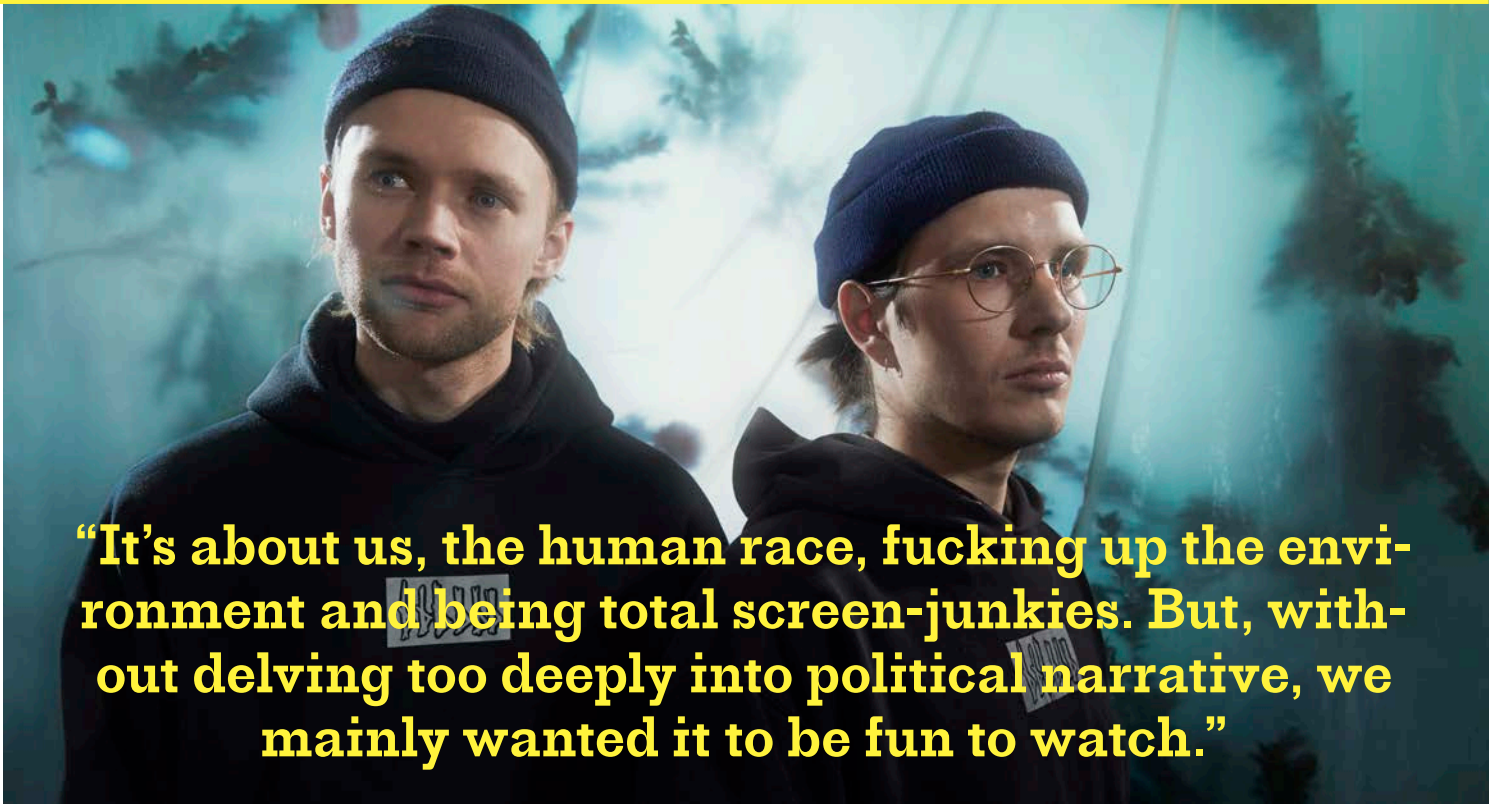
BEST VIDEO: BJARKI  
- 'ANA5'  
PRODUCED BY  
VIDEO1

For his 2018 Sónar Reykjavík set, Bjarki reached out to friends Daniel Heims-son and Baldvin Vernharðsson to collaborate on the audio-visual aspects of the performance. The result of this fateful partnership was a true feast for the senses. It also resulted in Daniel and Baldvin teaming up to form a new video art duo, Video1. The two would later reconnect with Bjarki to direct and produce the music video for 'ANa5,' from the electronic kingpin's February release 'Happy Earthday'. That video has been crowned the Grapevine's Music Video Of The Year.

SPINNING HEADS  
& WEIRD FACES

Bjarki originally approached just Daniel for help with his Sónar set. "I got Baldvin involved and it really kicked-off from there. The two of us have worked together for years in film-making," Daniel explains. "We came up with this idea of using mannequins onstage, replacing their heads with tube TVs showing videos of spinning heads and weird faces."

The visuals were memorable, and Bjarki subsequently gave Video1 a lot of creative freedom when they reconvened for 'ANa5.' The video was shot over a period of three days preceding a lengthy post-production period in collaboration with motion-designer Gabriel Bachmann and cinematographer Brynneir Vattnes.



**"It's about us, the human race, fucking up the environment and being total screen-junkies. But, without delving too deeply into political narrative, we mainly wanted it to be fun to watch."**

"I told Daniel what I was thinking and he made it reality," Bjarki says of the process. "He is the kind of guy that when he doesn't know how to do something, he'll use the opportunity to learn how to do it."

PLANTING SEEDS

For Bjarki, the song is meant to reflect on environmental issues, but the video adds another dimension to that theme. "There are so many added layers in this video that I notice with every watch," he explains. In the video, mannequins zoom across Icelandic nature to get to a cave where they are reunited with their offspring. They then take part in

a mating ritual to plant seeds for a new generation.

"It's about us, the human race, fucking up the environment and being total screen-junkies," Baldvin explains. "But, without delving too deeply into political narrative, we mainly wanted it to be fun to watch." Daniel agrees. "We were inspired by classic sci-fi films," he adds. "We wanted it to be glitchy, weird and have DIY style effects meant to appear a bit unrealistic."

EVERYTHING  
CAN HAPPEN

Bjarki was not expecting the 'ANa5' video to receive an award. "The main

reward for me is to be able to work with my friends and enjoy our imagination together," he says. "It got less attention than we expected, but the reaction has been really good," Daniel adds.

Currently, Bjarki has no official plans for any events or parties in Iceland anytime soon, but, as he says, "Everything can happen!"

On the Video1 front, Daniel explains they are always looking to do something new. "Working with Bjarki is always exciting. We would like to do something with other artists if they are ready to take on bold creative projects of any kind," concludes Baldvin. "As long as it's fun!"

Words: Alexander  
Jean de Fontenay



**"It's nice to think 'this is fun, I'm going to do it.' I want to do more of that: follow the fun."**

YOU SHOULD HAVE HEARD THIS: K.ÓLA

Words: Freya Dinesen

Katrín Helga Ólafsdóttir has a natural flair. Her ineffable style and irrefutable talents traverse a vast array of influences to create an intriguing amalgamation of structures, instrumentations and tones, with candid and perceptive lyrics at their foundation. Already an underground icon as the lead singer of dream-punk band Milkhouse, Katrín wanted to explore new territories with her solo project, and it seemed only natural to extend her short-hand artist signature as a moniker for her music: K.óla.

WATER GLASSES  
& LANGUAGES

From playing water glasses to composing for strings, Katrín is known for her exploratory approach to music, although her composition studies at the Iceland University of the Arts don't necessarily confine her to traditional methods.

"It's interesting to know how to do a lot of stuff, even if you don't use it every day," she explains. "It's like learning a language and never speaking it, but you still know it. It can help you sometimes when you need it—if you're lost and need directions."

CREATIVE POLITICS

K.óla's most recent record, 'Allt verður alltíla', showcases this experimental pop prowess. The album is a heartfelt, catchy, seven song melange of genres that took the Icelandic indie scene by storm in 2019, culminating in her winning a Kraumur award at the end of the year.

Picking up where her album left off, her new single, 'Plastprinsessan vaknar', is a slow-burning ballad encom-

passed with sustained bells and strings, poised to explore the negative spectrum of human impact and emotion as 'the plastic princess awakens.'

"I think it's more political... the lyrics of being a plastic princess," Katrín reflects. "It's from the perspective of feeling like a super-villain by being a human because we're destroying everything around us, and you can't do anything but take part in it."

It's a serious topic, but one that Katrín hopes to keep entertaining. "I think you can tell the most important stuff with humour. People will listen more if they're laughing," she continues. "What I want to do in the future, I guess, is a mixture of both being silly and still having a point."

FOLLOW THE FUN

Despite achieving one goal after another, and having a new album on the horizon, Katrín is hard on herself, and her thoughts often veer to the self-critical.

"Just when I'm finishing [something]—in the final 10 metres of the marathon—I start to doubt everything and think 'Why should I release this? Is this good enough? Why was I doing this?'" she explains. "It is weird to be making this new album that is very different, and the only thing I can do is just hope people will like it because it's not what they would expect."

To navigate these challenges and find her confidence, Katrín focuses on having fun. "There are so many pressures, from being in school or being in a group of friends," she says. "Everybody is doing this and that and you kind of feel like you have to be able to do it. It's nice to think 'this is fun, I'm going to do it.' I really want to do more of that: follow the fun."



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**“Live TV is a powerful thing, especially when there are people watching.”**

### SONG OF THE YEAR: ‘HATRIÐ MUN SIGRA’ BY HATARI

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen

One couch. Three banners. Seven seconds of live television. And with that, the leather-clad doomsday anticapitalist BDSM water-hawking scam artist tycoons—we could go on—Hatari, made history under their mantra of “Hatrið mun sigra,” as they brought the world’s attention to Israel’s illegal occupation of Palestine at the 2019 Eurovision Song Contest.

#### PALESTINE

“We had a couple of banners. Matthías put one in his pants, but I just put them in my bag,” vocalist Klemens Hannigan remembers, discussing the lead up to their on-screen protest. “There was a security check before going into the ‘bubble,’ or the backstage, but no one ever checked my bag.”

He laughs, almost incredulously—apparently it’s a lot easier to pull an international political stunt than you’d think—and is quickly joined by the aforementioned vocalist Matthías Tryggvi Haraldsson.

“I think if they would have checked the bag we would have been in trouble. It wasn’t a very good strategy,” Matthías admits. His voice, a low baritone, is so deadpan that it’s often difficult

to tell whether he’s being serious, sarcastic, or sardonic. “We could have maybe discussed the flag-smuggling-strategy beforehand,” he adds, slightly smirking.

#### HYPOCRISY & LIVE TV

Regardless, the band’s non-strategy worked, and when given their Eurovision moment on live television during the voting, Matthías held up a banner in the Palestinian colours while Klemens gave two peace signs behind it. The visual became iconic and the global reaction instantaneous.

“The first thing that happened is just this frantic booing from thousands of people. 8,000 people just releasing their anger,” Matthías relays. At the same time, security guards confiscated the banners.

“It goes to show the power of live TV is just so insane,” he says. “We had been bringing up topics related to Palestine for weeks in interviews but it didn’t carry the weight until seconds on live TV. That was it for so many people. For us, it was the whole thing. Live TV is a powerful thing, especially when there are people watching.”

For Matthías, Eurovision’s response, most of all, revealed some stark hypocrisies. “We found

it strange that, from a Eurovision rules perspective, there were all kinds of flags being waved,” he explains. “We waved the trans flag and the pride flag. There were Norwegians waving the Sami flag, which is a very political thing to do. So why is this where the rules are broken? Obviously, in the context, it carries so much weight, but hopefully, sometime in the future, it won’t.” He pauses. “One state. Two state. No state.”

#### EUROPE WILL CRUMBLE

While their Eurovision entry might be what Hatari is most known for the months following have proved that the band is anything but a one-note gimmick, and the year ahead is shaping up to cement their legacy.

“We’re sending in another song,” Klemens says simply, his face blank, when asked about Hatari’s plans for 2020. Then he grins. “No, we’re not. We’re releasing an album. We’re going on tour, Europe Will Crumble.” Matthías nods. He pauses; the smirk slowly re-emerging on his face. “Where we will observe the crumbling of Europe along with our guests.”



## SHOUT OUT: HÁTIÐNI

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen

In 2017, Post-dreifing member Snæbjörn Helgi Arnason Jack wanted to have a party, but his tiny, fruit fly-filled basement apartment proved to not be the most auspicious venue. Solution? Rent a community centre in the countryside, grab some friends, invite a few bands, and have fun.

“It ended up that only the bands showed up with a few people,” Snæbjörn reminisces, laughing. Nevertheless, it was at the fateful January soir  e where the seeds were planted that would eventually flourish into the H  ti  ni festival. In July 2019, the second iteration of the festival hosted a crowd of 300 in Bor  eyri, cementing the Post-dreifing crew as party role models.

### TEAM D.I.T.

The beauty of H  ti  ni—and the reason it garnered a Grapevine Music Awards Shout Out—comes from the modus operandi of the festival and of the Post-dreifing collective itself: Do It Together (D.I.T.).

“The way we view this festival is the same way we view every show, which is that the people are not just a passive audience but are active participants in the event,” explains fellow Post-dreifing-er Bjarni D  niel. “Everyone takes part. Random guests were doing the rounds in the campsites picking up trash or helping in the kitchen. Even though the music is great and the creative aspect is super important to all of us, the most impor-



tant part is the community we’ve created collectively. That is what people will remember.”

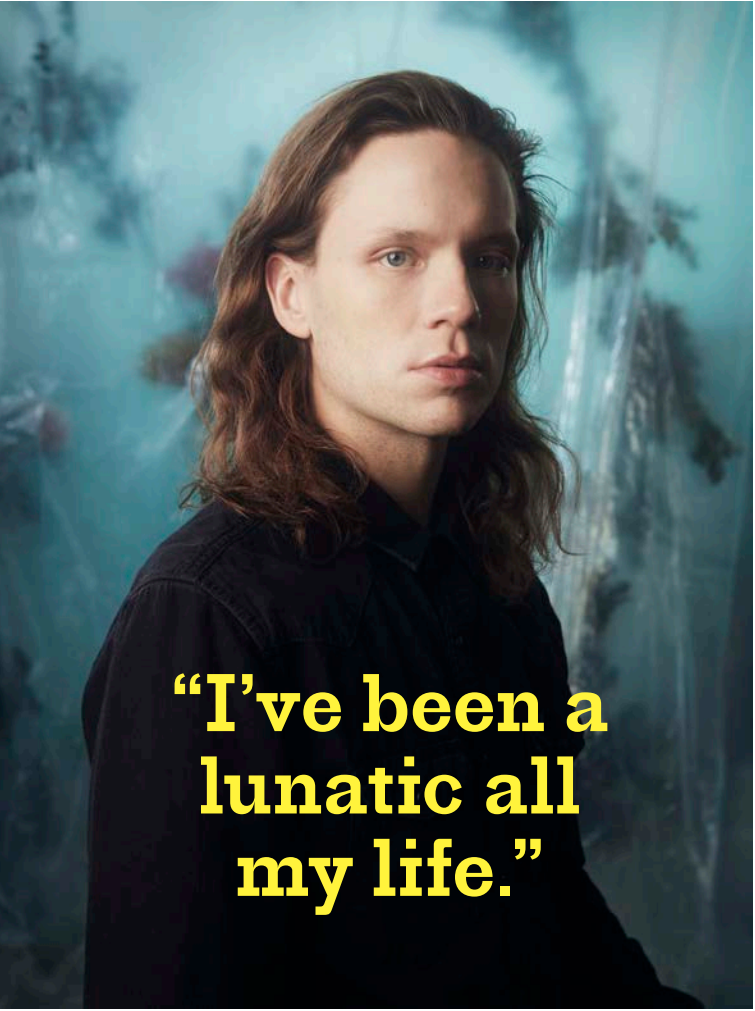
### COFFEE?

The other pinnacles of H  ti  ni are safeness and inclusivity. It’s an all-ages festival for those of all incomes. While the ticket price was approximately 3,000 ISK, no one was turned away for being unable to pay. In fact, many chose to give more. Others resorted to, well, more creative means.

“A group of teenagers showed up from a nearby town. They only had coffee and were like, ‘We heard

you needed coffee and we were wondering if we could use this to get into the festival,’” another member of the collective,   rlygur Steinar Arnalds, adds, laughing. “So then we had some coffee. It was a nice moment.”

“I’m getting goosebumps!” Sn  bj  rn says, thinking back to the many wholesome moments of the festival. He emphasises that while Post-dreifing did make some mistakes this iteration, they’re still learning, and hope that H  ti  ni 2020 will be even better. “We want to be party role-models,” he concludes, though from where we’re sitting it seems they already are.



Words: In  s Pereira

When two seemingly opposite interests combine, the result is something out of this world. This year, programmer and musician Halld  r Eldj  rn—together with the help of his trusted computer and NASA’s infinite media library—gave us ‘Poco Apollo.’ To make the experimental album, the artist created a programming system that transformed pictures

of the moon into musical notes, tones, and chords. The end result is Halld  r’s interpretation of the sound of the moon.

### MACHINE FEELINGS

“The system analyzes each image and looks for hardpoints in the picture,” Halld  r explains. “So if there are certain changes in texture or colour, then the algorithm will

## SHOUT OUT: HALLD  R ELDJ  RN

set a point there.” The goal is then, as he emphasises, to “get the feelings out of the machine.”

“I’ve been a lunatic all my life,” he confesses, referring to his fascination by all things moon-related. This obsession led to him combing through NASA’s archives, where he became especially passionate about the release of the Apollo manned lunar landing mission photos in 2015. “It was so fascinating when they released this library online of all the photos,” he says. “I always felt a really strong connection [to the moon landing], so getting to dive into the library of never-before-seen pictures was really fun for me.”

### SHOOT FOR THE MOON

Halld  r admits to being a nostalgic person, he ties his nostalgia especially to the 1969 moon landing and the movie “Apollo 13”, which he watched almost daily when he was a child. It was also at a young age that he started to dream of setting his own foot on Earth’s only natural satellite, he confesses to having not given up on the journey, promising to give the Grapevine the streaming right when he does.

In 2020, Halld  r will participate in Reykjav  k’s annual Design-March, where he will be working with generative plants in the basement of   smundarsalur. In the music department, he is planning to play some more gigs and continue working on a new album.



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Haven't you always wanted to be a Golden Girl?

# Hey Tourist, This Is How You Support Iceland

Souvenirs that will get you laid

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen & Valur Grettisson Photo: Art Bicnick

Everyone and their mother leaves Iceland with some Brennivín, lakrís, a stuffed puffin, lopapeysa and a 66°NORTH hat. And don't get us wrong, those are great, but for those looking for some deep cuts on the souvenir/gift scale, here are the Grapevine's picks.



RAX's 'JÖKULL'

Bookstores in Reykjavík & Geysir

Yeah, trekking onto Sólheimajökull is great and all, but that memory will only last until your dementia kicks in. To get a true glacial experience that'll last a lifetime, pick up Ragnar Axelsson's stunning photo book 'JÖKULL' ('Glacier'). The 200-page book features ethereal, eerie, and intimate portraits of the glacial landscape taken over a 5-year timespan. Some are aerial views,

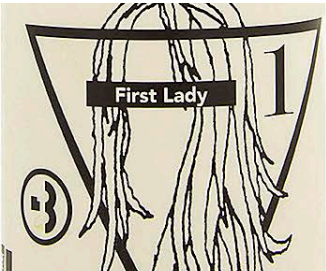
others textural close-ups, all providing a timeless look at the structures which, to be blunt, will be gone within the next two centuries. Thanks, conservatives.



Hildur Yeoman Dress

Yeoman, Skólavörðustígur 22

If you genuinely want to fit in with stylish Icelandic women, start donning Hildur Yeoman. Yes, her works are a bit pricey—expect to pay something in the 40,000-60,000 ISK range for a dress—but they're timeless works of art that'll fit any occasion. Yeoman is known for mixing loud, elaborate prints with classic, elegant cuts, so you're guaranteed to find a fit that's comfortable for you.



Lady Brewery, First Lady IPA

Vínbúðin (and on tap at many bars around Reykjavík)

Icelanders love to drink—it's the #1 way they reproduce—so it's no wonder a host of lovely microbreweries have sprung up in the city over the last few years. Our favourite is Lady Brewery, created and run by designer Þórey Björk Halldórsdóttir. Their signature IPA is a delicious blend of fresh citrus and mellow floral notes, all in a heady, hoppy brew. Inspired by "beer witches"—medieval female brewers who eventually became the archetypal witches (a very interesting thing to research on a rainy day)—it's the perfect thing to binge drink as you sit in your house alone crying over a Netflix Christmas movie.



Yrsa Sigurðardóttir's 'Someone To Watch Over Me'

Bookstores in Reykjavík

The best way to enjoy the Icelandic psyche is to slip into the mind of the country's crime queen. Yrsa Sigurðardóttir is one of the most successful crime writers in Iceland and has sold over five million copies of her books around the world. But here is a little pro-tip when it comes to Yrsa: She's most in her element when she combines ghost horror with crime, so if you need something to read in the dark, 'Someone To Watch Over Me' is both horrifying as well as a slick mystery. The first pages of the book will freak you out, but, trust me, keep reading. You won't regret it.



Literally Any Not-Internationally-Famous Icelandic Record

Ask any snob at local record stores

So you've got every Björk b-side, a ton of illegal Sigur Rós merch, and three Klemens from Hatari fan Instagram accounts. We get it, you love Icelandic music. Deepen your clout with the best souvenir—a record you can show off to your annoying I'm-indie-but-really-only-listen-to-múm friends. If you like classical, Gabríel Ólaf's calming piano works come highly recommended. The wistful, yacht-rocky stylings of Bagdad Brothers are great for indie folk, as is literally everything produced by the Post-dreifing collective. For metal, Andavald's recent 'Undir skyggðarhaldi' is a quick [kvlt] classic. And of course, you can never go wrong with any of our Grapevine 2020 Music Award Winners... you know, the feature story of this very magazine? Yeah, give them money. 🐾

BEST OF REYKJAVÍK

## Best Fancy Meal



Óx

Laugavegur 28

Forget dropping in at Óx, for this place only takes eleven guests from Wednesdays to Saturdays. Visitors are instructed to arrive at 19:00 sharp for a two and a half hour food journey, which combines Icelandic traditional cuisine with a European flair. You pay upfront and everything is included—even wine pairings. It's truly an intimate experience unlike anything else you'll find in the city. Foodies, don't miss it.



Grillíð

Hótel Saga, Hagatorg

Grillíð's service and level of craft is the best in town. Think caviar served on a film of seabuckthorn, or a salt-baked, glazed beetroot with the consistency of Turkish delight. Not content with sweet and unctuous desserts, they layer in salt and bitterness with effortless staging; the meringue with Sichuan pepper is brûléed at the table, sending mauve streaks of bilberry running through the ice cream. This is what raising the bar looks like.

Grillmarket

Lækjargata 2a

The locally-sourced menu of Grillmarket has been a hit with diners since the place opened its doors. A favourite 'fancy place' for locals, the restaurant also upped its game by offering fresh, locally grown Icelandic wasabi. Our panel suggested pairing the wasabi with a steak, and something decadent from the exhaustive wine list.

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January 10th—February 6th

# In Your Pocket



Reykjavík MapPlaces We LikeBest Of Reykjavík

## Perfect Day

A face of the downtown scene tells us how to spend a perfect day in Reykjavík

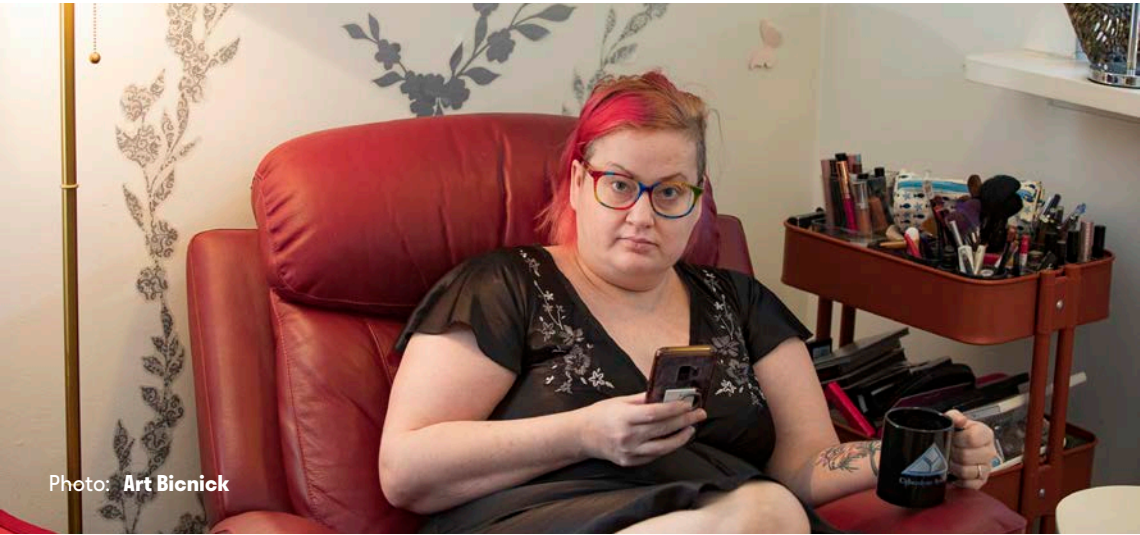


Photo: Art Bicnick

### Bára Halldórsdóttir

*Bára Halldórsdóttir is perhaps best known for being the whistleblower in the notorious Klausturgate scandal, but she is also an activist for disabled people's rights and an artist. Here, she details what her perfect day in Reykjavík would be like; “a world where I am not chronically ill and can just do whatever.”*

#### Morning

Freyja, my old cat and friend, gently nudges me awake to feed her breakfast. I have slept so well and am feeling rested and ready for my perfect day. I hug my wife and give her a light kiss and then we get up and feed the animals, I eat two slices of toast with bananas. While I am chomping down on the toast I make some coffee with a dash of cocoa almond milk. I then sit in the living room and do a short media browse while I finish the coffee.

#### Mid-morning

After I drop my wife, Hrafna, off at her work, I take my dog, Kíra, on a long walk at **Geldinganes**. It is sunny and bright with a slight breeze. Kíra finds all sorts of interesting new smells and meets fun doggos to play with. On the way home from the walk we stop at **Gæludýr** where Kíra gets to

go in and snoop around while I buy pet treats for all my pets and also buy extra food to be given to Villiket-tir and Kattholt. We drive home and I take off to grab lunch.

#### Lunch

I meet my oldest and closest friend Sunna at **Kaktus Espresso** on Vi-tastigur, Sunna orders a yummy sweet potato soup with bread, and I have the delicious scones and a latte. We talk about nothing and everything for about an hour.

#### Afternoon

Sunna heads back to work and I take up my computer and keep developing my art show for this summer's Reykjavík Fringe Festival and do a little writing. I also check my email and see an invite from Stephen Fry to a lovely weekend at his summer cottage in the south of England, he tells me that Sandi Toksvig, Alan Davies, Hannah Gadsby, Terry Pratchett, Neil Gaiman, Douglas Adams and Eddie Izzard will be there, along with some other friendly intellectuals and thinking people. I hurry to accept, of course! Once in a while I take a pause just to look out the window and around me. It is an effortless relaxed afternoon.

#### Evening

I pick Hrafna up from work and tell her about the invitation, she is over the moon. We stop by **Jömm** at the foodcourt in **Kringlan** and get ourselves some juicy vegan food. I love their burger and there must be something illegal in those potatoes.

We decide to take an evening drive like we love. Kíra joins us, she loves driving. We drive an illogical route to **Krísuvík** and Kíra gets to fetch fris-bees we throw out into the lake.

Then we drive to **Reykjanesbær** and drop in for a while to visit my angel of a grandchild and the family.

#### In the heat of the night

It's closing on eleven when we arrive in Reykjavík and decide to catch the end of a **Drag-súgur show** at **Gaukurinn**. It is perfect as usual. On our way home we stop at the roundabout on the westpoint of Seltjarnarnes. We walk on the shore for a while and I find an interesting stone When we are just about at our car we see a large owl perched on a manmade hill close by us. We watch in awe and Hrafna sneaks a few brilliant pictures. The owl glides away after a short while, but we are elated. At home we finish packing for the trip to New York tomorrow (it will be another perfect day). Alarms set and we float into dreamland, endlessly satisfied. 🦉

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## Venue Finder

| Venues   |    | Museums & Galleries                              |     |
|--|----|--|-----|
| The numbers on the right (i.e. E4) tell you position on the map on the next page |    |  |     |
| Austur Austurstræti 7  | D3 | ART67 Laugavegur 67                              | F7  |
| American Bar Austurstræti 8  | D3 | Open daily 9-21                                  |     |
| Andrými Bergþorugata 20  | G6 | ASÍ Art Gallery Freyjugata 41                    | G6  |
| B5 Bankastræti 5   | E4 | Open Tue-Sun 13-17                               |     |
| Bar Ananas Klappartígur 28   | E5 | Aurora Reykjavík Grandagarður 2                  | B1  |
| Bió Paradís Hverfisgata 54   | E5 | Open 09-21                                       |     |
| Bjarni Fel Austurstræti 20   | E4 | Asgrímur Jónsson Museum Bergstaðastr. 74         | G4  |
| Bravó Laugavegur 22  | E5 | Open 09-21, Mon-Fri                              |     |
| Boston Laugavegur 28b  | E5 | Berg Contemporary Klappartígur 16                | E5  |
| Dillon Laugavegur 30   | E5 | Tu-F 11-17, Sat 13-17                            |     |
| Dubliner Naustin 1-3   | D3 | The Culture House Hverfisgata 15                 | E5  |
| English Pub Austurstræti 12  | D3 | Open daily 10-17                                 |     |
| Gaukurinn Tryggvagata 22   | D3 | The Einar Jónsson Museum Eiríksgrata             | G5  |
| Hard Rock Café Lækjargata 2a   | D3 | Open Tue-Sun 10-17                               |     |
| Hressó Austurstræti 20   | D3 | Ekkisens Bergstaðast. 25b                        | F4  |
| Húrra Naustin  | D3 | Galleri List Skipholt 50A                        | H10 |
|  |    | M-F 11-18, Sat 11-16                             |     |
|  |    | Hafnarborg Strandgata 34, 220                    |     |
|  |    | Open Wed-Mon 12-17                               |     |
|  |    | Hitt Húsið Pósthússtræti 3-5                     | D4  |
|  |    | Ölsmiðjan Lækjargata 10                          | E3  |
|  |    | Tívoli bar Hafnarstræti 4                        | D3  |
|  |    | Tjarnarbríð Tjarnargata 12                       | E3  |
|  |    | i8 Gallery Tryggvagata 16                        | D3  |
|  |    | Tu-Fri 11-18, Sat 13-17                          |     |
|  |    | The Penis Museum Laugavegur 116                  | F8  |
|  |    | Open daily 10-18                                 |     |
|  |    | Kirsuberjatræð Vesturgata 4                      | D3  |
|  |    | M-F 10-18, Sat-Sun 10-17                         |     |
|  |    | Kling & Bang Grandagarður 20                     | A4  |
|  |    | W-Sun 14-18, Th 12-21                            |     |
|  |    | Listastofan Hringbraut 119                       | A4  |
|  |    | Open Wed-Sat 13-17                               |     |
|  |    | Living Art Museum Grandarörur 20                 | A4  |
|  |    | T-Sun 12-18, Th 12-21                            |     |
|  |    | Mokka Kaffi Skólavörðustíg. 3A                   | E5  |
|  |    | Open daily 9-18:30                               |     |
|  |    | Museum of Design and Applied Art Garðatorg 1     |     |
|  |    | Open Tu-Sun 12-17                                |     |
|  |    | The National Gallery of Iceland Frikirkjuvegur 7 | F3  |
|  |    | Open daily 10-17                                 |     |
|  |    | The National Museum Sudurgata 41                 | G2  |
|  |    | Open daily 10-17                                 |     |
|  |    | The Nordic House Sturlugata 5                    | H2  |
|  |    | Thur-Tu 11-17, W 11-20                           |     |
|  |    | Hafnarhús Tryggvagata 17                         | D3  |
|  |    | Open 10-17, Thu 10-22                            |     |
|  |    | Kjarvalsstaðir Flókagata 24                      | H8  |
|  |    | Open daily 10-17                                 |     |
|  |    | Ásmundarsafn Sigtún                              |     |
|  |    | Open daily 10-17                                 |     |
|  |    | Reykjavík City Library Tryggvagata 15            | D3  |
|  |    | Mon-Thu 10-19, Fri 11-18, Sat-Sun 13-17          |     |
|  |    | Árbæjarsafn Kistuhyllur 4                        |     |
|  |    | Open daily 13-17                                 |     |
|  |    | The Settlement Exhibition Adalstræti 16          | D3  |
|  |    | Open daily 9-18                                  |     |
|  |    | Reykjavík Museum of Photography Tryggvagata 15   | D3  |
|  |    | Mon-Thu 10-18, Fri 11-18, Sat-Sun 13-18          |     |
|  |    | Saga Museum Grandagarður 2                       | B2  |
|  |    | Open daily 10-18                                 |     |
|  |    | Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum Laugarnestangi 70       |     |
|  |    | Open Tu-Sun 14-17                                |     |
|  |    | SLM Hafnarstræti 16                              | D3  |
|  |    | Open Mon-Fri 10-16                               |     |
|  |    | Tveir Hrafnar Baldursgata 12                     | G4  |
|  |    | Open Fri-Sat 13-16                               |     |
|  |    | Wind & Weather Window Gallery Hverfisgata 37     | E5  |







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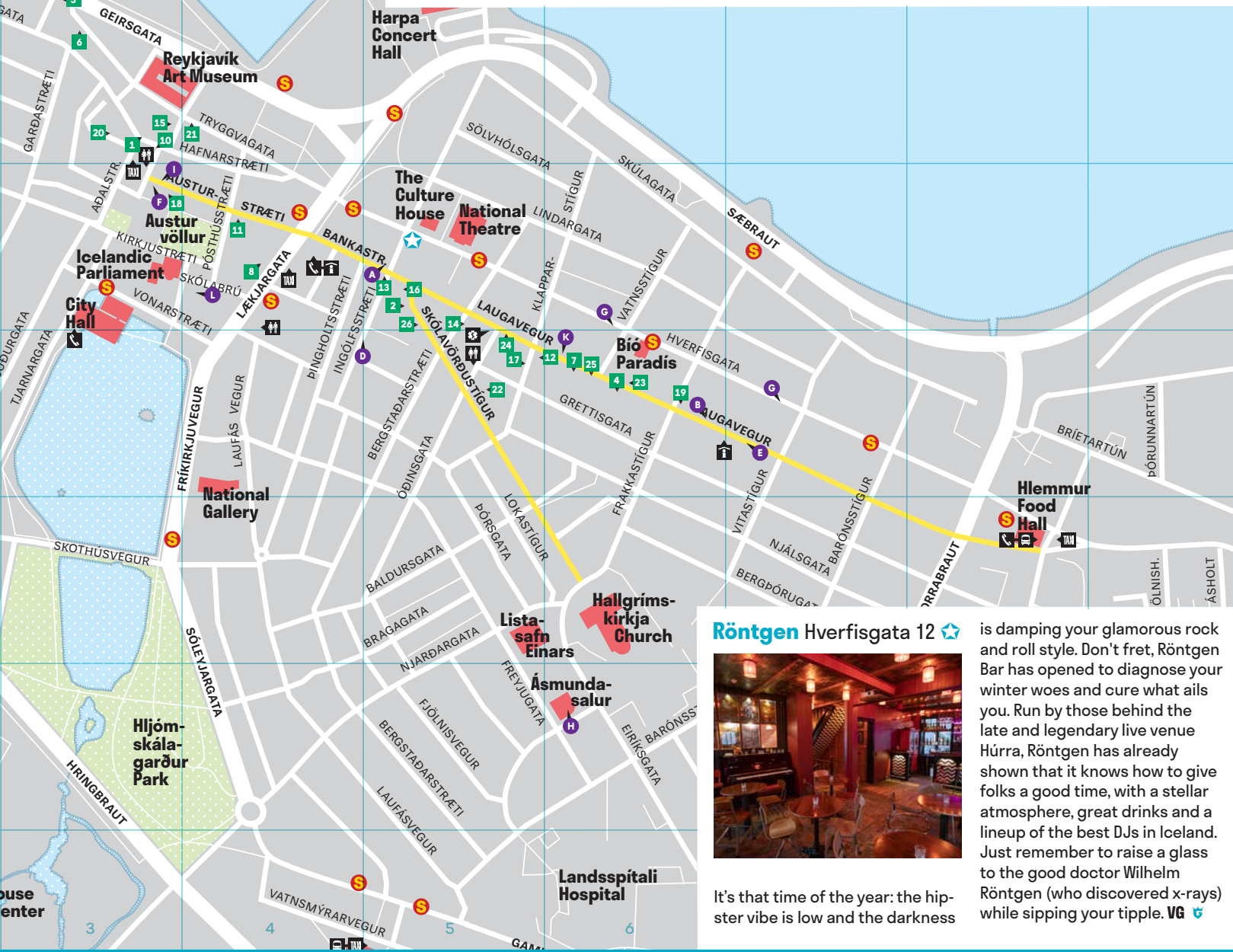


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scene by storm upon opening in 2018, with its eclectic streetwear selection. They have designers that no one else has.

## 20. Fischer

Fischersund

More art installation than regular store, the "Sigur Rós shop" is an aesthetic environment with a soothing soundtrack, sweet scents floating in the air, and a natural, earthy colour palette. They sell a range of amazing things, from hand-picked tea, to artworks and records.

## 21. IÐA 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 there is interesting. If the magazines fail, people-watching never does.

## 22. 12 Tónar

Skólavörðustígur 15

This city-centre record store is something of an institution, offering the unique experience of having the store staff ask about your music taste then sit you down with a coffee, some headphones, and a pile of Icelandic records.

## 23. Farmers And Friends

Hólmaslóð 2 & Laugavegur 37

If you want to pick up an Icelandic

sweater, peruse the Farmers Market outlet. Their wares combine Nordic style with a fresh aesthetic, providing you with a modern take on traditional pieces.

## 24. CNTMP

Laugavegur 12b

This sleek and minimal streetwear boutique occupies an enviable spot on the main Laugavegur strip. An acronym for "contemporary," the shop's name describes its concept—the store will sell limited garments by streetwear brands.

## 25. Spúútnik

Laugavegur 28b

This well-curated clothing emporium

is more like a secondhand clothing boutique than a charity shop. It's expensive but it's all imported stuff you won't find anywhere else. They're also very particular with their selection: after sorting through maybe six shirts, they'll determine that just one is truly good enough.

## 26. Rauðhetta & Úlfurinn

Skólavörðustígur 8

In a sense Rauðhetta & Úlfurinn is a Reykjavík classic. It's been around for over a decade, and the service is congenial without being overbearing. People are loyal to their favourite hairdresser, meaning some of them have long waiting lists, but pop in and try your luck.

## Röntgen Hverfisgata 12



It's that time of the year: the hipster vibe is low and the darkness

is damping your glamorous rock and roll style. Don't fret, Röntgen Bar has opened to diagnose your winter woes and cure what ails you. Run by those behind the late and legendary live venue Húrra, Röntgen has already shown that it knows how to give folks a good time, with a stellar atmosphere, great drinks and a lineup of the best DJs in Iceland. Just remember to raise a glass to the good doctor Wilhelm Röntgen (who discovered x-rays) while sipping your tipples. VG





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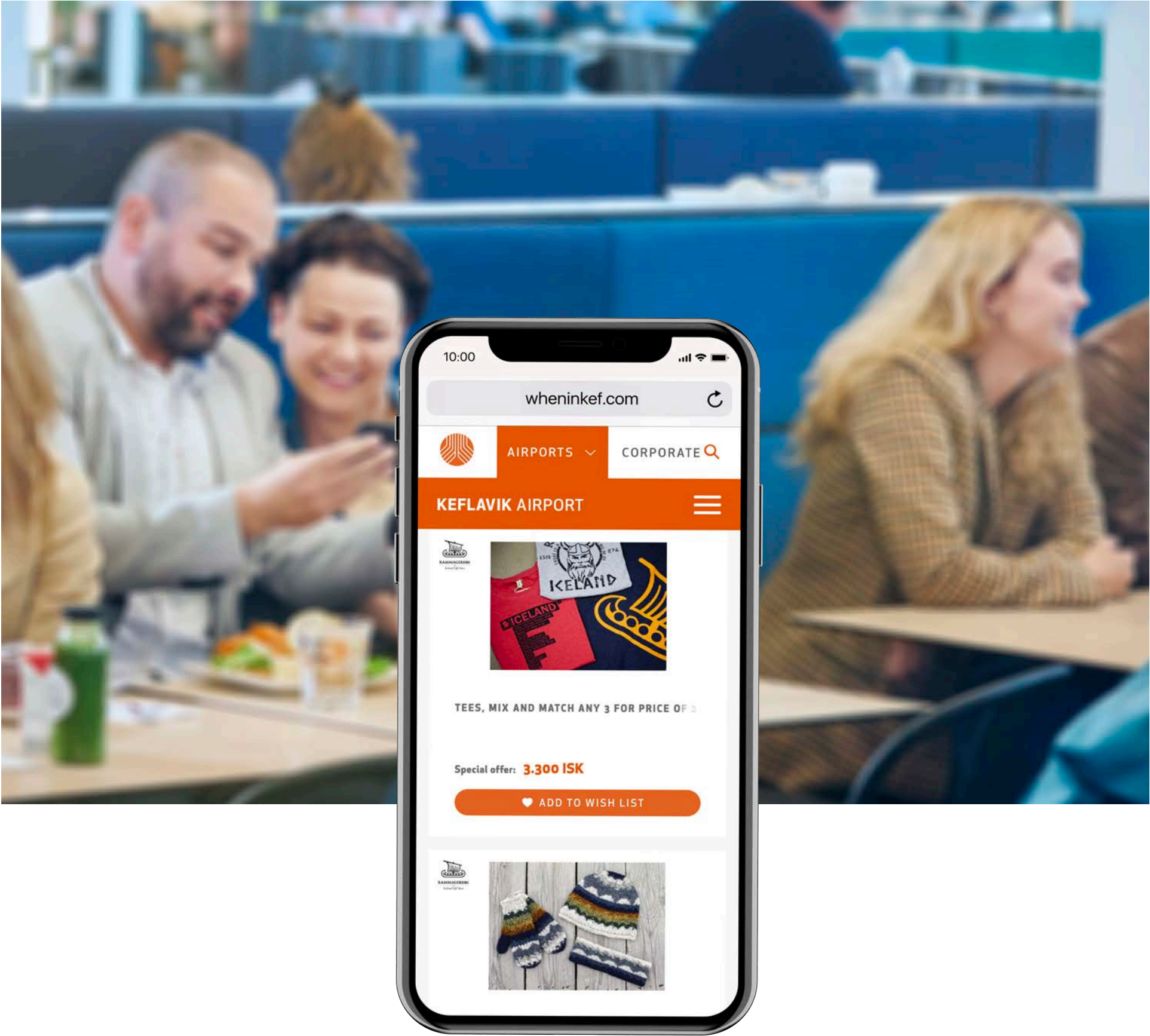
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ARTIST PLAYLIST

# Put The Soul In The Soul

The songs that made Einarlndra, well, Einarlndra

Words: Valur Grettisson & Einarlndra Photo: Art Bicnick

Iceland's most soulful electro artist, Einarlndra recently made a serious splash at the 2020 Iceland Airwaves festival. While we've been busy streaming Einarlndra on Spotify (you should, too) we asked him to create a playlist of his favourite Icelandic music, and he delivered everything from the first Icelandic Trip Hop experiments to Underworld's remixes of Björk herself.



### Magnús Blöndal Jóhannsson - Samstirni

Magnús Blöndal was a pioneer of Icelandic electronic music and "Samstirni" (Constellation), from 1960, is such an interesting composition with beautiful sounds that he recorded and edited on tape. It's good to be reminded of the old ways of making electronic music where you had to spend hours editing one loop by cutting physical tape.

### Subterranean - My style is phreaky

From the age of 10 through 16 I listened mostly to hip hop, and when I first heard Subterranean it was like a bomb had gone off in the Icelandic hip hop scene. They were young and fresh, with really well thought out lyrics, and they were skilled rappers. Still, 20 years later, I think they are one of the best hip hop acts of Iceland.

### GusGus - Polyesterday

This track was a breakout for me.

I was working with my father in Þórshöfn when I was 15 and after a hard day at work, I was lying in bed listening to the radio when I first heard it. It had this hip hop feeling but it wasn't hip hop; still, I really loved it! GusGus helped me break out of my hip hop bubble and into trip-hop. I followed them up with Massive Attack, Portishead and similar bands.

### Björk - Human Behaviour (Underworld Mix)

I was a massive Underworld fan after seeing Trainspotting and somehow I managed to get this remix of Björk's songs called "The best mixes from the album Debut: (For all the people that don't buy white labels)". This track was the first on the CD and I started listening to everything with Björk after that.

### Sigur Rós - Leit að lífi (Recycled by Sigur Rós)

I think this is the first track I heard with Sigur Rós and I think it was on the radio (though that seems unlikely) and somehow I connect it also with me walking by Reykjavíkurtjörn. It has an Amen break for drums and that mixed with the bass and vocals really got me and hasn't let go since.



### Múm - I'm 9 today

When the kids (they will always referenced as kids) in Múm released

"Yesterday was dramatic," I was in high school and already listening to a lot of electronic music like Aphex Twin, Autechre and the likes, so I was ecstatic when I heard this new electronic glitchy Icelandic band. I remember skipping class with my friend and listening to the album in the school's cafeteria.



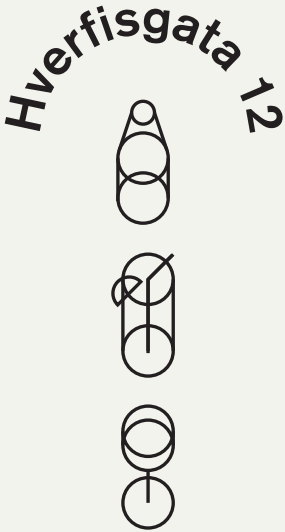
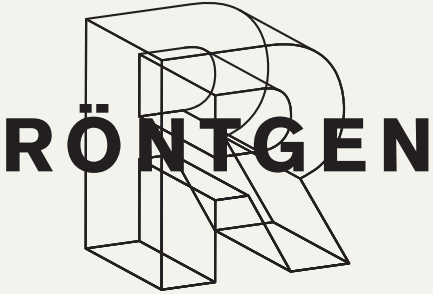
### Worm is green - Automagic

I had started listening to a lot of glitchy electronic music from Germany and Russia when Automagic dropped. This band had really well programmed drums and beautiful synth melodies. Streaming had not yet begun, so I always bought all my albums on CD.

### Jónsi and Alex - Indian Summer

During those years I ran a cooperative cafe/art space in downtown Reykjavík with my friends where Alex and Jónsi were daily visitors. At the same time, or around 2009, when we were being forced out by the house owner (who wanted to build a large shopping mall in the area), I met them and got this album which I think is one of the best albums released. It was something completely new but old at the same time, it's these beautiful soundscapes unbound by time. 🐦

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# Music



Floating, sinking

## Where Love Hides

Gyða Valtýsdóttir releases new music video

Words: **Andie Fontaine**

### Music Video

Available online now

GYÐA’s latest release, ‘Evolution,’ has been making waves. Since being one of the founding members of Múm, one of Iceland’s best-known early-2000s indie bands, Gyða Valtýsdóttir has taken her career in many new directions, composing for herself or others. Most recently, she won the 2020 Nordic Council Music Prize, and for good reason. Her soulful, at times ecstatic songs transport the listener to another dimension. Which is pretty fitting, considering the title of her latest video, “In Another Dimension.”

In this video, we witness GYÐA at the beach, practising what appears to be arcane magic rituals. This is no accident, GYÐA explains.

“The song was sort of co-written by a boy who wanted to be embodied through me,” she tells us. “It is about the conception of him in one of the multiple realities, but in this one, he just became this song.” Much of this imagery came from a visit to Turkey, a very personal and magical experience for the artist. “Many times the road would split in two and I had a choice where to go. Now I live in the outcome of these choices. But this song is about another outcome, which I didn’t take. Any creation is magic—everything we do and create is a thought-form moved into the physical, to me that is magic.”

### Love within Evolution

Going by this and the video for 2018 single “Moonchild,” connection to the natural world, and water in particular, seems to be a common thread. Is that one of the reasons for ‘Evolution’ as a title of GYÐA’s album, i.e., our own evolution out of the seas? Well, yes, as it turns out, but there’s more to it than that.

“I didn’t even try to find a name for this record, knowing it would reveal itself,” GYÐA says. “When it did, loud and clear, I was quite surprised. I found it unpoetic, but then I started to see all the ways it made sense and the beauty of the word. Evolution comes in the first sentence of one of the songs on the album called ‘Moonchild.’ I find evolution so fascinating, both morphing of matter and the evolution of consciousness, as a collective and individuals. I also like that the word Love hides in there. So yes and no, anyone can read what they want into it, it can have endless meanings because it came through me rather than from me.”

### No rest

An ever-growing and ever-evolving artist such as GYÐA is never content to rest on her laurels. True to her nature, there are still many dreams on the horizon for her.

“What I mostly wish for right now is a team,” she says. “I feel the limitation of doing things so much by myself and that it is just more fun to work with others. I’d like to find a manager or a partner in this business that being a musician is. I’d like to have creative collaborators to discuss and execute ideas with, and I believe that resources will come when I find the stream for them to flow through.”

Overall, she stresses the importance of artists having the resources they need to attain their dreams—in this dimension or any other.

“I believe that when resources go to creative people, it will be shared and it will grow,” she says. “They’ll create something with it and around that creation so many others will be on board and benefit. Creative people do not sit on their gold because they know it has to flow; everything has to or there will be stagnation, constipation and that’s the end of creativity.” 🍷



### MUSIC NEWS

The annual Kraumur Award were announced in December, with 12 winners being selected from a shortlist of 25 nominated albums. Among them were artists that readers of The Reykjavík Grapevine know well, like our former cover star, the Techno-god Bjarki, for his excellent album, Happy Earthday. The girl punk band, Gróa also won, as did K.óla, who also won this year’s Reykjavík Grapevine music award in the You Should Have Heard This category.



Larger than life musician, farmer and a monarch Prins Póló wrote and performed the final song for the annual year-end Icelandic comedy show Áramótaskaupið and managed to piss people off. Well, Áramótaskaupið is always controversial in a silly way, and it appears that people on Twitter misunderstood his joke on global warming and lost the irony for a moment according to the Icelandic newspaper, Fréttablaðið. The Prins did nonetheless garner praise for his sarcastic take on the issue where he quoted an alt-right professor who asked in a famous quote on social media what the hell young people had done for the future generations when it came to global warming.



Hildur Guðnadóttir, the composer, and a former cover star of Reykjavík Grapevine, won a Golden Globe award on January 5th for her score of the blockbuster ‘Joker.’ Not only that, she is the first solo woman to win for best score. A beautiful and well-earned victory for an incredible artist and a feminist victory as well. Now we just have to take the Oscar and bring it to Iceland.

# GAUKURINN

bar & events venue



Tryggvagata 22, 101 Reykjavík

## SOULFLOW COMEDY

WOMEN & QUEER

OPEN MIC STAND-UP

IN ENGLISH / 21.00 / FREE ENTRY

EVERY  
MONDAY

## KARAOKE PARTY

21.00 / FREE ENTRY

EVERY  
TUESDAY

10/1

BÚKALÚ - VARIETY SHOW  
DEBAUCHERY, BURLESQUE, VARIETY, COMEDY

11/1

DRAG-SÚGUR QUEER VARIETY SHOW  
THIS MONTH: MUSICALS!

17/1 - 18/1:

HELGARHALD '20 - MINI FESTIVAL :

OTTOMAN, CEASETONE, ALCHEMIA  
VOLCANOVA, SEINT, BOGDAN  
ROCK PAPER SISTERS AND MORE

23/1

DRAG-SÚGUR DRAG LAB  
MONTHLY EXPERIMENTAL DRAG SHOW

25/1

SPÜNK AND MORE

26/1

SONGWRITER NIGHT

WWW.GAUKURINN.IS

HAPPY HOUR  
14-21

VÍKING  
BRUGGHÚS



## Our Picks



Paladin, Alchemia & Alcoholia

January 11th - 20:30 - Dillon - 1,700 ISK ★

Having finished their side quest, Paladin are back at Dillon to give you a chance to channel your inner dungeon master in public. This legendary quartet plays some of the best power metal out there, meaning that they sing about dragons, dungeons, epic

quests, and other heroic things. They rocked the whole block when they played at Dillon during Iceland Airwaves, and if history is anything to go by, they'll do it again on Saturday. This show is part of the Back to the Metal Roots concert series, which is a precursor to the Eistnaflug music festival in July. Joining Paladin is Alchemia and Metal Karaoke by Alcoholia. Bring your singing voice, and don't forget to toss a coin to your witcher. **SPO**



R:atio

Jan.17th - 24:00 - Prikið - Free! ★

Grapevine's "One To Watch" producer duo R:atio is having a special set at Prikið. Bring your own vape. **HJC**



Ásgeir

February 1st - 21:00 - Háskólabíó - 6,990 ISK ★

Ásgeir resides somewhere between Bon Iver and Of Monsters And Men. The famous crooner will celebrate the release of his new album as he kicks off a two month tour around Europe and North America. Bring your Mom. She'll love it. **HJC**



Une Misère

Jan. 10th - 21:00 - Hard Rock Café - 2,500 ISK ★

Watch out for rogue straight edge vegans and hear the Album Of The Year live in person. **HJC**



Benni Hemm Hemm

January 31st - 20:00 - Tjarnarbíó - 3,900 ISK ★

One of the leading figures in the 2000s Icelandic music revolution, Benni Hemm Hemm's joyful indie-pop has inspired everything from Múm to Ólaf Arnalds to Prins Póló. Let's put it this way: Benni Hemm Hemm is a planet, and we're just living on it. **VG**

## January 10th—February 6th

# Concerts & Nightlife

Events listed are all live performances and DJs. Venues are listed by day. For complete listings and detailed information on venues visit [grapevine.is/happening](http://grapevine.is/happening). Send your listings to: [listings@grapevine.is](mailto:listings@grapevine.is).

### Friday January 10th

★ Une Misère & Ceasetone

21:00 Hard Rock Café

Nýdönsk

20:30 Bæjarbíó

Iceland Symphony Orchestra:

Viennese Favourites

19:30 Harpa

Paniik: Tómas Jónsson Trio

21:00 Mengi

DJ Logi Pedro

23:00 Prikið

DJ KGB

23:00 Bravó

DJ Óli Dóri

23:00 Röntgen

### Saturday January 11th

★ Paladin / Alchemia & Alcoholia

20:30 Dillon

Krossfest I:

D7Y / Gróa / Phlegm / GÓÐxÆRI

19:00 Andrími

Iceland Symphony Orchestra:

Viennese Favourites

16:00, 19:30 Harpa

Nýdönsk

20:30 Bæjarbíó

Mikael Lind

21:00 Mengi

DJ Spegill

23:00 Prikið

DJ Thaison

23:00 Bravó

DJ Katla

23:00 Röntgen

### Sunday January 12th

Sunday Jazz

20:00 Bryggjan Brugghús

Vinyl Sunday

21:00 Bravó

Nýdönsk

20:30 Bæjarbíó

### Monday January 13th

Monday Night Jazz

21:00 Hressó

Devil's Karaoke

21:00 Bravó

### Tuesday January 14th

Karaoke Party!

21:00 Gaukurinn

Jazz Night

20:30 Kex Hostel

### Wednesday January 15th

Don Lockwood Band

21:00 Slippbarinn

Party Karaoke With DJ Dóra Júlía &

Helga Margrét

21:00 Sæta Svinið

DJ KGB

22:00 Prikið

DJ Intr0beatz

22:00 Bravó

### Thursday January 16th

Thugs Need Hugs 2:

Thugs Back 2 School

22:00 Prikið

Iceland Symphony Orchestra:

Young Soloists

19:30 Harpa

Ásgeir Ásgeirsson & Haukur Gröndal

21:00 Petersen svítan

Verpa eggjum

21:00 Mengi

DJ Simon fknhdsm

22:00 Bravó

DJ Alexandra Baldurs

22:00 Röntgen

### Friday January 17th

★ The Grapevine Music Awards 2020

21:00 Röntgen

★ R:atio

24:00 Prikið

Helgarhald '20

21:00 Gaukurinn

Iceland Symphony Orchestra:

Rachmaninoff & Gubaidulina I

18:00 Harpa

Jack The House Crew

21:00 Prikið

Óldulaugin Vol. 2

23:00 Bravó

DJ Styrmir Dansson

23:00 Röntgen

### Saturday January 18th

Helgarhald '20

21:00 Gaukurinn

DJ Snorri Ástráðsson

23:00 Prikið

This Is Nonsense

23:00 Bravó

DJ Simon fknhdsm

23:00 Röntgen

### Sunday January 19th

Vinyl Sunday

21:00 Bravó

The Chamber Music Society #4

16:00 Harpa

Sunday Jazz: Astra

20:00 Bryggjan Brugghús

### Monday January 20th

Monday Night Jazz

21:00 Hressó

### Tuesday January 21st

Karaoke Party!

21:00 Gaukurinn

### Wednesday January 22nd

Don Lockwood Band

21:00 Slippbarinn

Party Karaoke With DJ Dóra Júlía &

Helga Margrét

21:00 Sæta Svinið

Teenage Songbook Of Love And Sex

21:00 Tjarnarbíó

DJ Bleache

22:00 Prikið

### Thursday January 23rd

Laura Second / Brött Brekka

19:30 Iðnó

Iceland Symphony Orchestra:

Inkinen Conducts Bartók

19:30 Harpa

Iceland Symphony Orchestra:

Open Rehearsal

9:30 Harpa

Sara Grey

21:00 Mengi

DJ Einar Sonic

22:00 Bravó

DJ Biggi Maus 8-9-0

22:00 Röntgen

### Friday January 24th

FM Belfast DJ Set

23:00 Röntgen

HAM

20:00 Reykjavik Art Museum

Hróðmar Sigurðsson & Band

21:00 Mengi

Dúndurfréttir

20:30 Bæjarbíó

Karítas Extravaganza

24:00 Prikið

Formaðurinn

23:00 Bravó

### Saturday January 25th

Briet

14:00 Harpa

Dark Music Days: Atli Bollason

19:00 Nordic House

Dark Music Days: Siggi String Quartet

20:00 Nordic House

Loose Lips

21:00 Prikið

Í brekkunni – Eyjatónleikar 2020

20:00 Harpa

Spünk

21:00 Gaukurinn

DJ Stew

23:00 Prikið

DJ KrBear

23:00 Bravó

DJ KGB

23:00 Röntgen

### Sunday January 26th

Sunday Classics:

Popular Romantic Lieder

16:00 Harpa

Sunday Jazz

20:00 Bryggjan Brugghús

### Monday January 27th

Dark Music Days: KAFKA-FRAGMENTS

20:00 Mengi

Devil's Karaoke

21:00 Bravó

Monday Night Jazz

21:00 Hressó

### Tuesday January 28th

Dark Music Days: D'amore

20:00 Iðnó

Karaoke Party!

21:00 Gaukurinn

Jazz Night

20:30 Kex Hostel

### Wednesday January 29th

Dark Music Days:

Caput Ensemble & Gavin Bryars

17:00 Breiðholtskirkja

Don Lockwood Band

21:00 Slippbarinn

Party Karaoke With DJ Dóra Júlía &

Helga Margrét

21:00 Sæta Svinið

DJ Ty of Geimfarar

22:00 Prikið

### Thursday January 30th

Dark Music Days:

Iceland Symphony Orchestra

19:30 Harpa

Dark Music Days:

Dúó Freykja - Svava & Rannveig

17:00 Hannesarholt

Dark Music Days:

Skúli Sverrisson & Bára Gísladóttir

21:30 Iðnó

Beatmakin Troopa

22:00 Bravó

Big Gee / DJ Nino / Fingaprint

22:00 Prikið

DJ Station Helgi

23:00 Röntgen

### Friday January 31st

★ Benni Hemm Hemm

20:00 Tjarnarbíó

Dark Music Days:

Yrkja V - Young Composers

12:00 Harpa

Dark Music Days: The Young People

18:00 Harpa

Dark Music Days: Heiða Árnadóttir

20:00 Nordic House

Dark Music Days: EKKI MINNA Duo

22:00 Iðnó

Númer Núll Release Concert

21:00 Hard Rock Café

Evil Suburban Kids

23:00 Bravó

DJ Katla

23:00 Röntgen

### Saturday February 1st

★ Ásgeir

21:00 Háskólabíó

Dark Music Days:

The Young People Unplugged

12:00 Salurinn

Dark Music Days: MurkyKids

13:30 Harpa

Dark Music Days: Hlökk & Friends

19:00 Iðnó

Dark Music Days:

Reykjavik Chamber Orchestra

21:30 Harpa

### Sunday February 2nd

Classical Sundays:

Brák Baroque Ensemble

16:00 Harpa

Sunday Jazz

20:00 Bryggjan Brugghús

### Monday February 3rd

Monday Night Jazz

21:00 Hressó

### Tuesday February 4th

Karaoke Party!

21:00 Gaukurinn

Jazz Night

20:30 Kex Hostel

### Wednesday February 5th

Múlinn Jazz Club: Jazz With A View

20:00 Harpa

Don Lockwood Band

21:00 Slippbarinn

Party Karaoke With DJ Dóra Júlía &

Helga Margrét

21:00



**i8 Gallery**  
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12 December 2019 - 1 February 2020

# CHARLES ATLAS

Kiss the Day Goodbye

Gerðarsafn  
Kópavogur Art Museum

Gerðarsafn  
Kópavogur Art Museum

## IMPRINT

17.01–15.03.2020

## GERÐUR

17.01–15.03.2020

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 Bókasafn Kópavogs Kópavogur Public Library

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# Art

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Palestinian fashion coming to Iceland

# Taking Out The tRASH

Hide your flag, grab your spikes and get trashy

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen** Photo: **Isaac Eastgate**

## Fashion collection

tRASHY CLOTHING x HATARI collection online @ [trashyclothing.shop](http://trashyclothing.shop)

“It was insane,” Palestinian fashion designer Shukri Lawrence says, looking back on the moment Hatari pulled out their Palestinian flag live at Eurovision. “I remember going on Instagram and literally every story was that one photo.”

But for Shukri, the act was more than just a political stunt, it was the beginning of a beautiful relationship between Iceland’s premier anti-capitalists and his fashion brand, tRASHY clothing. Now, the two have teamed up for a joint collection.

## Two trash worlds

The 2017 origins of tRASHY lie in the dichotomy Shukri experienced between his daily life as a Palestinian photographer and videographer and the brands his subjects were often wearing.

“Everything I was shooting was related to what was around me in the Middle East, except the clothes were from abroad,” Shukri explains. “That’s not bad but it’s not related to the subject. I thought, something’s missing.”

To bridge the chasm, Shukri decided he’d make his own brand, and promptly began working on a line of t-shirts. Enter tRASHY.

“I started with this project that was basically bootlegging brands like Marc Jacobs and Nike and taking issues that are related to the Middle East and sticking both in a juxtaposition,” he explains.

## Tween trash

From there, the tRASHY team grew to include Omar Braika, Reem Kawasmi, Luai Al-Shuaibi, and Sereen Khass. Then, in 2020, tRASHY was contacted by Hatari to work on a clothing collaboration for Eurovision events, press conferences, and such. It was a match made in trash heaven.

From the moment they arrived, Hatari began wearing bits of tRASHY clothing in all their appearances. “We tried to make it like hints,” Shukri reveals. “Hatari are wearing these earrings, but who are they from? They were always wearing Palestinian designers and repping Palestine, even before the flag.”

tRASHY then got the band to work as models for their SS19 ‘XD’ collection, which was inspired by the internet in the year 2010.

“It’s all about this confusion of tween days seeing emo/tumblr culture going on, yet there was this whole other world we were living in,” Shukri explains. “The war and the occupation. So this collection was a phase of those scene kids colours, screen reflections, and online superficial stuff.”

Hatari proved ideal subjects. “Seeing their spikes and emo-esque scene aesthetic, they were the perfect models,” he concludes.

## Trash code

Now, the two groups have re-united for a joint collection, entitled tRASHY x HATARI, with profits going to Rainbow Street Org, benefiting queer and trans youth in the Middle East. The line is directly inspired by Hatari’s run at Eurovision.

“We took inspiration from the flag moment specifically, so we did these flag hider pants, flag hider skirts, and a tube flag holder bag,” he says. “We also took inspiration from ‘Hate Will Prevail,’ and [changed it] to ‘Love Will Prevail,’ and ‘Hate Won’t Prevail.’”

## Trashy insanity

tRASHY will be travelling to Iceland in March for a fashion show of their own. Considering their past shows have included things like makeshift border walls in front of the audience, it’s sure to be a flag-raising spectacle.

“It will be insane,” Shukri says, somewhat cheekily. “And that’s all I am going to say.”

following breadcrumbs on the earth. I’m braiding many things together as one.”



Our Picks



★ Chromo Sapiens

Jan. 23rd-March 22nd - Hafnarhús

You might have heard of Hrafnhildur Arnardóttir, a.k.a. Shoplifter, from her spectacular exhibition

last summer at the Venice Biennale. Now the artist, who is known for her psychedelically colourful “hairsapes,” is back in Reykjavík. For this new installation, journey through three multi-sensory cave-like spaces full of neon stalactites, ethereal lights, and overgrown plant-like hair extension organ-isms. If that’s not enough, Icelandic cult metal mavericks HAM created a soundscape for the exhibition, which they will perform, along with Reykjavík Grapevine’s 2020 Live Act Of The Year Kælan Mikla at the opening on January 24th. Tickets to the special concert are 6,900 ISK and can be bought online. **HJC**



★ SMOKE

January 14th - 19:00 - IDNÓ  
“Smoke,” Theo’s debut photography album, in a room of smoke, visual projections and dreamy electronic music. **IP**  
Artists Theo Elias, AnA and Mighty Bear get together to combine their arts and potions. Come celebrate



★ Frostbiter Horror Film Festival

January 31st-February 2nd  
horror festival will include short films, features, party screenings, and a pub quiz. Warning: Probably not the best time to pick up a hitchhiker. **IP**  
Journey to Akranes for the spookiest weekend of your life. The fourth edition of the local



★ Land Beyond The Sea

January 24th-April 5th - Nordic House  
ists explore the boundaries of art and fantasy in their dialogue on wanderlust. We can’t confirm, but Moomins might be in attendance. **HJC**  
Say “Tervetuloa” to your sauna-loving artists to the east. Here, five Finnish art-

January 10th—February 6th

Art Listings

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Opening

**REYKJAVÍK MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY** ...  
Yes, the exhibition is really called "...". In it, photographer Valdimar Thorlacius turned his lens on Icelandic towns with under 500 inhabitants, documenting the small moments of this country oft ignored.  
• Opens on January 16th, 2020  
• Runs until May 3rd, 2020

**GERDARSAFN KÓPAVOGUR ART MUSEUM Imprint**  
'Imprint' comprises works by seven contemporary artists who deconstruct the ideas of the photograph as a window on reality. Come explore the ambiguous nature of the photograph, while also playing with the potential of the medium and pushing the boundaries of it.  
• Opens on January 17th, 2020  
• Runs until March 15th, 2020

**REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - HAFNARHÚS Structure and Order: Draft of Contemporary Art History in Iceland [IV]**  
The exhibition is the fourth in a series of drafts of Icelandic contemporary art history, based on works from the Reykjavík Art Museum's collection. Works are selected and juxtaposed in a thematic context in an experiment to reflect art history in real time. This one takes on the style of minimalism.  
• Opens on January 16th, 2020  
• Runs until May 17th, 2020  
**D40 Una Björg Magnúsdóttir: Vanishing Crowd**  
The D-Gallery series invites up-and-coming local artists to host their first solo exhibition. This iteration features sculptor Una Björg Magnúsdóttir, whose works are notorious for emitting sound.  
• Opens on January 16th, 2020  
• Runs until March 15th, 2020

**HAFNARBORG Silent Spring**  
Lilja Birgisdóttir, Hertta Kiiski, and Katrín Elvarsdóttir explore neglected environments at the brink of loss due to climate change. It's a full sensory experience designed to remind you of the beauty we still have on this Earth.  
• Opens on January 18th, 2020  
• Runs until March 15th, 2020

Ongoing

**NATIONAL GALLERY OF ICELAND Treasures Of A Nation**  
A selection of over 80 works chosen from the national gallery's collection displays the evolution of art since the 19th century.  
• Runs until September 30th, 2020  
**Soliloquy**  
Come see this retrospective of Jóhanna Kristín Yngvadóttir (1953–1991), who made a splash in the Icelandic art scene in the early 1980s. Jóhanna Kristín's expressionistic works were received with enthusiasm, and critics were united in their praise of the young artist, whose work was considered mature and refined.  
• Runs until January 26th, 2020  
**The Icelandic Love Corporation: Water And Blood**  
In preparation for this video work, the Icelandic Love Corporation brought in a psychic to make contact with deceased artist Ásgrímur Jónsson. He probably said "Go away, I'm trying to rest."  
• Runs until March 1st, 2020

**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 ART MUSEUM - ÁSMUNDARSAFN Ásmundur Sveinsson: Under the Same Sky - Art In Public Space**  
Ásmundarsafn is named after sculptor Ásmundur Sveinsson. This new permanent exhibition presents the artist in a new light. What dialogue does his works provoke?  
• Runs until February 16th, 2020  
**Ólöf Nordal: úngl-úngl**  
Ólöf Nordal (b. 1961) often references Icelandic folktales, national heritage and cultural motifs which she places in a modern context. She is also preoccupied with nature and our connection to the land. In her

work she attempts to explore and examine the structural material of mythical tales, she looks for things that fall outside the traditional framework.  
• Runs until January 26th, 2020

**REYKJAVÍK MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY Encounters - Nordic Photography Beyond Borders**  
This exhibit is characterised by social and political overtones. In the works, ways are explored of visualising “encounters“ between subjects, thus drawing attention to major issues like immigration, changes to land- and cityscapes, or the local impacts of globalisation.  
• Runs until January 12th, 2020  
**Space for Humans: The Moon on Earth**  
Broadhead's practice entails an engagement with photography as a critical medium and explores the conjunctions between different subjects; notably geology, anthropology, history, and mythology.  
• Runs until February 3rd, 2020

**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.

**REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - HAFNARHÚS Erró: Mao's World Tour**  
Between 1972 and 1980, Erró painted over 130 paintings, with two images of different origins against each other: Chinese propaganda posters of Mao Zedong and Western tourist pictures from famous sites.  
• Runs until February 9th, 2020  
**Ólafur Eliasson: The Glacier Melt s Series 1999/2020**  
In 1999, artist Ólafur Eliasson documented several dozen glaciers in Iceland. Twenty years later, he returned to photograph them again. This new photographic series brings together images from 1999 and 2020 to reveal the radical threat to our climate.  
• Runs until February 9th, 2020

**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ICELAND Pike Ward**  
Around 1900, Englishman Pike Ward was a well-known figure in Iceland. The fisherman was an amateur photographer, focusing on everyday life. Here, see over 1,500 photos and 300 artifacts the eccentric collected from his travels around the country.  
• Runs until January 12th, 2020

MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART

**Anna María Pitt Workshop**  
Silversmith Anna María Pitt has taken over the studio of the Museum of Design and Applied Art. Come watch her make her nature-inspired jewelry live, then buy some in the store.  
• Runs until January 26th, 2020  
**Sveinn Kjarval**  
This exhibition focuses on the pioneering work of Sveinn Kjarval, one of the most pioneering furniture makers and interior designers in the country. While many pieces have been lost in time, there will be photographs showing never-before-seen designs.  
• Runs until August 30th, 2020

**REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - KJARVALSSTAÐIR Jóhannes S. Kjarval: Can't Draw a Harebell**  
Here, explore the floral works of Jóhannes S. Kjarval, after whom the museum is named. Be it ornamental plants, potted plants, or wildflowers, you'll find it all.  
• Runs until February 16th, 2020  
**Ólöf Nordal: Úngl**  
In this mid-career retrospective, Ólöf Nordal dissects the structural material of mythical tales—taking old events and folktales and putting them into a modern context. Enter her preoccupation with nature and connect yourself to the land.  
• Runs until February 9th, 2020

**HVERFISGALLERÍ Súper Lókal**  
Loji Höskuldsson's visual art primarily explores new and traditional ways of embroidery, a technique he inherited from his mother who is a professional seamstress and embroidery expert. In his embroidery, Loji most often depicts a sort of still life with focus on everyday objects,

plants and fruits. The subtle poetic situations in our domestic lives are elevated in his works.  
• Runs until February 8th, 2020

**18 Kiss The Day Goodbye**  
Charles Atlas is a video artist and film director who was a pioneer in developing media dance, or as they call it, dance for camera. While the text has not been released for this exhibition yet, we assume it'll be spectacular.  
• Runs until February 1st, 2020

**LIVING ART MUSEUM Some Favourites**  
In this exhibition, the Living Art Museum presents pieces from its collection without attempting to fit them into any elaborate curatorial concept. Check out some of Iceland's best or most provocative contemporary art on its own terms.  
• Runs until February 23rd, 2020

**REYKJAVÍK ROASTERS Í kring 06**  
Artists Almar Atlason, Dadi Gudbjornsson and Kristín Gunnlaugsdóttir present a series of works from their recent print workshop at each Reykjavik Roasters location. There will be a special Walk & Talk on January 10th at 17:00 starting at Brautarholt 2.  
• Runs until February 23rd, 2020

**GALLERY PORT Regenerate #2 - Physical Newness**  
'Regenerate' is a word with many definitions and ideas. For this exhibition, the focus manifests itself in physical, mental, or spiritual loss. Each artwork explores how to renew or recreate oneself—what to do with this missing part of us.  
• Runs until January 16th, 2020

MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART

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Filing of a ceramic collection

Sveinn Kjarval

Furniture and interior designer

Opening 2<sup>nd</sup> November

Anna María Pitt

Silversmith

Designer in residence

Opening 25<sup>th</sup> October



28.11.2019–09.02.2020

# Ólafur Elíasson



Photo: Ólafur Elíasson. Detail of The glacier melt series 1999/2019. Courtesy of the artist and i8 Gallery, Reykjavík.

## The glacier melt series 1999/2019



**Hafnarhús**  
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# Film

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FILM



It's like Home Alone, except Kevin just feels alone in a room full of people

## The Nightmare Before And During Christmas

Director Rúnar Rúnarsson surprises with 'Echo'

Words: **Valur Gunnarsson** Photo: **Still from the film**

### Film

Screening at Háskólabíó, but not yet with English subtitles.

One of the first scenes in 'Echo' seems rather familiar in the context of Icelandic cinema. Man returns to the farm he grew up on, but now as a representative of the city. Instead of moving back into the old family abode, he sets it on fire, intending to import prefabricated housing to build a guesthouse. He also offers to buy eggs from the neighbour for money, disrupting the barter system of the locals. And yet, things seem a little bit off. The metaphor is a bit too strong, almost parodic. It soon becomes clear this is a rather different kind of film.

### Drunks play Matador

Instead of following the fate of small-town folk, we soon return to Reykjavík. Polish workers are cheated of their wages. A mother proudly looks on as her daughter practices dance moves. We then

see a parade of fitness contestants. Drunks play Matador (Monopoly) and haggle over down payments on housing no one can afford. Characters are introduced and then never appear again. This is probably a first in Iceland—an episodic film. Echoes (pun intended) of Roy Anderson abound, who in recent films has explored the drab downside of the Swedish social-democratic paradise.

**“A seemingly well-off man drinks expensive wine with his TV dinner alone on Christmas Eve while looking at his phone.”**

But Rúnar Rúnarsson's third film can perhaps be said to have more bite. After introducing some of those worst off in Icelandic society, we peek into other segments. There are no clear winners in late-capitalist Iceland. Some have it harder than others to be sure, but there's no easy villains. A seemingly well-off man drinks expensive wine with his TV dinner alone on Christmas Eve while looking at his phone. Another has a fight with his family over the purchase of a Christmas tree.

### Two traumatic weeks

What ties everything together is

the most traumatic two weeks in the Icelandic calendar: the last two weeks of the year leading up to Christmas and New Years. A geothermal hothouse farmer begs for an extension of his overdraft so that he can give his children a happy Christmas but is turned down. An elderly woman takes her grandson to the graveyard and tells him this is where everyone goes in the end.

'Echo' is an admirable antidote to the common perception of Iceland as a nature-loving utopia. There is perhaps nothing more Icelandic than the pre-Christmas, hyper-consumerist rush, which is then followed by manic overindulging that everyone is supposed to enjoy but few probably do. Two men argue over the merits of the Minister of Finance, one storming out with his minuscule party hat still on, ranting that nothing will ever change unless someone says something, though it is not clear the ranting has improved society very much.

In a way, this can be seen as a companion piece to Ísold Uggadóttir's excellent 'And Breathe Normally,' but whereas Ísold attempted to capture society by zooming in on two women, one local, the other immigrant, Rúnar goes for a more panoramic view. We also get a glimpse here of refugees being deported after seeking shelter in a church, although the idea that the bishop would support their cause is one of Rúnar's most cruel jokes.

### Deserves to be seen

At 79 minutes, 'Echo' does not overstay its welcome, and the ending is nothing short of masterful. The day after the party, and the first baby of the year is born, as depicted with footage from a real live birth. One cannot help but feel sorry for the poor child with all this in store. 'Echo' won't be to everyone's taste, but it deserves to be seen. 🇮🇸

[gpu.is/film](https://gpu.is/film)  
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Photo: Art Bicnick

## Various Events

### Friday January 10th

**Búkalú Burlesque Show**  
21:00 Gaukurinn  
**'Step Up 2: The Streets' Party Screening**  
20:00 Bió Paradís  
**Not So Secret Friday Show**  
21:00 The Secret Cellar

### Saturday January 11th

**Drag-Súgur: The Musical**  
21:30 Gaukurinn

### Sunday January 12th

**Black Sundays: 'Dead Ringers'**  
20:00 Bió Paradís  
**Party Bingo With Sigga Kling**  
21:00 Sæta Svinið

### Monday January 13th

**Soulflow: Women & Queer Comedy**  
21:00 Gaukurinn

### Tuesday January 14th

★ **SMOKE: Book Launch**  
19:00 Iðnó  
**Drink & Draw**  
21:00 Prikið  
**Gógó Starr: Drag Pub Quiz!**  
21:00 Fjallkonan  
**Funniest Four: Comedy Show**  
21:00 The Secret Cellar

### Wednesday January 15th

**'The Laxá Farmers' Screening**  
20:00 Bió Paradís  
**Golden Mic Stand-Up Comedy**  
21:00 The Secret Cellar

### Thursday January 16th

**My Voices Have Tourettes**  
21:00 The Secret Celler

### Friday January 17th

**'The Big Lebowski' Party Screening**  
20:00 Bió Paradís  
**Not So Secret Friday Show**  
21:00 The Secret Cellar

### Saturday January 18th

**Saturday Night Showcase**  
21:00 The Secret Cellar

### Sunday January 19th

**Black Sundays: 'Jacob's Ladder'**  
20:00 Bió Paradís  
**Party Bingo With Sigga Kling**  
21:00 Sæta Svinið

### Monday January 20th

**Soulflow: Women & Queer Comedy**  
21:00 Gaukurinn

### Tuesday January 21st

**Funniest Four: Comedy Show**  
21:00 The Secret Cellar  
**Gógó Starr: Drag Pub Quiz!**  
21:00 Fjallkonan

### Wednesday January 22nd

**Golden Mic Stand-Up Comedy**  
21:00 The Secret Cellar

### Thursday January 23rd

**Drag-Súgur Drag Lab**  
21:30 Gaukurinn  
**My Voices Have Tourettes**  
21:00 The Secret Celler

### Friday January 24th

**'Cry-Baby' Party Screening**  
20:00 Bió Paradís  
**Not So Secret Friday Show**  
21:00 The Secret Cellar

### Saturday January 25th

**'Amélie' 20th Anniversary Screening**  
20:00 Bió Paradís  
**Saturday Night Showcase**  
21:00 The Secret Cellar

### Sunday January 26th

**Party Bingo With Sigga Kling**  
21:00 Sæta Svinið  
**Black Sundays:**  
**'The Friends Of Eddit Coyle'**  
20:00 Bió Paradís

### Monday January 27th

**Soulflow: Women & Queer Comedy**  
21:00 Gaukurinn

### Tuesday January 28th

**Gógó Starr: Drag Pub Quiz!**  
21:00 Fjallkonan  
**Funniest Four: Comedy Show**  
21:00 The Secret Cellar

### Wednesday January 29th

**Golden Mic Stand-Up Comedy**  
21:00 The Secret Cellar

### Thursday January 30th

**My Voices Have Tourettes**  
21:00 The Secret Celler

### Friday January 31st

**'Sister Act 2' Party Screening**  
20:00 Bió Paradís  
**Not So Secret Friday Show**  
21:00 The Secret Cellar

### Saturday February 1st

**Saturday Night Showcase**  
21:00 The Secret Cellar  
**'Wine Calling' Screening & Wine Tasting**  
18:00 Bió Paradís

### Sunday February 2nd

**Black Sundays: 'Kagemusha'**  
20:00 Bió Paradís

### Monday February 3rd

**Soulflow: Women & Queer Comedy**  
21:00 Gaukurinn

### Tuesday February 4th

**Gógó Starr: Drag Pub Quiz!**  
21:00 Fjallkonan  
**Funniest Four: Comedy Show**  
21:00 The Secret Cellar

### Wednesday February 5th

**Golden Mic Stand-Up Comedy**  
21:00 The Secret Cellar

### Thursday February 6th

**Café Lingua: Language Rendezvous**  
18:00 Stúdentakjallarinn  
**My Voices Have Tourettes**  
21:00 The Secret Celler

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## Valkyrie-Va-Voom

Swing from the chandeliers  
with drag queen Agatha P.

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen & Agatha P.** Photo: **Art Bienick**

### Making Of An Artist

Agatha P.—yes, it's pronounced like you'd think, and yes, it's genius—is one of Iceland's most beloved drag queens. Created by the lovely dancer Ásgeir Helgi Magnússon, Agatha is a kooky, silly, sexy, and oddly flexible character known for her bizarre sense of humour and contemporary dance skills. But hold up: Agatha is no bimbo, she's also a regular correspondent for the *Stóru Málin* and co-created the hit show 'Memoirs Of A Valkyrie,' which will have its final performance at Tjarnarbíó on January 10th. Here's what makes Agatha...well...P.

### Sia

There is something so incredibly magical in Sia's music. And her voice! OMG, she sings in a frequency that stirs everything up inside of me—her music inspires, drives and turns on the waterworks. Waterproof mascara recommended. I also love the fact that she places a young contemporary dancer in the foreground of all her performances. Maddie Ziegler embodies Sia's music in such a raw, poetic

way. I get goosebumps just thinking about it.

### Vala Matt

Vala Matt is a national treasure. I grew up watching her on Stöð 2 and I've always had great admiration and respect for her. She is creative, chic, very glamorous, and on the screen she always comes across as a lively yet incredibly warm persona who shows so much interest in people and their stories. She was a huge inspiration for me when I created my on-screen character, serious anchorwoman Agatha P.

### Makeup

I can watch makeup tutorials for days and one of my all-time favourite beauty vloggers is NikkieTutorials. She's a Dutch girl bursting with energy and love for makeup, plus she is just so damn likeable. I love trying out new things in makeup but I find myself drawn to bright colours that pop out, sparkles, and GLITTER. My favourite brand by far is Sugarpill. They make high pigmented colourful palettes that

**"If Elsa can  
make it snow  
with her frozen  
fingers, I must  
be able to find  
ways to do it,  
too."**

are cruelty-free and the majority of their products are vegan.

### Cartoons

I have a very vivid imagination and I love seeking inspiration from cartoons. The animated world is such an amazing place without boundaries. The imagination gets to run free and challenge the laws of nature. I always strive ways to take this into performances and push the boundaries of what is "doable" on stage. If Elsa can make it snow with her frozen fingers, I must be able to find ways to do it too.

### Contemporary Dance

Contemporary Dance is objectively the best form of dance and definitely a life-changing factor for me. Being a professional dancer is maybe somewhat of a poorly paid profession but it's a rich and fulfilling lifestyle. I've toured the world, worked with amazing artists, and made beautiful life-long friendships. One of my wonderful friends from dance even ventured on the journey into the world of drag with me.

### Wagner 'Valkyries'

I love opera! It combines everything I adore. Glamorous divas, over the top makeup and costumes, and beautifully overacted melodrama. I have a freakishly soft spot for the theatrical and my adoration of this art form brought me to create a drag theatre performance based on Wagner's Valkyries. Four drag queens in full armour riding on inflatable horses—what could go wrong? Come see us in Tjarnarbíó on January 10th. #shamelessplug



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Wine 800 ISK,  
Cocktails 1,000 ISK.

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Wine 1,000 ISK,  
Cocktails 1,500 ISK.

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Wine 800 ISK.

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Every day from  
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Wine 900 ISK.

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Every day from  
15:00 to 18:00.

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Wine 750 ISK,  
Cocktails 1,200 ISK

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

**STOFAN CAFÉ**  
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Beer 750 ISK,  
Wine 950 ISK.

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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**  
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Beer 750 ISK,  
Wine 800 ISK.



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month - 1,290 ISK  
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**Shalimar**  
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12:00 - 14:30  
Curry - 1,290 ISK  
Vegan option

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

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

**Lemon**  
Every day  
16:00 - 21:00  
2f1 Juice +  
sandwich  
1,095 ISK  
Vegan option

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

2,000 ISK  
And Under

**Bryggjan  
Brugghús**  
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11:30 - 15:00  
Dish of the day  
soup & bread -

1,690 ISK  
**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

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And Under

**Apótek**  
Every day  
11:30 - 16:00  
Two-course  
lunch -3,390 ISK  
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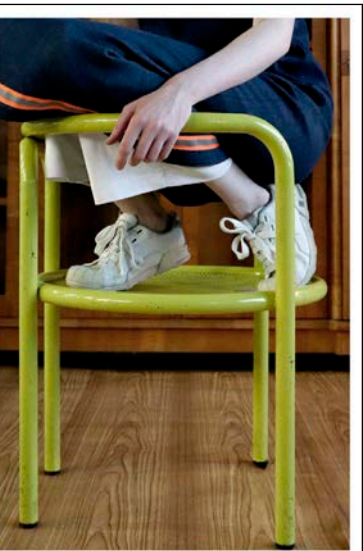
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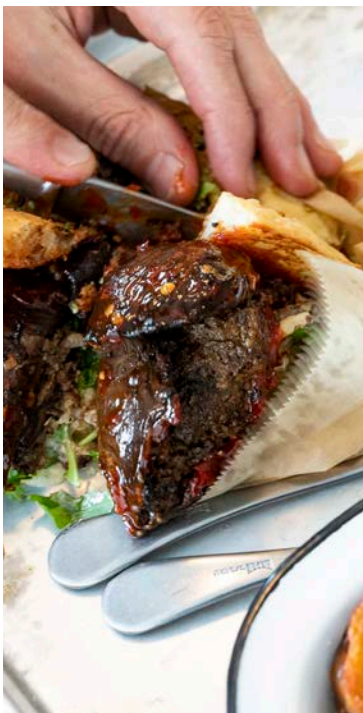


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- > Lamb tartar, chive mayo

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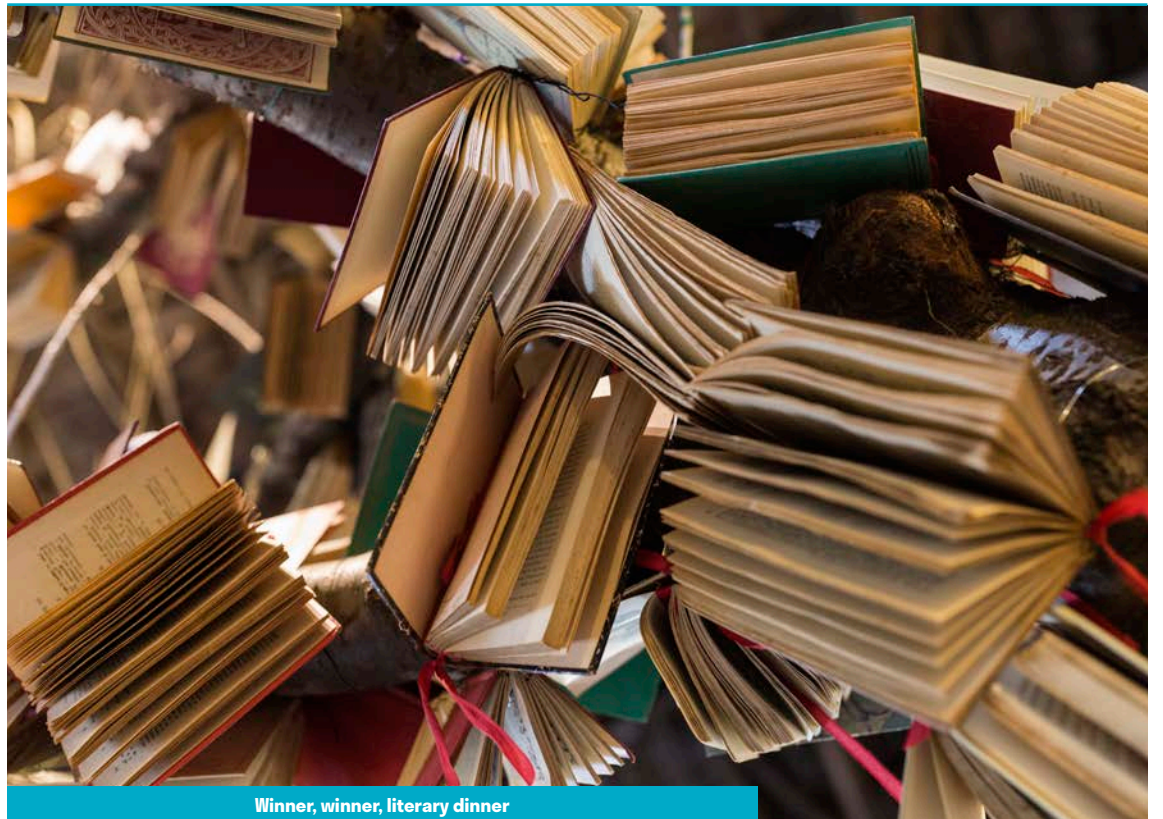
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## Books

The Reykjavik Grapevine 32  
Issue 01 — 2020



Winner, winner, literary dinner

# Reading Too Much Into The Icelandic Literary Prize Nominees

... and who we think will win

Words: **Valur Grettisson** Photo: **Adobe Stock**

The Icelandic Book Prize winners will be announced in late January.

It's that time of the year, when writers and scholars fight to the death—in the poetic sense, of course. Yes, the nominees for the Icelandic Book Prize have been announced, including 15 authors in three categories, who will now compete for the prestigious honour and a one million ISK cash prize.

The Reykjavik Grapevine parsed the nominees to predict what is likely to win and determine what we think actually should win.

### The poetry possibility

First off, when looking at the Icelandic literary scene this year, one quickly notices one important detail: There have never been as many poetry books published in Iceland.

That said, there is only one poetry book nominated on the list in the Novel category, which is 'Dimmumót' by Steinunn Sigurðardóttir, a veteran writer who also won the prize in 1995 with her novel 'Hjartastaður' ('Where the Heart Is'). She is a strong contestant and could win again as a representative of the poetry scene, although the statistics are not on her side when it comes to an author winning the award more than once. Only two writers have achieved that feat since 1989.

### Bragi could win...

But there are notable heavyweight champions in the Novel category. Bragi Ólafsson has a book in the

race called 'Staða pundsins' ('Status of the Pound'). The book is, like most of Bragi's novels, a little bit incoherent and slow, but brilliant in its own unique style. Bragi is very well respected, but has never won the prize. Our money is on him.

That said, our heart is with Bergþóra Snæbjörnsdóttir. She is relatively new in the scene, having released her first poetry book last year, 'Flóridaljóðin' ('Florida-Poems'), which was nominated but didn't win. Her new book, a novel called 'Svínshöfuð' ('Pig's Head'), is a unique tale of immigrants experiencing the harshness of Icelandic culture and weather.

### But hold on

There are two more writers in the race, both brilliant. First off, Guðrún Eva Mínervudóttir is nominated for her short story collection 'Aðferðir til þess að lifa af' ('Methods of surviving'). Guðrún Eva is just otherworldly when it comes to writing, having gone from magical realism to just odd realism. She's one of those writers that makes you feel like you've been touched by something special.

As well, Sölvi Björn Sigurðsson is nominated for his novel 'Selta — Apókrýfa úr ævi landlæknis' (I feel truly sorry for the brave soul who will try to translate this title, but the first word would be 'Salinity'

if that helps). Both of these writers are incredibly capable, but to be blunt, the buzz is not there. That said, anything could happen.

### The first immigrant to win?

What's really enjoyable about the book prize is that it has a special category for children's books. Five writers are nominated in the category, one of whom, Hildur Knútsdóttir, has won the prize before. She is now nominated for her young adult novel 'Nornin' ('The Witch').

The buzz, however, is around Lani Yamamoto's book, 'Egill spámaður' ('Egill The Prophet'). Lani's nomination is unique in the sense that she doesn't speak Icelandic, or, at least, not in interviews. So if she wins, she will be the first immigrant to claim the prize. Our money, as well as our heart, is with Lani, and it's truly refreshing to have a voice like hers in the race.

### The nightmare group

Now to the heavy stuff: Five writers are nominated in the non-fiction category. In this group, we have a former member of parliament, Ólína Kjerúlf Þorvarðardóttir, who wrote about the history of ancient medicine in Iceland. We also have a veteran cultural journalist and director, Páll Baldvin Baldvinsson, who wrote about Iceland's history of fishing herring. Icelanders are suckers for fish, as you probably know, so we'd put our money on this book.

That said, there has been a lot of buzz about the biography of the legendary writer Jakobína Sigurðardóttir, which was written by her own daughter, Sigríður Kristín Þorgrímsdóttir.

If we had to choose between two nominations and flip a coin for it, we would say Jakobína or the herring history.

Well, there you have it, all of the nominations. The award ceremony will be held at the presidential residence Bessastaðir

at the end of January. We don't take bets, but if you win some small fortune based on our insights, please donate 10% of the winnings to the Grapevine. If you lose, please don't mention our part in it. 🍷

**"Icelanders are suckers for fish, as you probably know, so we'd put our money on this book."**



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

# Sand Shark

Sand Shark (22) is a fashion student, cosplayer and costume-enthusiast.

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen Photo: Art Bicnick

**Sand Shark is wearing:**

- Tiny purple glitter top
- Fluffy jacket from Dolls Kill
- Skirt from TopShop
- Shoes from Dolls Kill
- The patch is from a con. It has Marina and The Diamonds lyrics on it.

**Describe your style in five words:**  
Colourful, glittery thot. That's it.

**Favourite stores in Reykjavik:**

It depends on the time of year. For example, I really enjoy that glitter-clothes become more popular around Christmas. I have really been liking the stuff at Zara and Júnik right now because it's all so sparkly. But there's not a lot of stores here that sell the type of clothing that I really love. But I do love—when I go dark—Rokk & Rómantík.

**Favourite piece:**

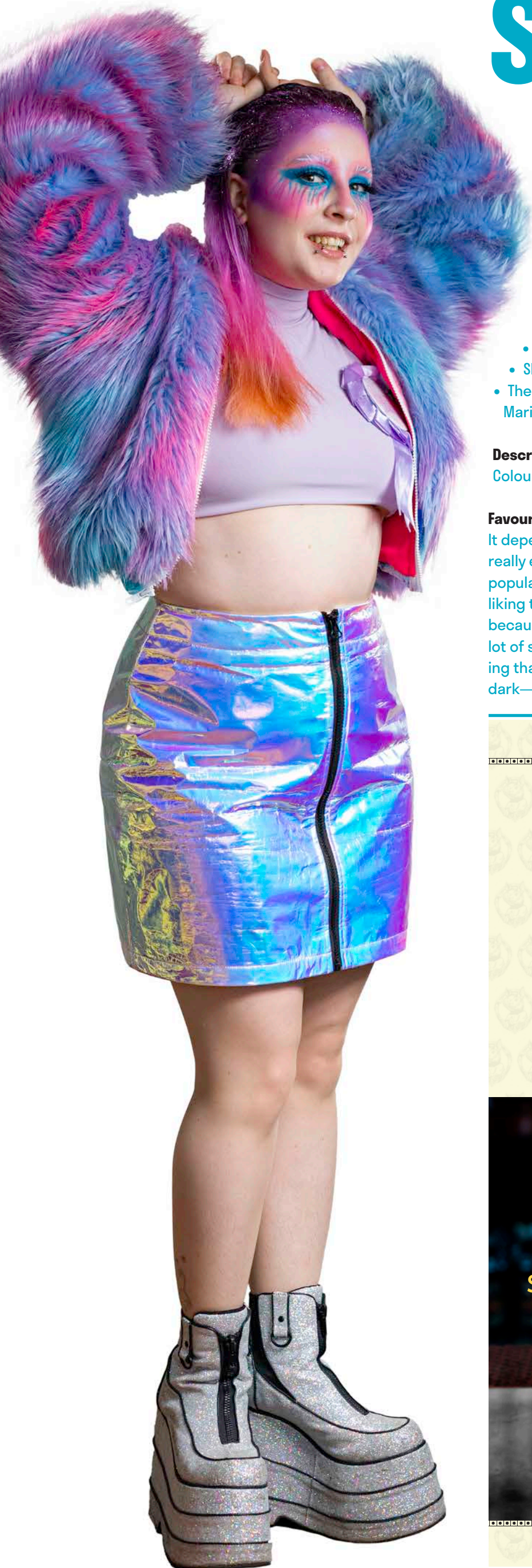
This pink furry jacket, and also my glitter shoes. Glitter is my love. Just pour some glitter on me and I'm good.

**Something you would never wear:**

That's a hard one. The colour yellow I don't really like on me. I've seen other people pull it off, though. You know that Icelandic fashion mustard colour? No. Not gonna happen.

**Lusting after:**

Right now, what I'm focusing all my energy into is getting my degree because I really want to go to school in the U.K. to become a costume technician. Making costumes and making dresses is where my passion lies. But I'm also lusting after biodegradable glitter to be easily accessible here. 🐷





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# Food

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A restaurant for the very svelte

## A Sublime Symphony

Dill 3.0 rattles fine dining norms

Words: Shruthi Basappa Photo: Art Bicnick

I walk into the womb-like vestibule of Dill, still smelling faintly of tar and paint, with just enough lighting to help my eyes adjust to the dark interiors. The light grows as I walk up the stairs and so does my anticipation.

Dill 3.0 has only been open a few weeks. We normally do not review restaurants this early, but this is chef Gunnar Karl, and when he tells you that he is planning to turn the tasting menu-wine pairing concept on its head, you grab front row tickets post haste.

### Laissez-'fare'

The space that once housed Nostra has been transformed into a rusty terracotta cocoon of warmth. Forged greens in clear glass frames and burnished wood ledges with wine glasses strike a homely vibe. With the service abandoning the long-winded spiel about the res-

taurant-ingredients-techniques for easy conversation, I can't help but feel I am at a friendly dinner party.

Echoing that same vibe, the wine courses—all natural—are offered for a group of dishes, rather than the traditional course by course pairing. In a fine dining setting such as this, the democratisation of pairings allows for refreshing dialogue between diners and the chefs.

Signature snacks arrive in rapid succession—a teeny disc of cod chip dotted with prunes, a thimble of 'kitchen scrap' consommé is a mouthful of deep dashi-like intensity, and the goose offal pâté is like swallowing a Christmas bauble in the best possible way. Ruby red beets and equally bloody blueberries are raw and pickled with a light snow of horseradish, the stinging sharpness of which nicely augments the Blanc de Blancs de Bouzy 'B3' champagne from Jean Vesselle.

The 'onion cake' however is al-

ready gaining notoriety. A rich, almost malty financier, the rendered onions interestingly recall foie gras-like butteriness. Cut with the sparkly wine, this remains a bite you remember long after the meal. Each of these heralders are perfectly one-bite sized designed to leave one longing for more.

### Beyond tasting menus

A stream of demure and verdant local veggies arrive next. Matchstick like raw rutabaga becomes more than the sum of its parts with its coriander and chilli flecked rutabaga mash. The 2015 Chardonnay from Alexandre Coulangue highlights the citrus notes of the coriander, making it one of my favourite pairings of the evening. Solfinn Danielsen's curation is unmistakable.

Designed to reduce kitchen waste and to use ingredients in their entirety, the main courses each honour one star ingredient—on this occasion, cod and goose.

Fish bones are simmered for a soup, and when poured over tiny orbs of al dente potatoes it is a more successful reference to plokfiskur than the quenelle of cod that preceded it. The dry 2017 Chenin Blanc from Garo'Vin is an arresting accompaniment, but the cod centres are so textbook I find myself longing for some guts and glory.

The goose breast with pickled crowberries reminds me that this is what the goose likely ate sans the copious puddle of seaweed butter of course. The punch is delivered with the intensely savoury goose leg broth, every sip studded with a brunoise of pickled root vegetables.

As I look back, however, it is the humble griddle-cooked potato flatbread I am thinking about. Nostalgia is a powerful ingredient in cooking and one that Dill has long teased. Here the bread with smoked cream cheese and hand harvested salt is a reminder of flatkaka and smoked meats traditionally eaten in Iceland, with neither of the two components actually being served.

Dill 3.0 cleverly curates an entire experience, be it the absence of branding except for subtle flourishes in the letterpress menu cards, the cutlery jar instead of place settings and the eclectic playlist. Even as the winning wine and dinner service are bookended by precision food, it is all designed to put you at ease, and really rattle fine dining norms. And that it does, with aplomb. 🍷

JimClaudia2016

Reviewed 1 week ago

Authentic Thai Food

I am surprised at the poor reviews because during our visit in August the service and food were both great. Maybe because we just arrived just before they opened at 6?

Actually, in hindsight, I am glad we did not read the reviews because we were so pleased with our meal and we were able to have lengthy conversations with both the owner and staff.

Show less

Date of visit: August 2019

Value Service Food

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Rustic n' crusty! (say that three times fast)

# The Lady Of The Mountain In A Ferris Wheel

Fjallkonan takes its guest on an interesting ride

Words: Ragnar Egilsson Photos: Art Bicnick

Cupcakes on Ferris wheels, smoke-filled bubbles on cocktails, duck leg pancake towers in birdcages—Fjallkonan is big on whimsy and not shy about it.

Located at the historic at Hafnarstræti 1-3, the duck leg bird cages serve as a sly call-back to the building's history. Originally the site of "Fálkahúsið" (The Falcon House) which was used to store locally-captured falcons for the Danish king during the latter half of the 18th century. The original building was torn down in 1868, and between 1880 and 1907 the house was expanded. Two floors were gradually added and ultimately the city stuck a couple of wooden falcons to the ridge of the roof in memory of the halcyon days of colonial bird prisons. The structure remained essentially the same until it was officially given protected status in 1991.

**The rotation**

The 2000s saw the location play host to a rotation of bars, cafés, and

restaurants such as Café Victor, Uno, Balthazar, Rustik, and Galileó. Curiously, all of them featured a Mediterranean or Icelandic theme or some combination thereof and Fjallkonan seems set to continue that theme with added pizzazz (no pizzas, though).

**Lady of the mountain**

Fjallkonan opened in June 2020, with the most Icelandic name possible ("Lady of the Mountain" being the literal female personification of the nation), and backed by the same team of restaurateurs that own next door's gastropub Sæta Svínið as well as sharing owners with perennial local favourites Apótek, Tapasbarinn and Sushi Social.

As with the other restaurants on their roster, the menu at Fjallkonan is extensive and features a wide array of ingredients. The price bracket would land them in high-end dining but it's a relaxed-fit atmosphere and the portions are quite generous. A couple of "small courses" may well

be enough for a date night (especially if you're hoping the date goes well and don't want to feel like a human bouncy castle).

**Shift of focus**

Initially, the cuisine of Fjallkonan complemented the patriotic name, with a reasonably strong focus on Icelandic techniques and ingredients, but it has gradually moved to include more inspiration from Mediterranean and Middle-Eastern cuisines. This amalgamation of influences is well represented by the presence of "skyr tahini" in several dishes or by employing savoury Icelandic crepes for the hoisin duck wraps.

Vegans and vegetarians are well served with dishes like BBQ mushroom "ribs" and yuzu-glazed beets with whipped feta cheese (the second being a particular stand-out).

**Deconstructed desserts**

The atmosphere is lively on weekends, with groups of locals and tourists of all ages plonking down to quaff bright cocktails and stuff themselves with deconstructed desserts influenced by classic Icelandic candies before disappearing into the Reykjavík night to plow through the sleet.

The inclusion of one of the city's largest outdoor seating areas meant that Fjallkonan has been quick to establish itself during one of Iceland's warmest summers on record and it isn't showing any signs of letting up.



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# Travel



## Soaking In Love

A relaxing bath in the Húsafell canyon baths

Words: Sam O'Donnell Photos: Art Bicnick



Distance from Reykjavik: 132 km

How to get there: Route 49 to Þjóðvegur 1, then follow Borgarfjarðarbraut and Hálsaveitarvegur to Húsafell

Trip provided by: Húsafell Canyon Baths [husafell.com](http://husafell.com)

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Standing in a heated, pine-panelled room, putting off changing into my swimsuit to bathe in the outdoor hotpot Giljaböð, I began to question all decisions that brought me to this exact point in life. The temperature outside was -6° Celsius. My coat hung on a hook fashioned from an old horseshoe, and my bag rested on a bench topped with a goat hide. Outside the changing room, a series of rugged cliffs carved out a canyon, covered in fresh snow and bisected by a shallow river.

Half an hour ago, my wife, Harpa, and I sat in a warm, well-lighted cafe in Húsafell, chatting with our guide, Olga, as we waited for the maintenance staff to clear the snowy path to the rustic facilities. The storm last night had blocked the way. "He doesn't think it's a good idea, but I think it's fine," Olga shrugged. I suspected he was probably just grumpy about having to clear the way for two overeager lovebirds. Honestly, I couldn't blame him.

### A long-awaited journey

In order to make the hike over to the cliffs' edge and down a slippery set of stairs, Harpa and I donned slip-resistant shoe-covers. The weather had caused our journey to be postponed more than once, and our faces were pummeled with falling snow as we made the trek; we wondered if perhaps we should have stayed home. But we were determined, as we had an anniversary to celebrate.

Bearing this in mind, I took a deep

breath, pulled on my swim trunks, braced myself and confidently approached the door. The counterweight that kept the door shut lowered as I opened it, and the whipping wind and snow greeted me eagerly, stinging every bit of exposed flesh. I sprinted to the pool where my wife, clearly the braver half of our partnership, was already waiting.

We were alone in the canyon and as soon as I joined her in the warm waters of Giljaböð, all doubts, worries, and regrets melted along with the chill in my bones as we popped open the champagne.

### Three baths, three adventures

There are three baths to choose from in the Húsafell canyon. Urð (Earth) is the warmest, at roughly 41° Celsius, while Hringur (ring), modelled after Snorri Sturluson's own secret hot tub in Reykholt, is 10° cooler. Down a flagstone path is a nameless bath, which is the coldest of the three and, one day like my wife and I experienced, is clearly reserved for those who wish to assert their dominance and prove their insanity.

All three were constructed using methods dating back to the 10th century, and the entire site was made from locally sourced, natural materials. Stone from the canyon floor was used to construct the pools. The changing rooms were built using salvaged timber from old telephone poles. Even the



Difficult journey, but worth it

hooks on the walls and the goatskins on the benches in the changing rooms were sourced from local farms. The entire setup was put together with the goal of preserving the integrity of the canyon while also allowing discerning adventurers to take in a magnificent view.

### Soaking it in

We opted to take in the view from the warmest bath. Sheer cliff faces surrounded us on all sides, almost completely blocking out any wind. Tumbling down the cliff were a series of waterfalls that had frozen over. The surrounding cold air was soon forgotten as we soaked in the hot water.

With cup holders built in the water-side snow, we sat quietly, the whistling

wind our only soundtrack, enjoying the space between us that our silence occupied, appreciating the moment. You can't find this in any public swimming pool in Iceland. No, this type of tucked away experience is only available for those adventurous sorts who enjoy minimalistic outdoor experiences. Here, there is no gift shop and the exit is through the same way you came. You'll find no bar. If you want drinks, bring them yourself. But the tradeoff is a splendid opportunity to bathe in a hot spring in the same way as the Vikings and medieval chieftains did a thousand years ago. You may not get an overpriced souvenir for it, but the memories will stay with you forever.

Harpa and I clinked our glasses and I stole a kiss. We both knew one thing: this spot, right here, right now was the best in the world. 🍷



The cosy changing room



Trying out the hot tubs

"We both sat quietly, the whistling wind our only soundtrack, enjoying the space between us that our silence occupied, appreciating the moment."





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WELL, YOU ASKED



## Dicks, Solariums And A Goldfish

Words: Sveinbjörn Pálsson  
Photo: Jói Kjartans

*Got a problem that needs solving, a burning issue that needs addressing, a matter that needs settling, or a thirst for awesome life advice? We at the Grapevine are here to help.*

**I'm haunted by the phrase "don't be a dick," as I am truly a "prick," personality-wise. Do I get points for being the best "knob" that I can be, within the framework of a life lead as a natural "plonker"?**

**- H. Sigurdsson (Freelance, Reykjavík)**  
No. Tactlessness can be ascribed to impulsiveness, a personality trait connected to such medically recognised conditions as ADHD. However, flatulence can also stem from medical conditions, and it's really nothing to be proud of. Except I strongly suspect that these two go hand in hand. I think that the solution is consent: both for proud fart-makers and lordly weenie-cerebrumites. Clubs can be set up where both kinds of hot air can be exchanged freely, with pleasure.

**When did visiting solariums stop being cool? - Anonymous (DJ, Reykjavík)**  
1996. This has nothing to do with relative age, the fact that I turned 17 that year is an absolute coincidence.

**Is getting a goldfish morally defensible? - R. Flygenring (Artist, Reykjavík)**  
According to veganism, no. All exploitation of animals is off the table. If you want a lively pet-something, your options are one of those fly-eating plants, or getting a Tamagotchi off Bland.is. Technically the exploitation of flies is off the table, but since it's a non-human doing the exploitation you'll be ok. 🐛

**Send your unsolvable (UNTIL NOW) problems to [grapevine@grapevine.is](mailto:grapevine@grapevine.is) or tweet us at [@rvkgrapevine](https://twitter.com/rvkgrapevine).**

HORROR-SCOPES

# New Year's ResoLeoTions

Everyone loves a mandala tattoo...

Words: The Reykjavík Grapevine Spiritual Dept.  
Photo: Art Bicnick

*In HorrorScopes, the Grapevine's dedicated team of amateur astrologists breaks down your upcoming weeks based on garbage datapoints like your time of birth.*



### Aries

The Law Of Attraction states that if you send positive vibes out to the universe, the universe will respond in kind with blessings. We're SURE this will cure your eczema.



### Taurus

Stay the fuck away from the Golden Circle.



### Gemini

Mae West might be most well known for her raunchy double entendres, but she was also arrested for obscenity charges relating to her 1927 play 'Sex.' West knew the police were coming so she put on some lipstick and surrounded herself with drag queens. The

subsequent paparazzi photos went "1920s viral." Tragedy will strike in 2020, Gemini, so you best turn it into publicity.



### Cancer

Cancer, you are a strong, attractive, interesting, loving, and hysterical person. Stop texting your ex. He watches 'The Big Bang Theory.'



### Leo

So in 2019 you went vegan. In 2020, take the extra step and become 'spiritual.' Everyone loves a mandala tattoo.



### Virgo

Nail-biting is not a proper diet, Virgo. January is the month to bring out the pepper nail polish and pretend it works until you catch yourself enjoying the punishing taste while you try to hang on to the feeling that everything is under control. It's not.



In 2020, we plan to smoke, drink, and raise our cholesterol



### Libra

Henry VIII's oft-forgotten Catholic wife, Anne of Cleves, somehow secured an amicable annulment from the notoriously unstable leader. She left the palace with a generous salary, two castles, and outlived almost everyone involved with Henry's crazy AF life. Let Anne be your guide for 2020. By that, we mean, never consummate a marriage.



### Scorpio

Scorpio, 2020 spells disappointment. Sorry. You need to try less hard. Not that you're overdoing things, or controlling, it's just that with what's in the cards for you, any effort is wasted, save for the regular trip to the giant ice cream freezer in Hagkaup Skeifan at 3 in the morning. Your only possible saving grace is spending all your money on lottery tickets.



### Sagittarius

It's time to reflect on the back pain that carrying a clown mask for all these years has put on you. Bury the clown, kick the clown, open up to the clown and be free.



### Capricorn

Yes, Capricorn, everyone can tell you've been listening to too much Xanax rap even though you're clearly not cool enough for that. You're an accountant.



### Aquarius

On New Year's Eve you got trashed and shaved your head in the back alley of an underground club in Berlin...now what? Aquarius, no one is surprised.



### Pisces

This is the year for bathroom breaks to stop being crying breaks, Pisces. 🐟



CITY SHOT by Art Bicnick

Who doesn't like a little storm?



Hressingarskálinn (Hressó) is a Classical Bistro, located in the heart of the city at Austurstræti 20

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Photo: Eyjafjallajökull Eruption 2010



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**LAST WORDS**

## To The Nazi In The Café

Words: **Catharine Fulton**  
Photo: **Art Bicnick**

Thank you for so publicly displaying your hate in the form of a sizeable decal on your otherwise standard issue MacBook. Standing behind you in line, you spoke with such congeniality to the barista (who is most certainly not Nordic... why didn't you "resist" her?) that I contentedly sat with my oat milk latte and a warm feeling in my heart that I was sharing the space with another good and decent human being. Thank you for correcting me.

As 2020 kicks into gear, I am grateful for the opportunity to sip my morning coffee in close proximity to your hostile symbolism, as the experience has served to strengthen my resolve to spend this new year and every year thereafter doing what I can to combat your ideologies and build a society where you do not feel comfortable being so brazen in your hatred.

I resolve, among other things, to multiply my efforts to instil in my children a deep appreciation and love for people of every colour, creed, gender and ability and teach them that all people are welcome and worthy.

If I were a religious person, dear Nazi, I would pray for you. But instead I will keep you in mind as I spread love and acceptance. I will also hope that in this new year, for the sake of yourself, Icelandic society and the world at large, you will resolve to embrace and appreciate the differences of the people around you rather than continuing to harbour so much disdain in your heart.

Happy New Year. 🍷

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