

## So Much Travel

**Travel:** Read this issue and you won't be home all summer

## dirb Is No Bird

**Music:** Scene stalwart makes waves as producer

## Close Travel

**City:** Reykjavik's sunny day hidden treasures

## Raven Pro-Tips

**Superstition:** Latest 18th c. knowledge on winged menace

+ Design ~~March~~ June coverage!

# Travel Like A Tourist

THE GRAPEVINE IS BACK WITH AN ISSUE DEDICATED TO TRAVELLING IN OUR FAVOURITE COUNTRY WITH ALL THE WIDE-EYED WONDER OF A TOURIST.

Plus!

GIG GUIDE × CITY MAP × TRAVEL IDEAS × FOOD





**COVER PHOTO:**  
Art Bionick

**ART DIRECTION:**  
Sveinbjörn Pálsson

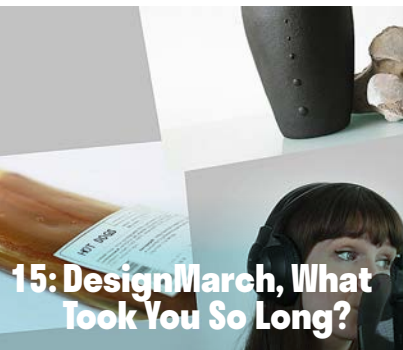
**ABOUT THE COVER:**  
A simple pic from our archives, a snapshot of joy and tranquility in our lovely nature.

# First



**06: Welcome Back!**

**08: Ravens Are No Good**  
**10: Travel! We Know The Cool Spots! (Promise)**



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## EDITORIAL



This issue is the Reykjavík Grapevine's first to be printed since COVID-19 forced us all into our houses. It's becoming clear how much the pandemic has changed, not only in the world, but also for us living in Iceland. Around 50,000 Iceland residents are now in one way or another receiving their salaries from the Directorate of Labour. Thousands have lost their jobs, and the rest of us are struggling in many ways. I don't want to be gloomy about it, but we are headed for a recession and it's no fun. Thankfully, experts believe

that we will get over it quickly, and what's more, Icelanders have a unique talent for finding fast ways out of recessions. Just look at the 2008 collapse of the financial system and how quickly we got ourselves on our feet again. So I'm optimistic, although, this time it will force some of us to look for new ways to survive. But we will get there. I'm sure of it.



In this issue, we want to take your mind off things and offer our expertise when it comes to travelling. We have been roaming around the country for years, hunting for its most

beautiful aspects and compiling them in our magazine for tourists to enjoy. But we also understand that this expertise of ours is incredibly useful to Icelanders, who have perhaps not been travelling in their own country in recent years and are looking forward to rediscovering it.

This issue highlights the crème de la crème of travel in Iceland—everything from where to camp with your family, to places that you should visit, to the many of the excellent restaurants that you can find all over the country. Our advice is simple: don't travel like an Icelandic, travel like a tourist. **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.



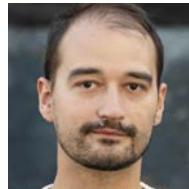
**Art Bionick** is Grapevine's photo editor. An international man of mystery, Art moves like a shadow through the subcultures and soirees of Reykjavík, never still, often ghosting the scene in a puff of blue smoke—the exhaust fumes of the elusive, well-travelled Bionick mini.



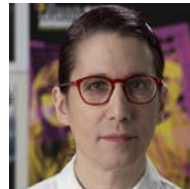
**Nico Borbely** is an American-Italian language and geography nerd from Michigan and Viadana, Lombardy with stints in several other countries. He can usually be found brewing espresso, hoarding books, singing along to multilingual Disney videos, or cooking experimental noodle dishes.



**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.



**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.



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



**Poppy Askham** is a languages student, fledgling writer, and lover of flared jeans who has fled to Iceland in a desperate bid to escape Boris' Brexit Britain whilst she still can. Looking for a new adventure, she's swapped her hometown Bath with its crowds of tourists and famous hot springs for... Reykjavík.



**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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INTO THE GLACIER





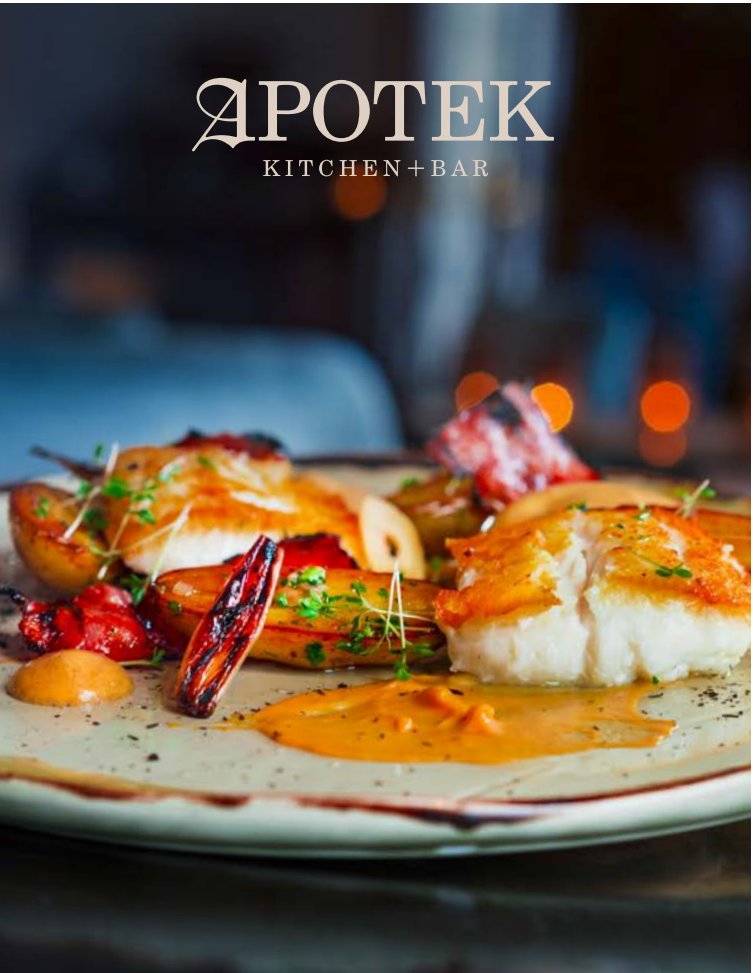
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Presidential candidate Guðmundur Franklin

## What Are Icelanders Talking About?

News and views in the Icelandic discourse

NEWS

Words: **Andie Sophia Fontaine** Photos: **Adobe Stock** & **Art Bienick**

On June 3rd, some **4,000 people turned out for a Black Lives Matter demonstration in Reykjavík**. Held at Austurvöllur square, the event was streamed live by the Reykjavík Grapevine and featured four speakers, all of them Black people living in Iceland. The event was regarded positively by most Icelanders, organisers told us. The police behaved themselves, either standing on the sidelines or in the crowd. No arrests were made. However, a distinct difference in reporting could be seen in the days following the event.

While most reporters kept their focus on the issues being addressed—racism and police brutality in the US and in Iceland—some outlets focussed on the event exceeding the public gathering maximum of 200 people. Police did not seem concerned by the supposed infraction, with Reykjavík area chief of police Ásgeir Þór Ásgeirsson saying, “I can’t see how Austurvöllur [could have a 200-person limit] unless we start limiting Laugavegur or Lækjartorg or someplace to no more than 200 people. That would be difficult to enforce.”

Presidential elections are this month. While it is considered unusual if not downright rude for

anyone to run against a popular incumbent president in Iceland, **Guðmundur Franklin Jónsson**, a former stock broker and unabashed fan of US President Donald Trump, **is taking a run at President Guðni Th. Jóhannesson**. Even though the election is, at the time of this writing, pretty much a foregone conclusion—the latest polls show Guðni having the support of over 90% of



From the Black Lives Matter protests in Reykjavík

those who intend to vote—that isn’t stopping Guðmundur from trying his best. And by that we mean he’s accused Guðni of saying things he never said, taking some of the things he has said completely out of

context, and invoking the Spectre of the European Union, a robust trope amongst Icelandic populists. It should come as a relief to 90+% of Icelanders that they shouldn’t have to worry about Guðmundur darkening the halls of Bessastaðir anytime soon.

Finally, **Iceland’s borders have opened**. Schengen Area and UK legal residents were able to come to Iceland as of June 15th and, on July 1st, travellers from outside of Schengen will be able to visit, too. So far, everything appears to be going according to plan, but there are still some I’s to dot and T’s to cross. For one, although visitors arriving to the country will have to be screened for the coronavirus, nurses may go on strike on June 22nd, which would certainly make it difficult to carry out test-

ing. While Icelandair is still trying to find its footing again, some 11 airlines are going to be flying to and from Iceland, which may help take up most of the slack. 🍷



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101 Reykjavík  
[www.grapevine.is](http://www.grapevine.is)  
[grapevine@grapevine.is](mailto:grapevine@grapevine.is)

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**PUBLISHER**  
Hilmar Steinn  
Grétarsson  
[hilmar@grapevine.is](mailto:hilmar@grapevine.is)  
+354 540 3601  
[publisher@grapevine.is](mailto:publisher@grapevine.is)

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Valur Grettisson  
[valur@grapevine.is](mailto:valur@grapevine.is)

**ART DIRECTOR**  
Sveinbjörn Pálsson  
[sveinbjorn@grapevine.is](mailto:sveinbjorn@grapevine.is)

**NEWS EDITOR**  
Andie Sophia Fontaine  
[andie@grapevine.is](mailto:andie@grapevine.is)

**CULTURE EDITOR**  
Hannah Jane Cohen  
[hannah@grapevine.is](mailto:hannah@grapevine.is)

**PHOTO EDITOR**  
Art Bienick  
[art@grapevine.is](mailto:art@grapevine.is)

**WEB EDITOR**  
Andie Sophia Fontaine  
[andie@grapevine.is](mailto:andie@grapevine.is)

**LISTINGS DIRECTOR**  
Hannah Jane Cohen  
[listings@grapevine.is](mailto:listings@grapevine.is)

**COPY EDITOR**  
Catharine Fulton

**ILLUSTRATIONS**  
Elin Elisabet

**INTERN**  
Sam O'Donnell  
[samuel@grapevine.is](mailto:samuel@grapevine.is)  
Poppy Askham  
[poppy@grapevine.is](mailto:poppy@grapevine.is)  
Nico Borbely  
[nico@grapevine.is](mailto:nico@grapevine.is)

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**  
Chanel Sturludóttir

**PHOTOGRAPHERS**  
Atli Freyr Steinsson  
Margrét Unnur  
Guðmundsdóttir  
Natan Ndi-Etienne

**SALES DIRECTORS**  
Aðalsteinn  
Jörundsson  
[adalsteinn@grapevine.is](mailto:adalsteinn@grapevine.is)  
Helgi Þór Harðarson  
[helgi@grapevine.is](mailto:helgi@grapevine.is)

**CONTACT US:**  
—> **Editorial**  
+354 540 3600  
[editor@grapevine.is](mailto:editor@grapevine.is)  
—> **Advertising**  
+354 540 3605  
[ads@grapevine.is](mailto:ads@grapevine.is)  
—> **Distribution**  
+354 540 3604  
[distribution@grapevine.is](mailto:distribution@grapevine.is)  
—> **Press releases**  
[listings@grapevine.is](mailto:listings@grapevine.is)  
—> **General Inquiries**  
[grapevine@grapevine.is](mailto:grapevine@grapevine.is)

**FOUNDERS**  
Hilmar Steinn  
Grétarsson,  
Hörður Kristbjörnsson,  
Jón Trausti  
Sigurðarson,  
Oddur Óskar  
Kjartansson,  
Valur Gunnarsson

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Mask 100% required, please

# Iceland Welcomes You Again

These doors are gonna swing wide!

NEWS

Words:  
Andie Sophia  
Fontaine

Photo:  
RÚV &  
Art Bienick

It's official: nationals from the Schengen Area are now allowed to enter Iceland. And, as of July 1st, nationals from outside of the Schengen Area will be permitted to come to Iceland as well, RÚV reports—even if other Schengen states keep their borders closed to the wider world for now.

Exceptions

There are some exceptions in this regard. As the Directorate of Immi-

gration (ÚTL) states, apart from EU/EEA, EFTA or UK nationals, other folks who have been able to come to Iceland since June 15th are “[i]ndividuals with a valid residence permit in Iceland or any of the Schengen Member States” and “[f]amily members of Icelandic or other EU/EFTA citizens, in particular spouses, cohabiting partners, direct descendants and dependent direct relatives in the ascending line.”

Between June 15th and July 1st, those from outside of the Schengen who

wish to come to Iceland must prove that their travel is essential if the above exceptions do not apply. ÚTL defines essential travel as “passengers in airport transit, health and care workers on professional travel, transportation crews (airlines and freighters), individuals requiring international protection, individuals travelling because of acute family incidents and diplomats, international organization staff, members of armed forces travelling to Iceland for duty, or humanitarian aid workers.”

These exceptions aside, a handy shorthand to bear in mind is that if you are a legal resident or citizen of a Schengen Area country, you can now come to Iceland. Everyone else will have to wait until July 1st.

Connecting flights?

At a press conference held on June 12th, Minister of Justice Áslaug Arna Sigurbjörnsdóttir admitted that they are still working out all the details regarding departures from Iceland and into the Schengen Area, but that in conversations with EU officials, Iceland is seen as a kind of border for the Schengen Area.

Bear in mind that when you come to Iceland, you must submit to being tested for the coronavirus, and will be expected to download the Rakning19 tracking app; your test results will be sent to you through it. You'll be asked to wear a mask when boarding your plane to Iceland, but you probably won't be required to wear it in Keflavik Airport, if that matters to you. Further, if you're not sure how to get here, Icelandair has added new destinations and several other airlines have also begun flying to and from Iceland. Check your preferred airline for the latest information. 🇮🇸

FOOD OF ICELAND

Puffin

Iceland's tourist boom of the past several years has seen the emergence of different facets of local cuisine. Some eateries push the smellier, pickled dishes often sensationalized abroad, like hákarl. Some emphasise the traditional crowd-pleasers like plockfiskur and kjötsúpa. And many restaurants offer a “taste of Iceland” menu

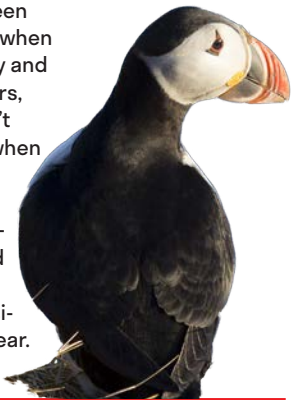
featuring foods that are both palatable and (to tourists) exotic. Enter the cute, colourful bird that has become the poster child of the tourist boom: the Atlantic puffin. In the past, coastal communities had to make due with all available resources, so puffins were often hunted. Today they are protected in most countries, aside from Iceland

and the Faroe Islands. Even within Iceland, it is illegal to hunt them in most of the country, aside from the north. Most Icelanders do not regularly eat puffin, and tend to write it off as too gamey, tough, and briny. It is a culinary tradition which has largely fallen by the wayside. Which is far from a negative development. In 2015, the

Atlantic puffin's conservation status was downgraded from “least concern” to “vulnerable.” This was probably due to the decline of sand eels, the puffin's main food source, forcing puffins to feed their offspring lower-energy foods, leading to fewer pufflings successfully fledging. We therefore encourage all

visitors to Iceland looking to indulge in the bird to be conscious of the risks the Atlantic puffin faces as a species. Hunting may have been sustainable when practiced by and for Icelanders, but it doesn't seem wise when factoring in current environmental woes and millions of potential visitors every year.

If you're looking for some “authentic” tastes of Iceland, maybe just stick to the skyr. NB 🇮🇸



ASK A  
Physical Chemist

Q: How Would Iceland Fare If Yellowstone Erupted?



Recently, a large number of earthquakes were detected at the Yellowstone caldera. How would Iceland fare should the supervolcano erupt? Helgi Rafn Hróðmarsson, a.k.a. The Cosmic Chemist gave us answers.

To assess the gravity of a volcano's explosiveness, the Volcanic Explosivity Index (VEI) is used. The VEI is dependent on how much volcanic material is thrown out, to what height and for how long. The indices run from 0 to 8 on a logarithmic scale. Going up one number on the VEI infers a tenfold intensification!

Supervolcanoes are classified as VEI-8. In comparison, the eruptions in Katla (1918) and Eyjafjallajökull (2010) were a measly VEI-4. Imagine 10,000 Eyjafjallajökull eruptions at once and you can imagine the kind of infernal apocalypse a supervolcano prophesies.

To understand the effects of supervolcanoes, we can roughly extrapolate from the largest volcano closest to us in time—the Mount Pinatubo eruption in 1991 (VEI-6). Following this eruption, an enormous amount of sulfur dioxide was released, creating a haze of sulfuric acid which spread throughout the stratosphere, reducing the sunlight reaching the Earth's surface by 10% leading to an average drop of 0.5°C. Even worse, the ozone layer depletion was accelerated leading to the lowest ever ozone levels on record.

If these are the effects from a VEI-6 event, could we predict a scenario at least a hundred times worse? Well, there'd be decades of reduced sunlight and lower temperatures. And the ozone layer might be screwed. Ergo, we might start living underground. Becoming Icelandic human naked mole rats. 🇮🇸

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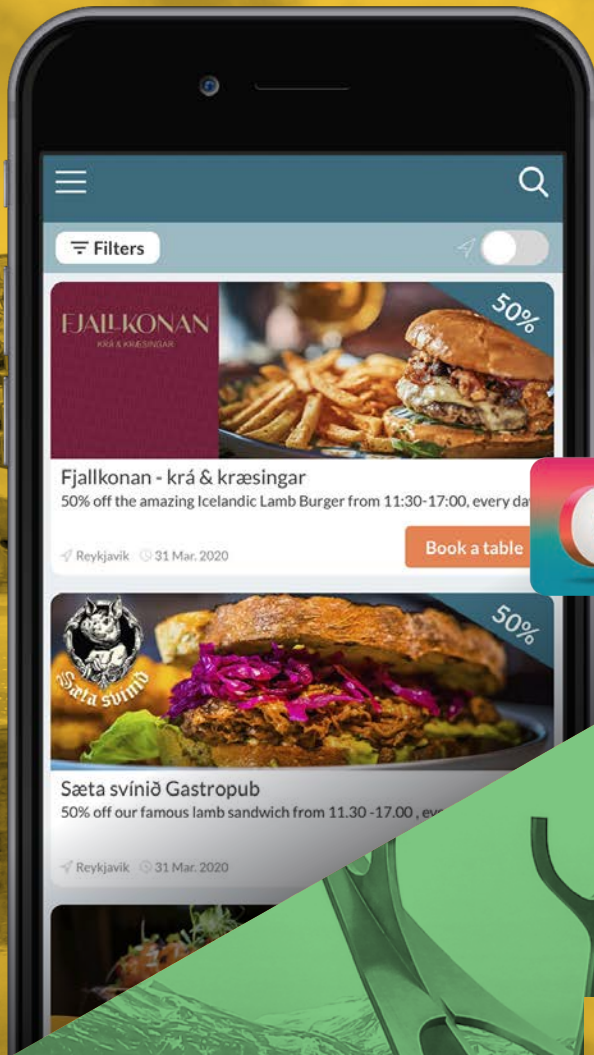
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→ Poetry → Cabaret → Photography → Film

00:00 - 01:00	Good Cure for Tragic Life	Comedy	The Secret Cellar
33:00 - 00:00	York Underwood	Comedy	The Secret Cellar
EXTRA SHOW			
33:00 - 33:00	I'm Tired	Comedy	Theatrio
30:30 - 31:30	My Voices Have Tootrettes	Comedy	Theatrio
31:00 - 33:00	FRINGE OPEN MIC	Comedy	The Secret Cellar
30:00 - 31:00	Hold On To Your Trumps	Comedy	The Secret Cellar
18:00 - 30:00	Nick Jameson: Why Are You So Old?	Comedy & Music	The Secret Cellar
18:00 - 30:00	Biggie lefts	Theatre	Theatrio
11:30 - 18:00	Rebirth	AEIAL Circus	Theatrio
18:30 - 11:30	This is Not A Show	Monodrama	Gallery Fold
10:00 - 18:00	This is Not A Show	Installation	Gallery Fold
10:00 - 18:00	Morfing	Video Installation	Gallery Fold
10:00 - 18:00	Strange Communities	Comedy	Gallery Fold
ALL DAY	Yes, Please	Illustration	Hemmnr Square
ALL DAY	Fantastical Beings	Illustration	Hemmnr Square
ALL DAY	Heima er Best	Photography	Hemmnr Square
ALL DAY	Space Mama Biggy	Illustration	Hemmnr Square

WEDNESDAY 8 JULY

33:00 - 00:00	Crowd Control	Comedy	The Secret Cellar
EXTRA SHOW			
33:00 - 33:00	Big Red, Little Blue	Comedy	The Secret Cellar
31:30 - 33:00	Linda's Freak Show	Comedy	«!» Hemmnr Square
31:00 - 33:00	Spueaki	Comedy	The Secret Cellar
30:00 - 31:12	A Quinter For One Human	Circus	«!» Hemmnr Square
30:00 - 31:00	Nick Jameson: Why Are You So Old?	Comedy & Music	The Secret Cellar
18:00 - 30:00	Do U Cal	Comedy	The Secret Cellar
18:30 - 18:30	The Clown On The Fifth Floor	Music	«!» Hemmnr Square
11:00 - 11:40	Catastrophe	Storytelling	Gallery Fold
10:00 - 18:00	This is Not A Show	Installation	Gallery Fold
10:00 - 18:00	Morfing	Video Installation	Gallery Fold
10:00 - 18:00	Strange Communities	Comedy	Gallery Fold
ALL DAY	Yes, Please	Illustration	Hemmnr Square
ALL DAY	Fantastical Beings	Illustration	Hemmnr Square
ALL DAY	Heima er Best	Photography	Hemmnr Square
ALL DAY	Space Mama Biggy	Illustration	Hemmnr Square

TUESDAY 7 JULY

00:00 - 01:00	Spueaki	Comedy	The Secret Cellar
33:00 - 00:00	Guide to Guiding	Comedy	The Secret Cellar
EXTRA SHOW			
33:00 - 33:00	York Underwood	Comedy	The Secret Cellar
31:00 - 33:00	Big, Small Town Kid	Comedy	The Secret Cellar
30:30 - 31:42	Hitting a Wall	Theatre	«!» Hemmnr Square
30:00 - 33:00	Softlow Fridge Comedy	Comedy	Bankturn
30:00 - 31:00	Good Cure for Tragic Life	Comedy	The Secret Cellar
18:00 - 30:12	We'll Dance on the Ash of the Apocalypse	Theatre	«!» Hemmnr Square
18:00 - 30:00	Americanized	Comedy	The Secret Cellar
11:30 - 18:30	The Pink Hulk: One Woman's Journey...	Theatre	«!» Hemmnr Square
18:30 - 11:30	This is Not A Show	Monodrama	Gallery Fold
10:00 - 18:00	This is Not A Show	Installation	Gallery Fold
10:00 - 18:00	Morfing	Video Installation	Gallery Fold
10:00 - 18:00	Strange Communities	Comedy	Gallery Fold
ALL DAY	Yes, Please	Illustration	Hemmnr Square
ALL DAY	Fantastical Beings	Illustration	Hemmnr Square
ALL DAY	Heima er Best	Photography	Hemmnr Square
ALL DAY	Space Mama Biggy	Illustration	Hemmnr Square

MONDAY 6 JULY

30:00 - 33:00	PREVIEW NIGHT	ALL SHOWS PREVIEW	Hard Rock Cafe
11:42 - 18:00	Little Ballerina	Drag	«!» Hemmnr Square
18:42 - 11:30	Chyla - Not For Children	Storytelling	«!» Hemmnr Square
12:30 - 18:30	Air's	Music	«!» Hemmnr Square
12:00 - 12:30	Origine	Dance	«!» Hemmnr Square
13:30 - 14:42	Radiolove: Corona Vacation	Theatre	«!» Hemmnr Square
13:00 - 13:12	Opera Outfit	Opera	«!» Hemmnr Square
ALL DAY	Yes, Please	Illustration	Hemmnr Square
ALL DAY	Fantastical Beings	Illustration	Hemmnr Square
ALL DAY	Heima er Best	Photography	Hemmnr Square
ALL DAY	Space Mama Biggy	Illustration	Hemmnr Square

SUNDAY 2 JULY

30:00 - 33:00	OPENING Party	Party	Hemmnr Square
18:00 - 30:12	CRASHHOOT! Or Why Al Loved For Trump...	Theatre	«!» Hemmnr Square
18:00 - 33:00	Yes, Please	Illustration	Hemmnr Square
18:00 - 33:00	Fantastical Beings	Illustration	Hemmnr Square
18:00 - 33:00	Heima er Best	Photography	Hemmnr Square
18:00 - 33:00	Space Mama Biggy	Illustration	Hemmnr Square
TIME	NAME	WHAT'S	WHERE'S

SATURDAY 4 JULY

WIBSTBANDS: TIX.12

TICKETS &

crowdcast.io/vkfringe

«!» LiveStream:

BAKEFRINGE.12

FOR THE FIRST TIME  
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#

Comedy → Theatre → Music → Drag → Circus



Comedy Theatre → Music → Circus → Drag → Poetry



Films → Photography → Cabaret → Poetry → Drag

ЗОНА  
НГЕШУНБ  
III



ICELAND  
BY  
INSPIRED  
COME WHO RE



poetry  
show



ЗУНИЙ ДАҢ  
ЗУНИЙ ДАҢ  
ЗУНИЙ ДАҢ

A Time - Travel Lip - Silent - Disco...  
Bar Astrology Your Water Chart in Your Face  
Reykjavik Ensemble Theatre Workshop

Promenade  
Surreal Astrology  
Workshop

ENDS IN LESTURBÆR  
STARTS AT LÆKLABTOR  
BEYKJAVÍK, 2 ZONABE  
HILJOMSKAUGABUR

POB - NY SHOW

00:00 - 01:00  
23:00 - 00:00  
23:00 - 23:00  
24:00 - 23:00  
20:00 - 24:00  
18:00 - 20:00

Americanized  
Do U Eat  
Crowd Control  
Nick Jameson: Why Are You So Old?  
I'm Tired  
Big Red, Little Blue

Comedy  
Comedy  
Comedy  
Comedy & Music  
Comedy  
Comedy

The Secret Cellar  
The Secret Cellar  
The Secret Cellar  
The Secret Cellar  
The Secret Cellar  
The Secret Cellar

SUNDAY 12 JULY

23:00 - 01:00  
23:00 - 23:00

AWARD CEREMONY/CLOSING PARTY  
I'm Tired

Party  
Comedy

The Secret Cellar  
The Secret Cellar

24:30 - 23:00  
20:00 - 23:00

Socks Off  
Ladies & a Gentleman Butthead Your  
Secret Cellar Comedy SHOWCASE

Cabaret  
Comedy  
Theatre/Livestream

Theatre  
The Secret Cellar

18:30 - 20:00  
18:00 - 18:00

THEM  
My Voices Have Turrets  
Storm Doesn't Rhyme With Porn

Comedy  
Comedy

The Secret Cellar  
The Secret Cellar

18:00 - 18:30  
17:30 - 18:30

Opening Up to Your Sparkle Fairy  
Pure Evil - A One Man Show About My Cat

Film  
Comedy

Samtkin '18  
Hremmuni Square

18:00 - 17:42  
14:30 - 12:30

Q&A Talkback With Rachel Erdos  
Q&A Audience Participation

Workshop Feedback  
Workshop

Hremmuni Square  
Hremmuni Square

14:30 - 12:42  
13:00 - 14:12

The World of Tomorrow... Yesterday  
An Ice Thing To Say

Comedy  
Theatre

Hremmuni Square  
Hremmuni Square

ALL DAY  
ALL DAY

Yes, Please  
Fantastical Beings

Illustration  
Illustration

Hremmuni Square  
Hremmuni Square

SATURDAY 11 JULY

00:00 - 01:00  
23:00 - 00:00

Hold On To Your Thumbs  
Big, Small Town Kid

Comedy  
Comedy

The Secret Cellar  
The Secret Cellar

23:00 - 23:00  
23:00 - 23:00

York Underwood  
I'm Tired

Comedy  
Comedy

The Secret Cellar  
The Secret Cellar

24:00 - 24:30  
24:00 - 23:00

Rebirth  
Drag - andur: Fridge SOSO

Verbal Circus  
Drag

Theatre  
The Secret Cellar

24:00 - 23:00  
20:00 - 24:00

My Voices Have Turrets  
Guide to Guiding

Comedy  
Comedy

The Secret Cellar  
The Secret Cellar

18:00 - 20:00  
18:30 - 18:00

Good Cure For Tragic Life  
Storm Doesn't Rhyme With Porn

Comedy  
Comedy

The Secret Cellar  
The Secret Cellar

18:30 - 18:30  
18:00 - 18:30

Opening Up to Your Sparkle Fairy  
This is Not A Show

Film  
Monodrama

Samtkin '18  
Gallery Folk

18:00 - 17:30  
18:00 - 24:00

Wraith  
Pop Up Tattoo

Installation  
Tattoo art

Hremmuni Square  
White Hill Tattoo

17:30 - 18:00  
10:00 - 18:00

This is Not A Show  
Molting

Installation  
Video Installation

Gallery Folk  
Gallery Folk

10:00 - 18:00  
10:00 - 11:00

Strange Communities  
Q&A Audience Participation

Comedy  
Workshop

Gallery Folk  
crowdcast.io/vkfringe

ALL DAY  
ALL DAY

Yes, Please  
Fantastical Beings

Illustration  
Illustration

Hremmuni Square  
Hremmuni Square

ALL DAY  
ALL DAY

Heima er Best  
Space Mama Piggy

Photography  
Illustration

Hremmuni Square  
Hremmuni Square

ALL DAY  
ALL DAY

Yes, Please  
Fantastical Beings

Illustration  
Illustration

Hremmuni Square  
Hremmuni Square

ALL DAY  
ALL DAY

Heima er Best  
Space Mama Piggy

Photography  
Illustration

Hremmuni Square  
Hremmuni Square

ALL DAY  
ALL DAY

Yes, Please  
Fantastical Beings

Illustration  
Illustration

Hremmuni Square  
Hremmuni Square

ALL DAY  
ALL DAY

Heima er Best  
Space Mama Piggy

Photography  
Illustration

Hremmuni Square  
Hremmuni Square

ALL DAY  
ALL DAY

Yes, Please  
Fantastical Beings

Illustration  
Illustration

Hremmuni Square  
Hremmuni Square

ALL DAY  
ALL DAY

Heima er Best  
Space Mama Piggy

Photography  
Illustration

Hremmuni Square  
Hremmuni Square

THURSDAY 8 JULY

EXTRA SHOW

23:00 - 00:00  
23:00 - 23:00

Big Red, Little Blue  
Hold On To Your Thumbs

Comedy  
Comedy

The Secret Cellar  
The Secret Cellar

24:30 - 23:00  
24:00 - 23:00

Forbidden Fruit  
Squeak

CABARET  
Comedy

Hard Rock Cafe  
The Secret Cellar

20:00 - 24:00  
18:00 - 20:00

Americanized  
Guide to Guiding

Comedy  
Comedy

The Secret Cellar  
The Secret Cellar

18:00 - 18:30  
18:00 - 18:00

Opening Up to Your Sparkle Fairy  
Q&A Audience Participation

Film  
Workshop

Samtkin '18  
crowdcast.io/vkfringe

17:30 - 17:40  
10:00 - 18:00

Catastrophe  
This is Not A Show

Workshop  
Installation

Gallery Folk  
Gallery Folk

10:00 - 18:00  
10:00 - 18:00

Molting  
Strange Communities

Video Installation  
Comedy

Gallery Folk  
Gallery Folk

ALL DAY  
ALL DAY

Yes, Please  
Fantastical Beings

Illustration  
Illustration

Hremmuni Square  
Hremmuni Square

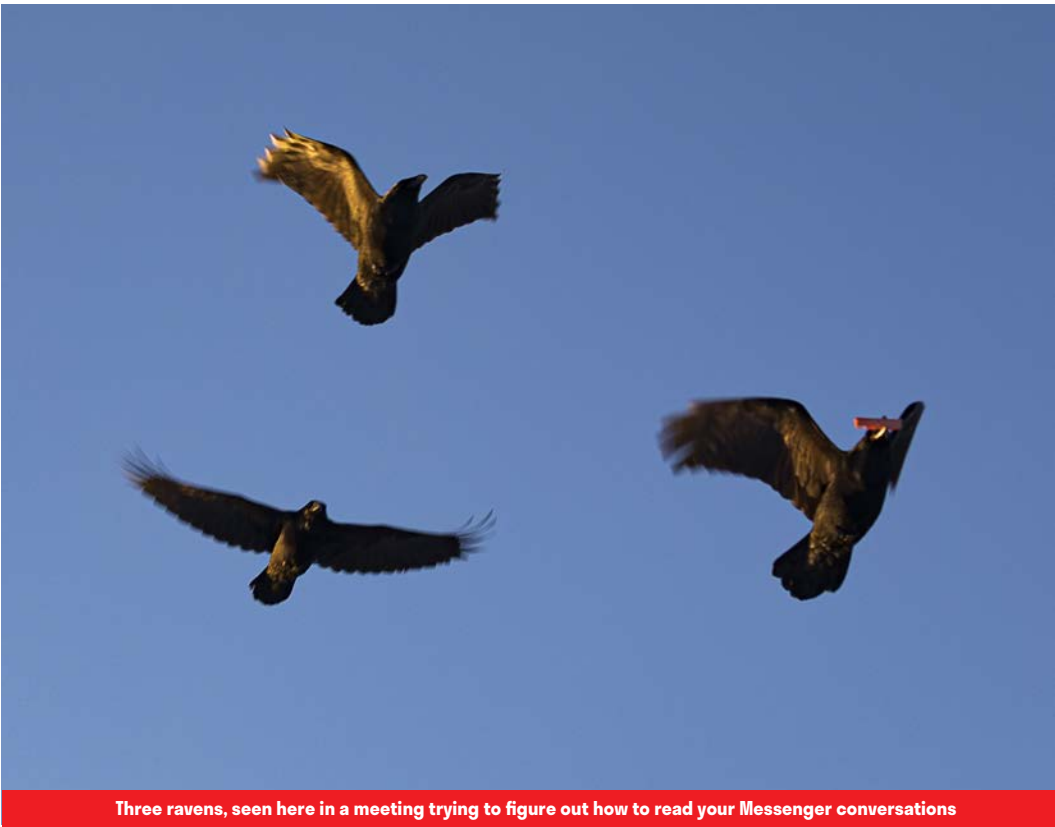
ALL DAY  
ALL DAY

Heima er Best  
Space Mama Piggy

Photography  
Illustration

Hremmuni Square  
Hremmuni Square





Three ravens, seen here in a meeting trying to figure out how to read your Messenger conversations

# The Ravens Are Listening

So be careful what you say...

All around the world, ravens are notorious as creators of ominous premonition—just ask Edgar Allen Poe. In Iceland, though, the raven holds a special place in the collective consciousness, and it's not all bad (but most of it is.)

### A killer day

In Icelandic poetry from the Viking era, the raven was first and foremost an evil omen. But, there's a twist—isn't there always one in Icelandic literature? Yes, the raven was an omen of death if it appeared on a bloody battlefield, feeding

off the dead. That said, if you were riding to war and saw a raven flying in the same direction as you, that meant you were gonna have a killer day! Pun intended.  
Ravens were also spies. Óðinn, the cyclops God, had two ravens called Huginn and Muninn, who are often depicted in artwork as standing on his shoulders. That makes pirates look kind of silly with their goofy parrots, right?  
Anyway, Óðinn would send his ravens to spy on humans as they spilled their guts for his own nefarious, probably pervy business. This made people distrust ravens and hold their tongues as soon as those creepy rascals came into view.

### Common people! Ugh!

But the appearance of a raven was a harbinger of many other things than one-eyed Peeping Toms. Their presence would foreshadow people's deaths, the weather and—being Iceland—how many fish one would catch that day.  
Curiously, in 'Ferðabók' ('The Book Of Travel'), which was written in the late 18th century, it was stated that the dreadful "common people" had a very strong belief that the raven was an incredibly smart creature who knew a lot about foreign places, as well as something about the future. Those peasants. What did they know?  
What should we learn from all this? Should we shut our mouths and flee in terror at first sight of the winged messengers of death? We're not entirely qualified to comment, but that said, maybe hold off on talking shit about Óðinn around them. 🐺

### JUST SAYINGS

„Fleira má bíta en feita steik“



So, you're looking to explore cannibalism with your best friend but aren't sure how to broach the subject? Don't worry—we've got you. This saying literally translates to "You can bite into more things than a fat steak." It's so simple yet so eerie that it's a perfect conversation starter for just such an occa-

sion. Of course, your friend could misunderstand and think you are merely preaching veganism to them, but if the circumstances are just right and you are both utterly insane, your friend will understand for whom the bell tolls. VG 🐺

### COMIC



### BARFLIES REYKJAVÍK 2

As the name of this book suggests, it is a follow-up to an earlier book by the same name. Again, the people portrayed are the Kaffibarinn regulars. Some of the faces you will recognize from the first book, just a quarter of a century older. Others were not born when the bar served its first drink.

Available at Kaffibarinn  
Bergstaðastræti 1, 101 Rvk



## GRAPEVINE PLAYLIST



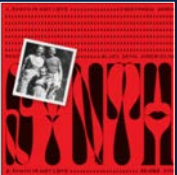
**Daði - family man**  
A truly hypnotising piece of ambient pop, Daði's fluid vocals are endlessly soothing. Just try to feel remotely stressed while listening to this song; we challenge you. PA



**Emilia Anna - Dare to**  
This lo-fi electronic single is a mournful plea to a lover to be something more. The lyrics, "Dare to love me, dare to fight me," seems to cry out to a person who isn't living up to their full potential, urging them to do better. Coupled with a deep bass line, this one hits right in the feels. SPO



**Hugar - A New Renaissance**  
Living up to a band name meaning "Minds," this gentle instrumental track makes for ideal ambient music for relaxing one's own, whether simply used for soothing backgrounds, or as an ideal soundtrack for meditation or yoga. NB



**Creepshow Remix - Black Devil - Synth Is Not Love**  
Creepshow, the side project of Reykjavík resident John Grant, has released a lively reworking of electro legend Black Devil's latest single. Its distinctive hook and eerie multi-layered synth brilliantly capture the energy of the early 1980s electro scene, but with a modern edge. PA



**Mighty Bear - Is It True?**  
Most covers simply don't live up to their source material. However, Mighty Bear's cover of this Eurovision entry more than lives up to the original, it surpasses it. While Yohanna is strangely smiley throughout her 2009 performance of this very sad song, Mighty Bear leans into the tragedy and delivers a melancholic performance that is, frankly, moving. I'm crying. SPO



**Joey Christ - Pila Ft. Lil Binni**  
Joey Christ burst onto the Icelandic Hip-Hop scene three years ago and has not yet let us down. His newest offering, Pila, is a refreshingly slick song with a dash of humour and an excellent video. Lil Binni is a nice addition to the song's cool vibe. VG



FEATURE

# Like Another Planet

## The Reykjavík Grapevine’s key to unlocking the secrets of Iceland

Words: **Valur Grettisson**

It truly feels like we are living in dystopian times. The COVID-19 pandemic has rapidly changed the world in such nuanced ways that we now hesitate before even shaking hands. We’ve been forced to slow down. Our friends, our families, our routines—that we found so boring and tedious before—are now the things we value most. And in some ways, the crisis has also reminded us of how disconnected we’ve become, not only from our nature, but from each other.

### Revisiting the past

Icelanders have been fleeing this godforsaken island for a long time now. When my generation was young—I’m born in 1980, for reference—summers were spent camping with our parents. In fact, when I was 12, my family and I spent three weeks travelling around Iceland, visiting every town that was worth visiting at that time. That’s an undertaking I didn’t repeat for decades. The reason was simple: Icelanders had more money and we could finally afford to go abroad for vacation. If we didn’t go abroad, we’d visit a summerhouse.

Camping ceased to be the national pastime.

See, after the tourist boom at the beginning of 2012, most Icelanders used their vacations to flee to warmer climates. And in that time—eight years later—everything has changed. When you travel around Iceland today, you will not find the rustic island that we once lived in, but instead, you’ll experience a sophisticated travel industry with infrastructure, hotels and hundreds of activities in each sector of the country. Those that haven’t travelled for a while will barely recognise this new country—it is delightful.

COVID-19 has forced us to revisit our own land, one we’ve so often ignored. As we did so many years ago, we have to make peace with the rainy summers, constant wind, cold evenings and choking hot mornings waking up suffocating in a stuffy tent. But, oh my, to wake up to the sound of the river surrounded by misty mountains—there is no way to describe what that does for your soul.

### Hunting for beauty

So here we are, The Reykjavík Grapevine, advising you to spend this summer not travelling like an Icelander in Iceland, but as a guest

in a foreign land.

Our writers have been journeying like madmen around this tiny island for years, finding secret locations, trying every dish in every city and doing their best to share the magic of Iceland with the world. We’ve compiled it for years not only in our paper, but also in our Best Of Iceland magazines.

Now, in these difficult times, we’ve chosen to do so again, dedicating this issue to the places we love—some of which you might not even know existed. In these pages, comb through lists of our favourite oft-visited and oft-missed spots, read about the best countryside eateries, family camping areas, Reykjavík day trips, and more. It’s a reference for anyone, of course, but especially for you Icelanders, and we hope it helps you rediscover the majestic nature of Iceland once again and the new and exciting things that have popped up in the past years.

### No Coincidence

It’s no coincidence that in just years Iceland became one of the most popular and celebrated travel destinations in the world. And there’s a reason that NASA trains their astronauts here. Iceland is otherworldly, brimming with history, and uniquely breathtaking. 🇮🇸





FEATURE

# Travelling Iceland Like An Icelandic

## When you can't go to Tenerife, go to Djúpavík!

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

Most Icelanders will be taking a stay-cation this summer, so we're here to help you out with a comprehensive selection of famous sites that are worth visiting and unknown places you shouldn't miss (no matter how out of the way they are). Have a blast, friends.

### Westfjords

**Pingeyri:** After you've stopped by the Látrabjarg cliffs to chat with the delightful terns and tell some secrets on the planes of Rauðisandur, head to Jón Sigurðsson's Musical Instruments Museum to learn how to play the langspil, the traditional Icelandic drone zither.

**Árneshreppur:** Stay a night at Hotel Djúpavík to soak in the silence, then drive one town north (yes, there's a north of Djúpavík), obviously with a quick stop to soak at the sickeningly scenic Krossneslaug pool, to Norðafjörður. Check

out their abandoned herring factory then learn about nature and ancient handicrafts at Elín Agla Briem's Yurt. Yes, the Westfjords have a yurt.

**Selárdalur:** If you want concrete proof that Iceland was full of kooky artists long before Björk, take the unserviced Route 619 to the Samúel Jónsson museum. Filled with pastel plaster buildings and sculptures, it'll inspire you to let your wild side out.

**Tjöruhúsið:** Just eat here.

**Hornstrandir:** Go. Just. Go.

### West

**Búðir:** Hotel Búðir is a given for both food and rest, obviously, but next door there's a random magical witch store simply marked by a sign that says SHOP. Stop by for amulets, mysterious powders, herbs and other spiritual objects. Then have a seance at the eerie Búðakirkja church.

**Snæfellsbær:** Lýsuhólslaug, a.k.a. 'The Green Lagoon' is worth the drive out just for its skin-healing Chlorella-laced waters. Afterwards, drive to the Ytri Tunga beach and make friends with seals.

**Húsafell:** Camping, mountain biking, horseback riding, hot pots, hiking—this town is an outdoorsy dream come true. Get that blood a'pumping! Oh, and shell out for a stay and meal at Hótel Húsafell.

**Stykkishólmur:** Stykkishólmur is a town where you don't even need to plan activities—simply staring out on their grassy peak at the thousands of birds flying around the Breiðafjörður bay is majestic enough. Taking a boat—or better yet, a kayak—into the water comes recommended though. Stopping by Helgafell on the way over ain't a bad idea either.

**Snæfellsjökull:** Hike up it (with a glacier guide and the right clothing and equipment, of course). Yes, it's hard.



### South

**Vatnsleysuströnd:** Here's a hidden gem. As you're driving on Highway 41 towards the International Airport, take the side route on what Google Maps calls Highway 420 (lol) to snake around the north shore of Reykjanes. Hello and welcome to the scenic route along the Vatnsleysuströnd beach. Take great care, though, because it's a bird breeding territory so don't fuck up their nests. If you look hard enough, there will be a very dodgy side road, which Google Maps calls Jonathan Road (lol) that'll lead you to an abandoned farmhouse which has become a haven for graffiti artists and

also contains a selection of concrete sculptures. Stay weird, Reykjanes.

**Skaftafell:** First, get your goth on at Svartifoss, the most black metal waterfall in the world. On the walk back, take every opportunity to hang out at the national park's random areas covered with gnarled trees and mossy knolls. Send the trolls there our love. Afterwards, get some lamb at Freysnes, an unassuming gas station across the street from Hotel Skaftafell. If you have time, try to hop over to the Ingólfshöfði black sand cape to see some birds. Give them our love, too.

**Sólheimasandur:** An ATV tour is the



## North

**Hjalteyri:** This town has it all. Have a soak in their coastal hot tub before exploring whatever eccentric exhibition is on at the Verksmiðjan Á Hjalteyri gallery. For an adventure, grab your SUP board and meet some whales in the fjörd. Then it's back to the hot tub.

**Langanes:** Barely anyone lives on this

remote peninsula. It's the perfect spot for a pensive road trip filled with puffins, gannets and guillemots. You'll even find a ghost town: Skálar!

**Sauðárkrókur:** You never thought anyone would tell you to stop here, right? Well if you're passing through, don't miss the 1238 Museum, a virtual and augmented reality museum where you get to relive the Sturlung era and slaughter losers.

**Mývatn:** The Mývatn Geothermal Baths are popular for a reason. Try to go outside of peak-hours so you can have the pool to yourself.

**Arctic Coastal Highway:** The most underrated drive in all of Iceland. Go north on Highway 82 outside of Akureyri and do the loop through Dalvík, Ólafsfjörður and Siglufjörður, ending at the Hofsós pool. Put on atmospheric music, ponder your own existence, try not to

jump into the Atlantic to join the selkies, and stuff your face with chocolate at the Frída Chocolate Coffeehouse in Siglufjörður. Then write poetry.

**Forvöð:** Why don't we talk about this uninhabited and isolated area more often? Take a few days here to see Dettifoss—which is to Gullfoss what a lion is to a cat—the unreal Ásbyrgi canyon, and, you know, other cool stuff.

## East

To start with, our favourite car game in the East is called **“Count The Reindeer.”** On a recent road trip, we got up to 600. Can you beat our record?

**Hallormsstaðaskógur:** A lakeside forest filled with gushing streams, tucked away cabins, the lovely Lake Lagarfljót and the picturesque Atlavík camping ground. Count us in.

**Jökuldalur:** C'mon do we even have to recommend going to the Stuðlagil canyon? That emerald green water? Those imposing basalt columns? Are you serious? Here's a pro-tip: Bring your LARPing gear to really get the feel of the place. Afterwards, take the one-hour drive to the Vök Geothermal Spa for some luxurious luxury. Maybe leave the LARPing gear in the car, though.

**Egilsstaðir:** Vegans will rejoice at Sláturhúsið, a converted old slaughterhouse which is now an art house featuring exhibitions, music studios, artist apartments and more. Then, next door lies Tehúsið, a teahouse complete with vegan treats. The vegan dream is alive and well in Egilsstaðir.

**Seyðisfjörður:** LungA Festival is cancelled for 2020, but we've still got to mention our favourite countryside arts festival. We're already pre-gaming for 2021. Drown your sorrows with Norð Austur's tasting menu before getting shitfaced at the Reykjavik transplant Sirkus.

wife Halla. They settled in Hveravellir and, though they are dead now (SAD!), you can explore their old hut and cave, called Eyvindarhellir, as well as Eyvindarhver, the hot spring dedicated to them . The whole area feels like an oasis. You can also sometimes see desert flowers.

**Hveradalir:** If you thought the Seltún geothermal area was nice, the Hveradalir geothermal valley will blow your fucking mind. Get ready to travel through a bubbling sulfur-infused cloud of bright yellow, earthy red, mouldy powder blue and vivid emerald green as you traverse the dusty landscape. Stay at the Kerlingarfjöll Mountain Resort for extra luxury.

**Friðland að Fjallabaki:** Landmannalaugar... need we (pardon my French) say any fucking more? 🍷



way to go to see a black sand beach. It's a weird mix between feeling like the Fast & The Furious and a meditative yogi that'll really get you in touch with the Mother Atlantic. Pro-tip: Make sure to pick a tour that stops at the DC3 plane wreck. Do not miss this chance to see it without the Instagram crowd.

**Westman Islands:** Of course, the Westman Islands are always a nice day trip for a walk about, but while you're there, block out an hour or two for the Eldheimar museum, which is potentially the most exciting one in the country. Make a reservation at Slippurinn for a late lunch you'll never forget.

**Pórsmörk:** One, if you're going to hike up Pórsmörk, do it on the solstice. That's spiritual af. Second, as you're getting up to Pórsmörk, driving on the road past Seljalandsfoss, don't stop there and keep going, it'll eventually turn into a gravel path that'll bring you into a 10-year-old glacial flood plane. There, commune with the rocks. After you're done investigating, drive past the Eyjafjallajökull waterfalls on the path until you get to a series of lesser-known and even unnamed waterfalls. Many are close enough to walk to, so mosey over, stand in the spray, get naked, go swimming, and become friends with your new waterfall. Then, tell these new friendly waterfalls about the Reykjavik Grapevine.

## Highlands

Obviously you need a **4x4 car** to traverse the F-Roads of the Highlands. Our recommendation? Step it up and get a **4x4 camper van** for the journey.

**Askja:** First off, you've got the Holuhraun lava field, best known for its recent eruption as well as its raw beauty. Next, you've got the Askja caldera, which overlooks the milky Víti lagoon. Last up? Drekagil—“Dragon Gorge”—full of dark and spooky rock formations that feels very ‘Game Of Thrones’. Name a more iconic trio. Pro-tip: Do the hike from Askja to Drekagil. Yes, it's seven hours, but it's worth it.

**Hvannalindir:** Fjalla-Eyvindur was Iceland's most famous outlaw, who fled into the Highlands in 1760 with his outlaw

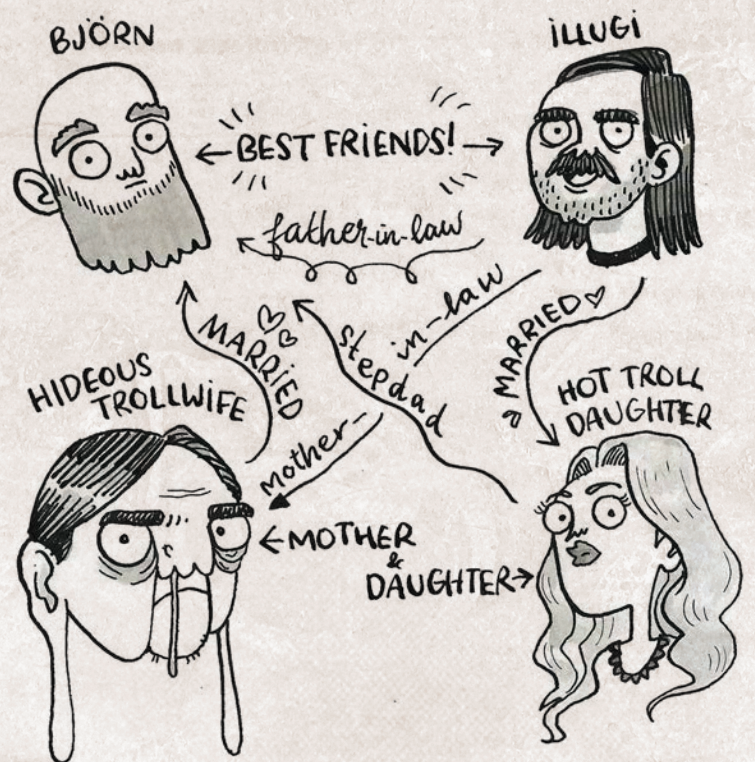


# THE SAGAS AND SHIT

ICELANDIC LITERATURE  
CRUDELY ABRIDGED

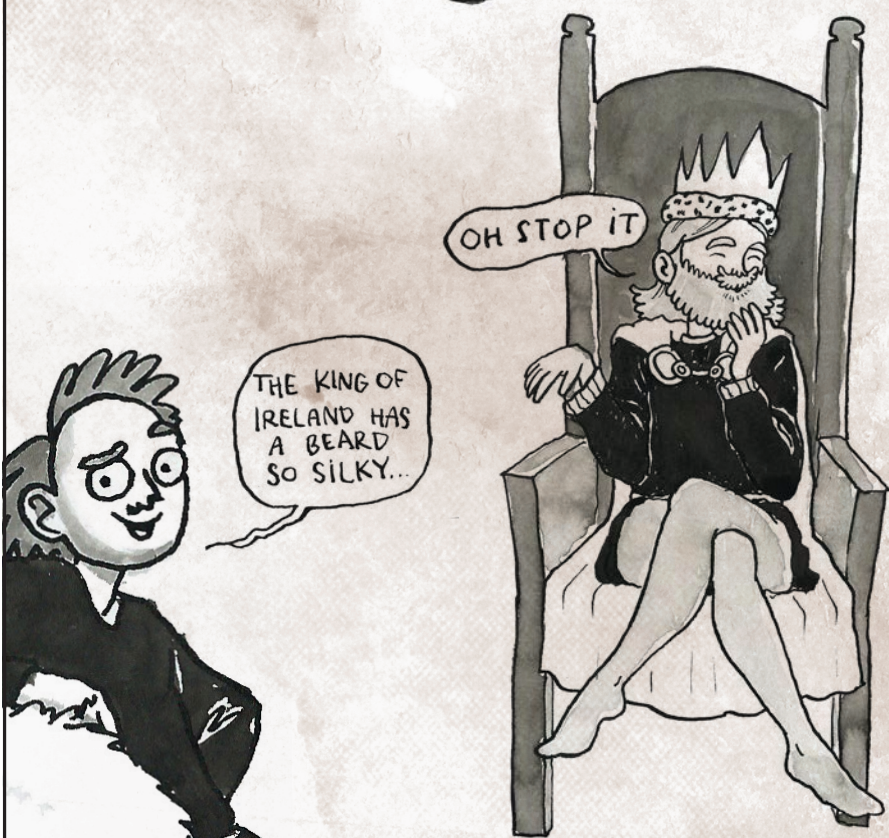
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NÍALS SAGA REALLY HURT MY FEELINGS."  
A DRUNK PHD STUDENT



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# Happening

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in Iceland!  
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on the Apple and  
Android stores



## We Love Hotdogs Too

DesignMarch: Sweater Sauce

June 24th-28th - 10:00-19:00 - Red Cross Store, Laugavegur 116 - Free!

We love Ýrúrarí and we LOVE her latest project. Working in collaboration with the Red Cross, Ýrúrarí has injected new life into previously unsellable donated sweaters. Dedicated followers of Icelandic fashion will recognise the designer's signature surreal, playful approach to knitwear. Inspired by the unfortunate stains found on many of the sweaters, Ýrúrarí celebrates Iceland's love affair with the humble hotdog. Bonus tip, there'll be a fashion show on June 27th at 15:00, see you there! **PA**



## ...like and subscribe...

DesignMarch: ASMR U Ready?

June 25th - 20:00 - Listasafn Reykjavíkur Hafnarhús - Free!

\*whispers soothingly into the mic\* Physically touching materials is so 2019, in 2020 we prefer to experience textures through the magic of ASMR. Seriously this exhibition is not one to be missed, it's got it all—if by “all” you mean meat packaging made out of animal skin, horse-hair experiments and animal bones turned into construction supplies. Valdís Steinarsdóttir is one to watch. **PA**



## Future Tunes

DesignMarch: Wave By Genki Instruments

June 24th-28th - 10:00 - 19:00 - Ásmundarsalur - Free!

Imagine if you could just wave your hands and control sound waves—unless you're a conductor this is probably as close as you're going to get. Genki has developed a ring that lets you control music through movement and they'll let you try it out at Ásmundarsalur. Just imagine the feeling of unbridled power. Genki instruments are kind of a big deal, they won the 2019 Icelandic Design Awards, so don't miss this opportunity. **PA**

## CULTURE NEWS



Pórey Einarsson, ready to bring Design back to March, I mean, June

## Festival

DesignMarch will be from June 24th-28th. There will be 101 events and 71 exhibitors around the city!

# New World, New Ways

## DesignMarch adapts to the COVID-19 era

Words:  
Poppy Askham

Photo:  
Art Bienick

As Iceland steps into the post-coronavirus sunlight (fingers tightly crossed), Reykjavík's design community is frantically preparing for DesignMarch, or as director Pórey Einarsson refers to it, “the cultural harbinger of spring”. The rescheduled festival—which was, as you might have surmised, was supposed to be held in March—hopes to usher in more positive times for the city's creatives.

### Pulling together

“In these COVID times, one week is like a year; so much happens on a daily basis and there are so many changes. It's been quite a journey,” Pórey explains. And it's a journey, she emphasises, in which she and her fellow event organisers have been determined to involve participants every step of the way.

“This year's festival will have a more local focus”, says Pórey, explaining that support from Reykjavík's local community is more important than ever. It was vital that the exhibiting designers, whom Pórey refers to as the “heart and soul” of the festival, were involved

in the postponement decision-making process.

That spirit of cooperation characterises this year's festival. Take Björn Steinar Blumenstein's project, Catch Of The Day: Limited COVID-19 Edition—“He's produced hand sanitiser out of food-waste, which he's going to contribute to all the other participants,” Pórey tells us. It seems, in the face of the pandemic, designers have banded together rather than work solo. “That's what I love about this community, it's so collaborative”.

### Highstreet Highlights

The unpredictability of the past few months have demanded flexibility from both organisers and designers. In fact, Pórey estimates that around 80% of participants have changed their plans for the festival in the last two months. “We're coming back to basics,” she explains. “We're coming back to how it started. We've had no time to plan—things are just happening organically.”

A key logistical issue has been finding ways to exhibit work whilst still

maintaining the recommended two-metre distance between people. But the community found an unusual solution: Fill Laugavegur's empty storefronts with designers' work.

The project, led by artist Signý Jónsdóttir, is a nod to the empty storefronts of the post-financial crash period in which DesignMarch started. It capitalises on the new lease of life the high street is experiencing—one that began at the height of the coronavirus outbreak. “Everybody was out. Everything was closed but it was beautiful to see people everywhere, just walking and enjoying the city,” Pórey says.

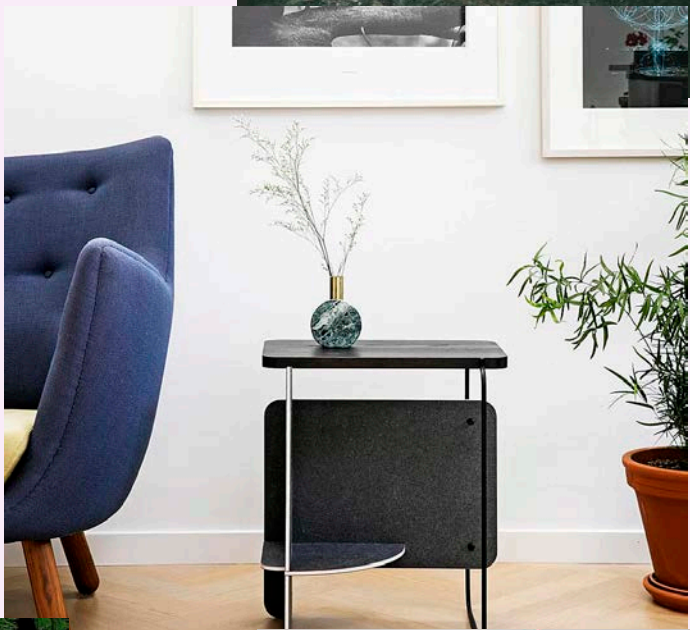
That said, many sacrifices have been made this year. COVID has seen the number of participants in DesignMarch shrink from 160 to around 72. International projects have been jettisoned until next year due to travel restrictions and fashion designers have struggled to negotiate their industry's rigid seasonal cycles. DesignTalks, the festival's signature opening conference, curated by Hlín Helga Guðlaugsdóttir and fittingly titled “New World, New Ways”, has also been postponed.

Despite these disappointments, Pórey is optimistic that this year's festival will have plenty to offer. In fact, she believes the new social dynamic offers unique opportunities for experimentation. “It'll be interesting to see how the design community is going to react because fundamentally [designers] can bring change,” she says. “They think in solutions.” **✈**



# EXPLORE UNSEEN ICELAND

WITHOUT  
LEAVING  
THE CITY!



Left to right, this page: Corrugation lights, Melur, Trophy, Fólk, Ilmsturtan, useee

## Grapevine Design Awards 2020

The winners are here!

Words: **Poppy Askham** Photo: **Provided by DesignMarch or the designers**

Times like these call for creative thinking and the ability to adapt—two qualities arguably best found in the design community. From leading the way in innovation of sustainable materials, to radically rethinking household items, the winners of this year's design awards have proved that they have their gaze firmly fixed on the future.

As ever, the huge array of exciting projects launched this year by Icelandic designers has made our judges' lives very difficult, but after careful deliberation, here it is—the long-awaited Reykjavik Grapevine Design Awards:

### Product Of The Year

**Winner:**  
Ilmsturtan — Nordic Angan

Fragrance experts Sonja Bent and Elín Hrunn bring Iceland's forests into the home via what is essentially an enormous essential oil diffuser. Judges sang the praises of Nordic Angan, explaining that "an experience in the aroma shower activates the senses," immersing users in the freshness of Icelandic nature. The aroma shower is inspired by the Japanese concept of 'shinrin-yoku' or 'forest bathing,' popularised in the 1980s and said to have numerous healing properties. It's the product for 2020, the unofficial year of self-care (be-

cause let's face it there's not much else to do).

**Runner-Up:**  
Blue/White Knock Down — Örn Duvald

"Sustainable thinking at all levels, from selection of material, to space savings in transport, to user-friendly composition," said one judge. Blue/White Knock Down are self-assembly chairs made out of compressed sheets of end of life cotton. Örn Duvald's ethical production values and ability to transform recycled materials into functional yet eminently stylish pieces of furniture wowed the judges. Watch out, IKEA.

**Looking Forward To:**  
Face filter by Digital Sigga

Sigríður Birna Matthíasdóttir's project is a thoughtful meditation on the influence of social media on our perception of ourselves and those around us. She powerfully explores the distorted view of the world promoted on platforms like Instagram. As the judges put it, her work encapsulates "a digital world where the boundary between virtual reality and 'real' reality are becoming increasingly blurred."

### Product Line Of The Year

**Winner:**  
Trophy — Studio Flétta

Yesterday's participation award is today's stylish new table. Studio Flétta takes long-forgotten trophies off dust-covered shelves to transform them into, well, shelves in their exciting homeware line. "It's always great when the up-cycled material looks better after than before the reuse," said judges.

**Runner-Up:**  
Corrugation Lights — Theodóra Alfreðsdóttir and Tino Seubert

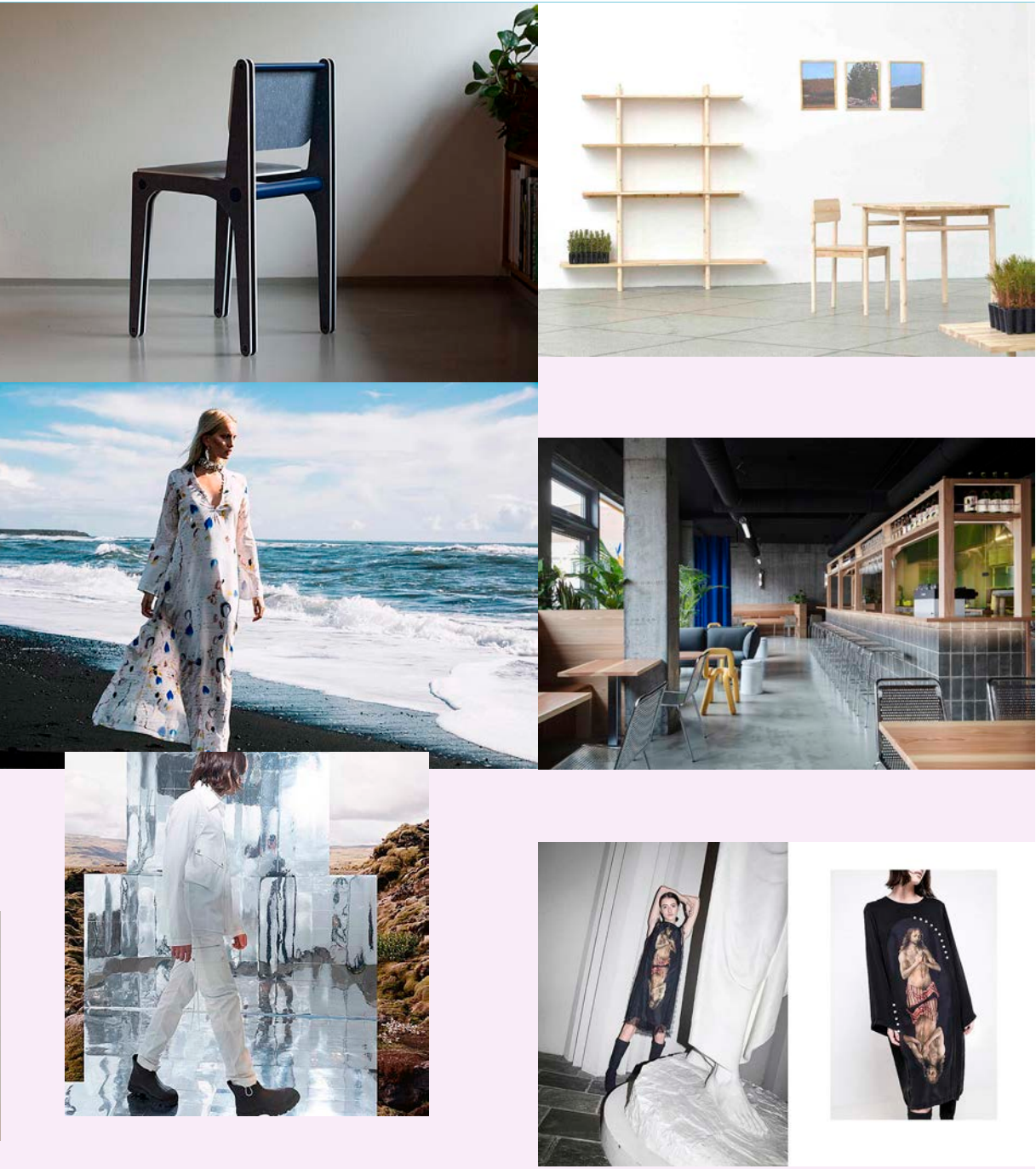
This exciting collaboration draws on mid-century furniture design and the technique of veneer forming, to create bold lighting products, from hanging light panels to wall sconces. Fun and functional, these lights really impressed the judges.

**Looking Forward To:**  
FÓLK — Upcycled Textile Collection

Forward-thinking designers, FÓLK's furniture collection address the design industry's waste problems head on. They save left-over cotton and wool from Danish textile company Kvadrat from ending up in landfill, by transforming it into sleek homeware – that means your stylish new lamp

**FlyOver**  
ICELAND





Blue/White Knock Down, Skógarnytjar, The Wanderer, Yuzu, Amachine-A, Amen

could have started life as a pair of jeans or hospital bed sheets.

Fashion Design Of The Year

Winner:  
Arnar Már Jónsson (Machine-A)

Combining a neutral colour palette with practical designs, Arnar Már Jónsson's sophisticated, modern menswear caught the panel's eye. One judge described his work as a "strong and carefully crafted line," praising Arnar's interesting choices of material. He brings specialised fabrics and structural elements from activewear into his designs to ensure his garments are suitable for Iceland's harsh climate.

Joint Runners-Up:  
Hildur Yeoman, The Wanderer

Mainstay of the Icelandic fashion scene, Hildur Yeoman's Wanderer collection went down a storm. The eye-catching designs feature fresh pastel shades with jewel-toned accents and beach-inspired prints. "Hildur continues to build her universe and adds new and great pieces," one judge concluded.

Joint Runners-Up:  
Eygló, Amen

Amen is "full of humour, but it's not a joke," according to the panel. Eygló Margrét Lárusdóttir's rebellious collection oozes character. The designs are well-thought-out and wearable for all occasions but retain a crucial playfulness.

Looking Forward To:  
Usee

"Simplicity, humour and a die-hard love for the outside world" underline Usee's work, one judge noted. A strong environmentalist streak runs through their designs, inspiring interesting material choices and informing the studio's commercial ethics. Panelists can't wait to see how their interesting ideas develop.

Project Of The Year

Winner:  
Skógarnytjar — Björn Steinar

Björn Steinar has won over the judges for a second year in a row. Eco-conscious as ever, Björn's new furniture collection showcases Icelandic wood whilst focusing on the industry's sustainability. Informed by an impressive two years of research and development conducted in collaboration with the Icelandic forestry sector, his designs are thoughtful yet simple, embodying "Icelandic countryside chic" according to the panel.

Runner-Up:  
Yuzu — Haf Studio

Come to Yuzu for the Japanese burgers, stay for the aesthetically pleasing interiors. Haf Studio drew on Nordic and Japanese aesthetics to create a welcoming open-plan dining venue, complete with eye-catching seating and a transparent yellow glass kitchen at its centre. Judges enjoyed the collaboration of different talents and described the restaurant's atmosphere as "exciting and relaxing at the same time."

Looking Forward To:  
Melur Mathús

Be prepared to wow all you meet with your horticultural knowledge after visiting the Melur Kitchen. In this unique dining experience, all five senses are engaged to fully acquaint visitors with the wonders of the Melur grass. The designers behind this project pay homage to the full wonders of this resilient plant that somehow manages to thrive amid Iceland's black sands.

The Panel:  
Valur Grettisson  
Editor-in-Chief, The Reykjavik Grapevine, Chairman of the panel

Garðar Eyjólfsson  
Director of Studies MA Design, Associate Professor

María Kristín Jónsdóttir  
Editor-in-Chief, HA Design Magazine

Stefán Svan  
Co-owner of Stefánsbúð/p3

Sara Jónsdóttir  
Former director of DesignMarch



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Rock on!

# That’s Some Good F☺↔ Weather

Cue Sheryl Crow’s 2002 hit “Soak Up The Sun”

Words: The Reykjavík Grapevine Sunshine Squad Photos: Art Bicnick, Ernir Skorri Pétursson & Boebeltjebab

When you’ve lived in Iceland long enough, you learn that the moment the sun comes out and the temperature goes up, you gotta take advantage of it. So presenting: the Grapevine Sunshine Squad’s guide to good weather. From chill and relaxing activities in the city to action-packed excursions just a stone’s throw away, we’ve got you covered for those rare, blissful sunny Reykjavík days.



Photo by: Ernir Skorri Pétursson

### Glamping At Camp Boutique Stokkseyri

In mid-May, I got a last-minute invitation to spend a night glamping at Camp Boutique’s tent hotel in Stokkseyri. To be blunt, I was a bit hesitant. Hey, we all saw what happened at Fyre Festival. But, I honestly could not have been more impressed. The tents—we stayed in the largest one, not to flex—feature King size beds, glass dining tables, indoor heaters, and, get this, heated mattresses (!!!), so you basically get all the lovely aspects of camping, i.e. fresh air and outdoor sounds, without the discomfort of sleeping bag life. They also have a private

black sand beach on the premises where you can stroll, meditate, or take some Instagram pictures. A+, could not recommend enough. I’ll be back. **HJC**

### Hike & Swim In Reykjadalur Near Hveragerði

Reykjadalur is one of the easiest hikes you’ll find around the capital area but the rewards might be the best. Located near Hveragerði—there are signs, you can’t miss it—take a 45 minute walk on a defined path until you see steam rising in the distance. Voilá. You’re now at one of Iceland’s best geothermal rivers with an ideal temperature for a soak. Located right in the sun, the shallow river invites you to laze and soak up the heat. Nota bene: Wear your swimming clothes under your gear if you’re shy. There is a changing spot, but it’s really just a wood screen. **VG**



### Safari ATV & Buggy Tours Near Mosfellsbær

Located six kilometres outside of Mosfellsbær, Safari Quads offers

outdoor ATV and buggy adventures where you bump and drive over ragged rocks, under geothermal pipelines, around muddy bends and through shallow rivers. Some even bring you to a secret hot spring, so you can take a relaxing dip before revving your engine again. Warning: They make you sign a waiver before they give you the keys saying that you won’t behave like a total jackass, and if you do get hurt, you won’t sue the company, which just means that this is ultra fun. **SPO**



### Glymur Hvalfjörður

Just an hour away from Reykjavík stands Glymur, Iceland’s second-highest waterfall. It’s beautiful in any weather, but if you hike up it on a clear day, you’ll be rewarded with some of the most stunning views in the country. On high mossy cliffs that seem straight out of Planet Earth, watch Arctic Terns nesting in front of a waterfall that seems to go on forever. There are two paths to choose from, one on each side of the falls, but if you continue your

ascent past the waterfall, you can cross in calm shallow water, so I’d recommend taking one route up to and the one down. It’s about a three hour round trip and features a hazardous river crossing and some steep parts, so probably not the best place to bring your newborn. **HJC**



### Kubb at Klambartún

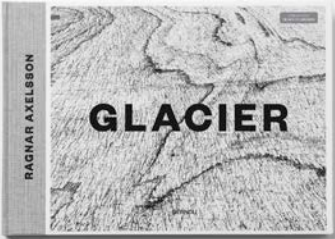
One of the best things you can do on a sunny day is gather a few of your friends, a couple bottles of wine or a 12-pack of beer, and head to Klambartún park for a game of Kubb. This lawn game, involving tossing wooden dowels at wooden blocks, requires literally no athletic ability at all, it’s very social, and perfect for good weather. Think of it as Scandinavia’s answer to horseshoes. You can find Kubb sets anywhere lawn games are sold. If you can’t find an actual set, look up the rules online and substitute the wooden pieces with cans and plastic bottles. Necessity is the mother of invention, after all. **ASF**



### Picnic/Reading outside at Hljómskálagarðurinn Hljómskálagarður

Located around the southern portion of Tjörnin, the cozy and compact park Hljómskálagarður is perhaps best known for its sculptures and the abundant, colourful flowers lining its paths during the summer. But its open, grassy areas also make perfect spots for sunlit picnics or reading outdoors with a nice thermos of warm coffee or tea (because even with full sunshine well into the evening, you’re bound to get chilly if the wind is blowing). For learning about culture, history, and current events in Iceland thile you lounge, the “little books” of well-known author Alda Sigmundsdóttir are invaluable. **NB**

## BEST OF REYKJAVÍK Best Buys



### RAX’s ‘JÖKULL’

Bookstores in Reykjavík & Gey-sir & shop.grapvine.is 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 five-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.

### Hildur Yeoman Dress

Yeoman, Skólavörðustígur 22 If you genuinely want to fit in with the stylish, start by donning Hildur Yeoman. 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.

### First Lady IPA

Vínbúðin & many good bars Icelanders love to drink—it’s the #1 way we reproduce—so it’s no wonder a host of microbreweries have sprung up over the last few years. Our favourite is Lady Brewery. 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.

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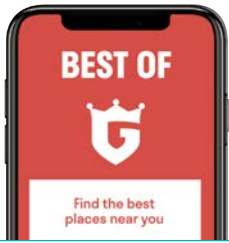
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June 19th—July 16th

# In Your Pocket



Reykjavík Map

Places We Like

Best Of Reykjavík

## Perfect Day

Dance, jive & have the time of your life



Photo: Art Bienick

### Helen Cova

Helen Cova is a Venezuela-born author. Most recently, she published a children's book—'Snulli likes being alone'—in English, Icelandic and Spanish. Here's how her perfect day in the city would unfold.

#### Early morning

I am gently woken up by the sunshine leaking through my window. It's the summer solstice. My husband has set the east balcony of my apartment with the perfect breakfast: Arepas with cheese, black beans and plantains, with avocado on the side and coffee. It's sunny and there's no wind; maybe just a soft, fresh breeze. Good enough to keep me from sweating.

#### Mid-morning

In the perfect world, the whole planet enjoys an abundance of water, just like Iceland. And so, on this day, everyone in the city is invited to a water game. Children and grown-ups

alike run around with bottles, buckets, toy water guns—any container does the job. We throw water at each other and laugh as downtown Reykjavík is transformed into a huge playground. All of our pain is washed away with the water as we embrace the excitement of childhood once again.

When we are done, my friends and I go to **Naúthólsvík** where today, magically, the sea water is not Arctic cold but rather Caribbean warm. We grill and eat lunch, staying until the afternoon.

#### Afternoon

After lunch, I bike with my husband to **Café Flóran** in **Grasagarðurinn**. There, we share a slice of carrot cake and cheesecake, and I write or sketch. Afterwards, we stop at **Klambratún** for a quick round of frisbee golf and to check on **Kjarvalsstaðir**, my favourite museum in Reykjavík.

#### Evening

After an early dinner at **Sjávargrillið**, we go to **Stofan** to play board games

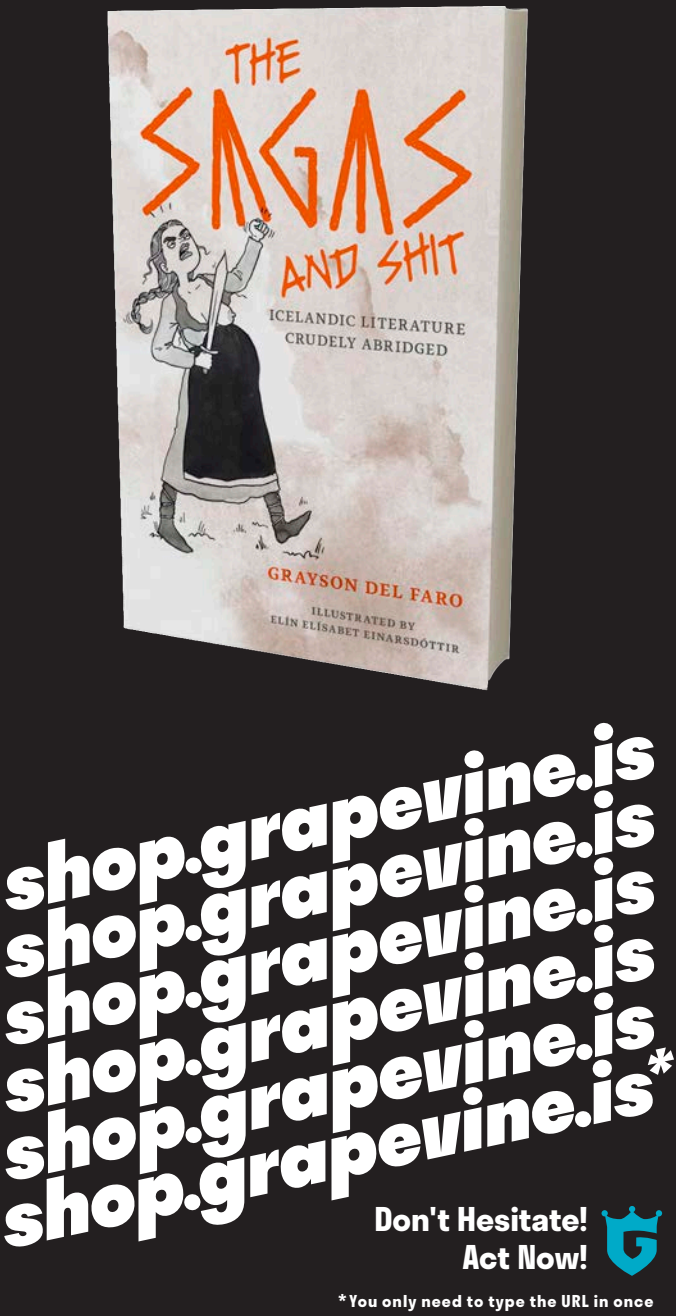
with our friends. I usually host the board game nights there so I don't get much chance to actually play, but today I play with friends for an hour and a half before heading to the re-opened **IBNÓ**. An intimate crowd has gathered to watch sóley, Sin Fang and Örvar play their album 'Team Dreams'. I lay back into one of their sofas with a glass of white wine. Just perfect.

#### The end of the day

It's close to midnight and to end the day, I have prepared a literary camping trip. Writers gather in **Heiðmörk** and set up their tents. We hold a reading by a fire and the song of their voices reading in different languages creates a path to the dream world. The temperature in the air never drops below 16°C, so it's just nice to be outside, with the midnight sun setting in the distance, covered by the orange-purple light it creates. When I am tired enough, I go inside the tent and without even needing a sleeping bag, I fall asleep in my husband's arms. 🍷



### Get Grapevine Merch!



## 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	Kiki Queer Bar Laugavegur 22	E5	ART67 Laugavegur 67	F7
American Bar Austurstræti 8	D3	Loft Bankastræti 7	E4	Open daily 9-21	
Andrými Bergþorugata 20	G6	Mengi Óðinsgata 2	F5	Ásmundarsalur Freyjugata 41	G6
B5 Bankastræti 5	E4	Nordic House Sturlagata 5	H2	Open Tue-Sun 8-17	B1
Bió Paradís Hverfisgata 54	E5	Ölsmiðjan Lækjargata 10	E3	Aurora Reykjavík Grandagarður 2	
Bravó Laugavegur 22	E5	Paloma Naustin	D3	Open 09-21	
Curious Hafnarstræti 4	D3	Papaku Reykjavík Klappargatistigur 1	E5	Asgrímur Jónsson Museum Bergstaðastr. 74	G4
Dillon Laugavegur 30	E5	Prikið Bankastræti 12	E4	Open July 8-Sep 1, Mon-Fri	
Dubliner Naustin 1-3	D3	R6013 Ingólfsstræti 20	E4	Berg Contemporary Klappargatistigur 16	E5
English Pub Austurstræti 12	D3	Röntgen Hverfisgata 12	E5	Tu-F 11-17, Sat 13-17	
Gaukurinn Tryggvagata 22	D3	Reykjavík Roasters Káratigur 1	F5	The Culture House Hverfisgata 15	E5
Hard Rock Café Lækjargata 2a	D3	Stofan Café Vesturgata 3	D3	Open daily 10-17	
Hressó Austurstræti 20	D3	Tjarnarbrú Tjarnargata 12	E3	The Einar Jónsson Museum Eiríksdaga	G5
IBNÓ Vönnarstræti 3	E3			Open Tue-Sun 10-17	
Kex Hostel Skúlagata 28	E7			Exxistenz Bergstaðast. 25b	F4
Kaffibarinn Bergstaðastræti 1	E4			Galleri List Skipholt 50A	H10
				M-F 11-18, Sat 11-16	
				Hafnarborg Strandgata 34, 220	
				Open Wed-Mon 12-17	
				Hverfisgalleri Hverfisgata 4	D4
				Tu-Fri 13-17, Sat 14-17	
				i8 Gallery Tryggvagata 16	D3
				Tu-Fri 11-18, Sat 13-17	
				The Penis Museum Laugavegur 116	F8
				Open daily 10-17	
				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	
				Open Wed-Sat 13-17	
				Living Art Museum Grandagarður 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 Frikkirkjuvegur 7	F3
				Open daily 10-17	
				The National Museum Suðurgata 41	G2
				Open daily 10-17	
				The Nordic House Sturlugata 5	H2
				Th-Tu 11-17, W 11-20	
				Hafnarbrú Tryggvagata 17	D2
				Open 10-17, Th 10-22	
				Kjarvalsstaðir Flókagata 24	H8
				Open daily 10-17	
				Ásmundarsafn Sigtún	
				Open daily 10-17	

## Vital Info

### Useful Numbers

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

### Post Office

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

### Pharmacies

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

### Opening Hours - Bars & Clubs

Bars can stay open until 01:00 on weekdays and 04:30 on weekends.

### Opening Hours - Shops & Banks

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

### Swimming Pools

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

### Public Toilets

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

### Public Transport

Most buses run every 20-30 minutes  
Fare: 470 ISK adults, 220 ISK children.  
Buses run from 07-24:00, and 10-04:30 on weekends. More info: [www.bus.is](http://www.bus.is).





A



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# The Map

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

## Dining

### 1. Fjallkonan

Hafnarstræti 1-3

Named after the female personification of Iceland, Fjallkonan is located smack-bang in the middle of downtown, and caters to locals and tourists alike. For the Icelandic-cuisine-curious, there is a platter of whale, lamb and puffin, all presented beautifully. For those who are just looking for a great selection of fresh meat, fish and vegetarian options, Fjallkonan does these to perfection as well.

### 2. Block Burger

Skólavörðustigur 8

Block Burger is an office favourite. You can see their white paper to-go bags stacked on writers' desks. Modelled heavily on the American chain Shake Shack in presentation, Block is reasonably priced (for Reykjavík) and has quick service. It's a lunchtime spot worth checking out.

### 3. Matur og Drykkur

Grandagarður 2

In how many ways can we say, "eat here"? Is it the whole cod head you should get, or perhaps the double-smoked dried lamb, or the creamy halibut soup? Whatever you get, rest assured it'll have roots in Icelandic culinary history, elevated to fine dining standards. And do not leave without trying the fried-to-order kleinur.

### 4. Sandholt

Laugavegur 36

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

### 5. Le Kock 2.0

Tryggvagata 14

In the ground floor of a new hotel, it's a large space with three components: the Le Kock diner serving burgers, fish and chips, and comfort food favourites; a cocktail bar called Tail; and a second branch of Deig, Le Kock's sister bakery. The music policy can be shaky—unless you like Status Quo—but the all-day happy hour has 1,500 ISK cocktails and 800 ISK beers.

### 6. Ramen Momo

Tryggvagata 16

Iceland's first Ramen bar has upped their broth game with a silky slick Tonkotsu. They have a choice of noodles and broths catering to food intolerances and fads, and a popular 'Ramen of the Month'. We suggest getting the Ramen Tonkotsu with their perfectly cooked soy cured eggs.

### 7. Public House Gastropub

Laugavegur 28

What happens when Icelandic ingredients are tended to with Japanese flair? Public House Gastropub only gives out-of-the-ordinary, satisfying answers. The duck thigh in a pancake served with ginger sauce and the crispy shrimp dumplings with sriracha mayo are to die for. Come early and enjoy happy hour while you can: you'll never want to leave.

### 8. Messinn

Lækjargata 6b

Messinn may be modelled on the well-known Westfjords restaurant Tjoruhúsið, but it's now no doubt a Reykjavík restaurant of choice. What keeps us coming back is how the food keeps getting better every time we dine there. Our favourites include their savoury plokkfiskur, velvety graflax, and a perfectly seared trout with honey and almonds.

### 9. Sea Baron

Geirsgata 4a

Some say the langoustine soup recipe has changed a little since the eponymous "Sea Baron" himself passed away, but this harbourside diner is as popular as ever anyway. Get a warming cup of soup, and a melt-in-the-mouth fresh fish kebab, still smoky from the coals.

### 10. Pylsuhúsið

Ingólfstorg

One of the many post-jam options in town for those looking to put a tasty end to a fun night out, the Hot Dog House is a solid place for a quick snack. If you feel too inebriated by life to experiment, a classic one "with everything" will do the trick.

## Drinking

### 11. Curious

Hafnarstræti 4

Watch out, henny—there's a new

queer bar on the scene, and it's decked out in tropical apparel. Serving up cocktails, coffee and—starting in August—a vegan café, Curious is a one-stop-shop for whatever scene you belong to. Werk.

### 12. Bravó

Laugavegur 22

Oh, bravo, Bravó, for having the best happy hour in this fair city. With its colourful fairy lights and a plethora of comfortable pillows, Bravó feels like a children's bedroom tent for adults. If you get lucky and grab a table, or even just a single seat, then it's the happiest place on earth.

### 13. Loft Hostel

Bankastræti 7a

Loft stands many heads and shoulders above most of the al fresco drinking spots in Reykjavík, not least because it's on the roof of the Loft Hostel and has a balcony that looks over downtown. Before the evening-time entertainment begins, it's the perfect place to catch some late-afternoon sun.

### 14. Kaffibarinn

Bergstaðastræti 1

With a saloon-like atmosphere in the daytime, when dogs and kids run around amongst the diehard local crowd and groups of confused tourists, Kaffibarinn turns into an all-out party during the small hours of the weekend. Whether you're holiday day-drinking or getting messy, it never fails to amuse.

### 15. Gaukurinn

Tryggvagata 22

If you prefer your music grungy, raw and weird, then Gaukurinn is your place. With dim lights, leather sofas and a gender neutral bathroom, it's become the perfect hangout for the unorthodox Reykjavíkingar, so if you're looking for like-minded peeps to drink with, here you go.

### 16. Session Bar

Fógetagarður

Session Bar is a minimalist craft-beer-focused drinking den housed in a former hair salon in the heart of downtown. There are sixteen beers on tap, both Icelandic and international, and they have a focus on keeping the prices affordable, in contrast to Reykjavík's generally pricey craft bar.

### 17. Papaku Reykjavík

Klappastígur 38

Formerly Bar Ananas, Papaku Reykjavík is Reykjavík's only beach bar, and it is truly a breath of fresh air for the otherwise dreary downtown scene. No sir, this is no dive bar, but a club, with a pool table, piano, darts board, a spacious bar, a tiny dance floor, and a solid line of DJs that all aim to make you bust a move.

## Downtown & Harbour District

### 18. American Bar

Austurstræti 8

Football fans will rejoice in seeing the row of screens perennially tuned on sports channel above the bar, while troubadours aficionados will find in American Bar a great spot to listen to classic country music. Grab a rib from the adjacent Dirty Burgers & Ribs and be happy.

## Shopping

### 19. Kvartýra №49

Laugavegur 49

This minimalistic, Bauhaus-esque spot took the Icelandic fashion

E



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New In Town ☆



Gaeta Gelato  
Aðalstraeti 6

Ice cream is a longstanding culinary staple for Icelanders. But for too long Reykjavík has been deprived of one of the dessert’s best-known and perhaps most delicious varieties: gelato. Enter Gaeta Gelato on Ingólfstorg. It is owned by newly-arrived Italian transplants with nearly 25 years of experience as gelatai. Their artisanal and authentic flavours, from blueberry to Piedmontese hazelnut, are made with fresh and well-sourced Icelandic ingredients. Though only recently opened, Gaeta has already won over a crowd of committed regulars. **NB** 🇮🇸

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. Lucky Records

Rauðarárstígur 10

Lucky Records is probably the biggest record shop in Iceland, with shelves upon shelves of new and used vinyl and CDs on offer. They have a small stage where local and visiting bands sometimes perform, and expert staff that can always help you find what you’re looking for. Dig, dig, dig!

**K**

Wine bar & food

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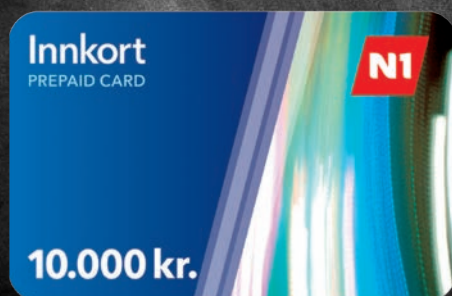


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“Put this on while you do the dishes. It will be so much more fun”

song from the legendary album ‘Glamúr í geimnum’ just really stays with you. It’s tragic as well as nostalgic and sweet.

7. K.óla - “Nýir Draumar”

K.óla, or Katrín Helga Ólafsdóttir, has really been pushed to the surface in the past couple of months, and we understand why. Her album ‘Allt verður Alltíla’ is a beautiful debut and we are so excited to see what her future holds! “Nýir Draumar” is definitely one of the album’s peaks with gorgeous vocal harmonies and simple but effective self-helping lyrics.

8. Egill Sæbjörnsson - “I love you so”

“I love you so” is one of these songs everybody knows but has no idea how or why. It’s a 2000s anthem that captures a moment in Icelandic music history. This cult classic goes particularly well with making oatmeal in the morning.

9. KARÍTAS - “Snake Skin”

What a beautiful tune! KARÍTAS is known for being a DJ in downtown Reykjavik but with her EP ‘Songs 4 Crying’ she proved herself to be so much more. Her sound is very particular: delicate and dark with a hint of hope. It doesn’t hurt that her producer is the amazing Dadykewl who is also one of our favourites! 🐍

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ARTIST PLAYLIST

CYBER

Songs for sex, self-empowerment and doing the dishes

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen Photo: Margrét Unnur Guðmundsdóttir

Experimental-vampy-absurd-dirty-feminist-suit-clad-hip-hop-trio CYBER has been a long-time Grapevine obsession. Composed of Jóhanna Rakel, Salka Valsdóttir and Þóra Stína, the group has been wowing the local scene with their unique brand of dirty, no-holding-back rap since their first release in 2016. We sat down with the trio to decode their perfect Icelandic playlist.

1. russian.girls - “Viltu Ekki”

“Viltu Ekki” is the perfect introduction to the russian.girls 2019 EP ‘Digua’—one of their stronger projects to date, in our opinion. It really makes you feel like something is coming, exciting you and scaring you at the same time. Tatjana Dis’s vocals and lyrics on this track also make for a very intense atmosphere that is just great!

2. SiGRÚN - “Vex”

SiGRÚN’s ‘Onælan’ is an overwhelmingly beautiful record and “Vex” is rightfully its flagship. This song on a calm spring night, standing on your balcony reflecting on past summer flings and wondering about the ones ahead—now that’s an activity we can get behind.

3. Eva808 - “Psycho Sushi”

This song, like most Eva808 songs, is just cool as hell. Her approach to bass music is refreshing and delicate in a way you can’t really put your finger on. Put this on while you do the dishes. It will be so much more fun.

4. Countess Malaise - “Alpha Female”

‘HYSTERÍA,’ Countess Malaise’s debut album, is just an epic horror-core piece that everyone should listen to. “Alpha Female” really sums up this record’s vibe, where the Countess, or Dýrfinna Benita, self-empowers to the max, making you feel simultaneously like a bad bitch and at her mercy.

5. Daughters of Reykjavík - “Sweets”

Shout out to our gals! “Sweets” is the first single of the Daughters’ forthcoming album ‘Soft Spot’ and really sheds a new light on the band. The song is silky smooth, sexy and obviously sweet as your daddy’s d. A must to put on your sex playlist! If you don’t have one, just put this song on repeat.

6. dj. flugvél og geimskip - “Draumar Töframannsins”

The most eerie and beautiful lullaby you’ll ever listen to. This

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# Music



Not birdlike at all

## meet dirb (not bird)

dirb’s debut album serves up a genre-bending melange of sounds

Words: Sam O'Donnell Photo: Art Bicnick

### Album

'dirb' will be released on July 3rd.

Ingvi Rafn Björgvinsson, also known as dirb, creates music that is just as unusual as his name. The pseudonym comes from the combination of a childhood nickname and his initials. “When I was young, and my brother was starting to be able to speak, he couldn’t say Ingvi,” he explains. “So he always said Diddi, and it just stuck.”

### Uncharacterisable

His self-titled debut album, which drops on July 3rd, can’t be characterised by any one genre. Indeed, it serves up a broad spectrum of sounds from experimental hip-hop to lo-fi trip-hop. “I don’t want to put myself in too much of a box,” he says. “So I want to make pop songs and I want to make hip-hop songs and electronic dance music and everything in between.”

As a producer, dirb is always trying to do what comes naturally in the studio, which he says can change from day to day. “One day its ambiance, the next day it’s a 4 to the floor kick drum beat or whatever,” he says smiling. “I just try to follow my stomach and follow what comes naturally that day when I start working on a new song.”

As a result of this genre-blending, dirb has collaborated with a diverse set of artists, each with their own unique sound, including R&B songstress GDRN and the always-eccentric rapper Kött Grá Pjé. Yet, he lends his own voice to each collaboration.

For example, “Kattarkvæði,” featuring Kött Grá Pjé, is a solid hip-hop song with a heavy beat and angry tone, showcasing dirb’s flow. This contrasts sharply with

“Segðu Mér,” a sleepy, sweet song featuring GDRN, with an electronic and bass-heavy piano riff.

### A whole ‘nother ball game

In advance of the album release, dirb landed a record deal with Alda Music—the same label as Countess Malaise, Benni Hemm Hemm and KALEO—a deal, he explains, that was sort of an accident. “I uploaded my first song to global distribution,” he says, adding that difficulties with the bots that ran the online global distribution led him to seeking out a human contact for the task. “Trying to deal with personal stuff with bots is not good. Quite stressful,” he adds.

Then, a friend told him about Dreifir, the distribution source for Alda Music. So he went to the office with the intention of uploading his music there. The attendant who answered his questions subsequently asked to hear his music. “After it was done, I was taken aside, and they

were like, ‘Hey, I think we could work with you,’” he explains. Prior to that interaction, dirb hadn’t shared his music to anyone outside his inner circle. “When someone who is not emotionally attached to you comes to you and says, hey, let’s do this, it’s a whole ‘nother ball game,” he concludes.

### Never say never

While Ingvi does not restrict himself to a single genre and he likes to collaborate—he still plays electric bass with Oyama, Markús Bjarnason and Sunna Friðjóns—as dirb he is sticking to solo work for the time being. “Never say never,” he says, “but I think I will focus on the solo project for now.”



### MUSIC NEWS

British record label **One Little Indian**, which has released music by **Björk**, **Sigur Rós**, **Emiliana Torrini**, and **Ásgeir Trausti**, has (finally) changed its name. Label founder Derek Birkett said he made the decision after a fan explained why the name was offensive. In a statement posted on Instagram, Derek said, “I have immediately started making arrangements to stop using the One Little Indian Records name and logo... From today the label will be called **One Little Independent Records**.” He went on to say that as a teenager living in London in the late 1970s, he was deeply inspired by the philosophies of the Indigenous People of the Americas, which was, as he states, “a huge influence in our anarchist punk movement. I was naive enough at the time of founding my label to think that the name and logo was reflective of my respect and appreciation of the culture.” **SO**



If there is something more Icelandic than **Bubbi Morthens**, it’s the Icelandic reggae band **Hjálmar**. So it was only a matter of time until they’d join forces. Enter “Þöggun,” a song so Icelandic that it explodes into a reggae-fused political anthem about corruption and suppression. The song has proven incredibly popular and is currently number one at RÚV2, Iceland’s national broadcast. Bubbi Morthens has been very productive during the COVID-19 pandemic, also collaborating with the Icelandic hip-hop artist **Haki** in “Flýg,” (Fly), which is the most popular Icelandic song on Spotify. Pretty impressive for an old troubadour. **VG**



**Skoffin** is part of the insanely creative **Post-dreifing** collective, which has produced the best indie music in Iceland for years now. Their newest album, ‘Skoffin hentar íslenskum aðstæðum,’ which came out in late May, is a serious contender for album of the year and has been spinning in the Grapevine office since its release. The record serves up raw indie punk with odd breaks, energetic lyrics and a vibe that makes you want to skew radically left, hurl a Molotov cocktail at parliament, and tongue kiss your lover while breaking your guitar on a police car. We don’t really know how you would make this happen, but we believe in you. **VG**

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Our Picks



Reykjavík Fringe Festival ★

July 4th-12th - All times! - All over! - 1,000 ISK+

Oh, you thought just because there's not much international travel right now that Fringe would be cancelled? WRONG! It's

back and wackier than ever, with a week-long showcase featuring the best of local performers along with a selection of special live-streamed

acts from abroad. Expect comedy, silent discos, art exhibitions, comedy, burlesque, drag and... oh yeah, more comedy. We've got a special article about Jono Duffy's Fringe show, entitled 'I'm Tired', on page 29, but in honour of the festival, the rest of our featured events on this page are all Fringe, our favourite alternative performance week in the country. Boo-ya. **HJC**



RFF: Rebirth ★

July 8th & 10th - 17:30 - Tjarnarbió

An aerial silks show exploring self-actualisation. Expect splits. Lots of splits. Lots. **HJC**



RFF: 'Opening Up' Movie Premiere ★

July 9th, 10th & 11th - 18:00 - Samtökin '78 - 1,000 ISK

'Opening Up'—created by Sindri “Sparkle” Freyr—explores internal narratives, sex, queerness, open relationships, BDSM, and much more. Basically, learn all the info that you can only get from someone inside the community. We stan. **HJC**



RFF: My Voices Have Tourettes ★

July 8th, 10th & 11th - Various times & venues!

It's the two year anniversary of Reykjavik's most unique stand up show. Yay! **HJC**



RFF: Crapshoot! Or Why AI Voted for Trump: A Love Story ★

July 4th - 12:00 - Livestreamed & Hlemmur Square - Pay what you want!

Meet AI Stone. He voted for Trump. Why? The man was in love. He could smell the fake tanner through his Fox News screen and thought, “This guy tells it like it is!” So, will he meet Big Don? Crooked Hillary? Sleepy Joe? Only Pence knows. **HJC**

June 19th—July 16th

Concerts & Nightlife

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

Friday June 19th	★ Listahátið í Reykjavík:
<b>Kef Lavík</b> 20:00 Prikið <b>GRÓA</b> 17:00 12 Tónar <b>Múlinn Jazz Club:</b> <b>The Reykjavík Big Band</b> 20:00 Harpa <b>Dúndurfréttir</b> 20:30 Bæjarbió <b>Blóðmör, RedLine, Kisimja, Eilíf Sjálfsfrúin &amp; GestapoSanktaCola</b> 18:00 Laugavegur 33B	<b>NoShow / Fjarvera</b> 16:00 Secret Location!  <b>Wednesday June 24th</b>  <b>BREK</b> 20:30 Hannesarholt  <b>Thursday June 25th</b>  ★ Listahátið í Reykjavík: <b>NoShow / Fjarvera</b> 16:00 Secret Location! <b>Book Release:</b> <b>Drenched Dreams - Collected Erotica</b> 19:30 12 Tónar <b>Pub Quiz</b> 21:00 Stúdentakjallarinn <b>GÓSS</b> 20:30 Bæjarbió <b>Dumplings Night!</b> 17:00 Makake Restaurant



Vök, pictured yesterday

20:00 Viðey Island  
**DJ Ívar Pétur**  
20:00 Ívar Pétur  
**Tómas R. Latin Band**  
15:00 Jómfrúin  
**Dymbrá**  
14:00 Listasafn Íslands  
**Mid-Equinox Buffer Zone:**  
**Wazy Lizard & Wise Horse**  
19:45 Tjörninn  
**Karius & Bactus:**  
**A Children's Play In Icelandic**  
11:30 Harpa

Tuesday June 23rd

**NoShow / Fjarvera**  
14:00 Secret Location!  
**Karius & Bactus:**  
**A Children's Play In Icelandic**  
11:30 Harpa  
**Benjamin Gísli Quartet**  
15:00 Jómfrúin

Wednesday July 1st

**How To Become Icelandic In 60 Minutes**  
19:00 Harpa

Thursday July 2nd

**Ingibjörg Turchi & Band**  
20:00 Harpa  
**Opening Concert: Þórunna Björnsdóttir & Gunnar Karel Másson**  
20:00 Skálholt Cathedral  
**Pub Quiz**  
21:00 Stúdentakjallarinn  
**Dumplings Night!**  
17:00 Makake Restaurant

Friday July 3rd

**Cantoque Ensemble & Steinar Logi Helgason:**  
**Aldasöngur & Icelandic Treasures**  
20:00 Skálholt Cathedral  
**Múlinn Jazz Club:**  
**Byzantine Silhouette**  
20:00 Harpa  
**Icelandic Sagas: The Greatest Hits**  
19:30 Harpa

Saturday July 4th

★ REYKJAVÍK FRINGE FESTIVAL ★  
Various times & venues  
★ RFF: Crapshoot! Or Why I Voted For Trump: A Love Story  
19:00 Hlemmur Square  
**RFF: Opening Party!**  
20:00 Hlemmur Square  
**Cantoque Ensemble & Steinar Logi Helgason:**  
**Religious Choir Music**  
14:00 Skálholt Cathedral  
**How To Become Icelandic In 60 Minutes**  
19:00 Harpa  
**Sigrún Erla Grétarsdóttir Quartet**  
15:00 Jómfrúin

Sunday July 5th

★ REYKJAVÍK FRINGE FESTIVAL ★  
Various times & venues  
**RFF: Grýla - Not For Children!**  
16:40 Hlemmur Square  
**Rauður**  
15:00 Nordic House  
**Kimi & Cauda Collective**  
11:00 Skálholt Cathedral  
**Family Concert: Hymns**  
14:00 Skálholt Cathedral  
**Guðbjörg Hilmarsdóttir & Kári Þor-mar:** Baroque In Skálholt  
16:00 Skálholt Cathedral  
**Icelandic Sagas: The Greatest Hits**

19:30 Harpa

Monday July 6th

★ REYKJAVÍK FRINGE FESTIVAL ★  
Various times & venues

Tuesday July 7th

★ REYKJAVÍK FRINGE FESTIVAL ★  
Various times & venues  
**RFF: Kat Proppe Bailey**  
**'Do You Gal?'**  
19:00 Secret Cellar  
**RFF: Nick Jameson**  
**'Why Are You So Old?'**  
20:00 Secret Cellar  
**RFF: Dan Zerín 'Squeak!'**  
20:00 Secret Cellar  
**Icelandic Sagas: The Greatest Hits**  
19:30 Harpa

Wednesday July 8th

★ REYKJAVÍK FRINGE FESTIVAL ★  
Various times & venues  
★ RFF: Rebirth  
17:30 Tjarnarbió  
**RFF: Nick Jameson**  
**'Why Are You So Old?'**  
19:00 Secret Cellar  
**RFF: Hold On To Your Thumbs:**  
**Kimi + Laufey**  
20:00 Secret Cellar

Thursday July 9th

★ REYKJAVÍK FRINGE FESTIVAL ★  
Various times & venues  
★ RFF: My Voices Have Tourettes  
20:30 Tjarnarbió  
★ RFF: "Opening Up" By Sindri Sparkle Freyr  
18:00 Samtökin 78  
**Vök**  
20:00 Gamla Bíó  
**RFF: Jono Duffy 'I'm Tired'**  
22:00 Tjarnarbió  
**RFF: Rebirth**  
17:30 Tjarnarbió  
**Cauda Collective: Þorlákstíðir**  
21:00 Skálholt Cathedral  
**Pub Quiz**  
21:00 Stúdentakjallarinn  
**RFF: Forbidden Fruit Burlesque Show**  
21:30 Hard Rock Café  
**RFF: Guide To Guiding**  
19:00 Secret Cellar  
**RFF: Dan Zerín 'Squeak!'**  
21:00 Secret Cellar  
**RFF: Hold On To Your Thumbs:**  
**Kimi + Laufey**  
22:00 Secret Cellar  
**How To Become Icelandic In 60 Minutes**  
19:00 Harpa

Friday July 10th

★ REYKJAVÍK FRINGE FESTIVAL ★  
Various times & venues  
★ RFF: My Voices Have Tourettes  
21:00 Secret Cellar

★ RFF: "Opening Up" By Sindri Sparkle Freyr  
18:00 Samtökin 78  
**RFF: Wraith**  
16:00 Hlemmur Square  
**RFF: Alice Anyway**  
18:30 Secret Cellar  
**RFF: Jono Duffy 'I'm Tired'**  
22:00 Secret Cellar  
**Múlinn Jazz Club:**  
**Þorgrímur Jónsson Quartet**  
20:00 Harpa  
**KIMI Ensemble: Afkimar**  
20:00 Skálholt Cathedral  
**Icelandic Sagas: The Greatest Hits**  
19:30 Harpa  
**Ásgeir**  
20:00 Bæjarbió

Saturday July 11th

★ REYKJAVÍK FRINGE FESTIVAL ★  
Various times & venues  
★ RFF: "Opening Up" By Sindri Sparkle Freyr  
18:00 Samtökin 78  
**Emmsjé Gauti**  
20:00 Gamla Bíó  
**RFF: Ladies & A Gentleman Burlesque**  
21:30 Tjarnarbió  
**How To Become Icelandic In 60 Minutes**  
19:00 Harpa  
**Aulos Ensemble: Our Land**  
16:00 Skálholt Cathedral  
**Dagný Halla Björnsdóttir Quartet**  
15:00 Jómfrúin

Sunday July 12th

★ REYKJAVÍK FRINGE FESTIVAL ★  
Various times & venues  
**Special-K**  
15:00 Nordic House  
**Kimi, Þórunna & Gunnar**  
17:00 Skálholt Cathedral  
**Icelandic Sagas: The Greatest Hits**  
19:30 Harpa  
**RFF: Jono Duffy 'I'm Tired'**  
20:00 Secret Cellar  
**RFF: Nick Jameson**  
**'Why Are You So Old?'**  
21:00 Secret Cellar

Tuesday July 14th

**Icelandic Sagas: The Greatest Hits**  
19:30 Harpa

Wednesday July 15th

**How To Become Icelandic In 60 Minutes**  
19:00 Harpa

Thursday July 16th

**Pub Quiz**  
21:00 Stúdentakjallarinn  
**Icelandic Sagas: The Greatest Hits**  
19:30 Harpa



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Ása's smile lights up 2020

## Matte Musings In Mosfellsbær

Ásgerður Arnardóttir fills us in on her latest artistic exhibition

Words: **Nico Borbely** Photos: **Art Bicnick**

### Info

'Út frá einu og yfir í annað' is open until June 26th at Bókasafn Mosfellsbæjar.

In the back of the Mosfellsbær library, a brightly lit hall hosts 'Út frá einu og yfir í annað,' an exhibition of sleek, creamy-coloured images with smooth edges, centering brighter photographic elements whose more vibrant colours and tangible textures contrast with their backgrounds, masterminded by up and coming artist Ásgerður Arnardóttir. "I like trying to create an illusion, [so that] people don't know what the medium is when they look at the works," she says as we sit facing each other beside one of the overlaid images in question.

### Dimensional dialogue

"This exhibition is mainly about different kinds of perspectives," Ásgerður, who goes by Ása, explains. "There are three sculptures in the middle and all of the 2D works on the walls are different implementations of the sculptures, such as drawings, photos and a collage."

Walking through the hall, the swathes of matte alabaster and rosey colors in the backgrounds of the pieces hanging on the walls are soothing and easy on the eyes. The photographed elements punctuate these otherwise unbroken backgrounds with small, but strong centerpieces of texture and warm colors. The overall impression is one of ease, serenity and quiet introspection.

But underneath that serenity, Ása emphasises, is a sense of conflict; one that seeks to pit the ab-

stract against the objective. "When I repeat works like those on the walls, they become more objective. At the beginning of the process, I wanted to have three-dimensional works in dialogue with two-dimensional works, and highlight the tension between them," she says. "The sculptures [which the pieces are based on] need to be here, or else the exhibition would be totally different."

### Combining crafts

Ása's method is one of mixed-medium experimentation. "I take a picture of an object that catches my eye and I cut out the background and replace it with a single color, which changes the whole image. When I graduated, I made pieces

that were like this. [One time], I photographed a painting I crumpled up, and people thought it was a painting, though it was a photograph of a painting, because the textures of these prints are very matte," she explains. "I find combining mediums very exciting. I usually take photographs and make digital works out of them, but I've never had the objects with them in the exhibition before, which forces the viewer to experience it in a certain way. It's not as open to interpretation as it is usually."

When asked if there are any specific artistic styles or masterpieces that have inspired or influenced her work, Ása pauses for a moment, thinking intently. "It's a mixture of many artists in my head, which I don't necessarily remember now. I

don't really know where I get my inspiration; it's just the details of the things around me. I'm inspired by a good mix of textures, colours, forms and composition in a unique way. I just want to feel something new that I haven't experienced before," she concludes. "I don't like when I know what I'm doing." 🐾

**"I just want to feel something new that I haven't experienced before."**

## VISIT KÓPAVOGUR CULTURE HOUSES AND EXPERIENCE



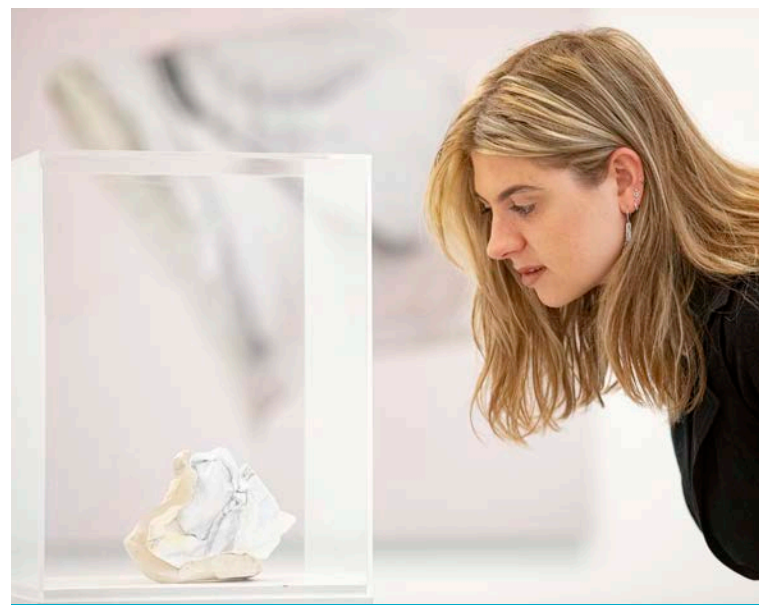
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Ása (right) and one of her sculptures



Our Picks



★ Listahátíð í Reykjavík

All 2020 - All over!

It's been 50 years since Listahátíð í Reykjavík—the Reykjavík Arts Festival—began. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic though, the extravaganza has changed formats this year, and will instead be a 2020-long celebration of local arts. Events are just kicking off, and we're so happy to dedicate all of the featured events on this

page to one of the most iconic arts festivals in the country. From Víkingur Ólafsson's September 'Debussy & Rameau' premiere to Iceland Dance Company's 'Rómeó <3 Júlía' dance show in November, Listahátíð í Reykjavík is giving us one bright light for 2020... a much needed one, seriously. **HJC**



★ Listahátíð í Reykjavík: Solastalgia

Until Aug. 25th - Listasafn Íslands

Explore an augmented reality with contemporary art, multisensorial effects and cutting edge sound design. Enter a mysterious future in a post-human Earth where only a mysterious digital cloud has survived. (We're spooked.) **HJC**



★ Listahátíð í Reykjavík: NoShow

Until June 27th - Various times & a secret location

Walk through a stranger's house guided by handwritten letters. Seriously. There's a very limited set of tickets, so sign up by sending your name and time to skraning@artfest.is. Only then will you know the secret location. **HJC**



★ Listahátíð í Reykjavík: Common Ground

Until June 23rd - SÍM Gallery

Where is home? Explore that concept with a group of artists both born in Iceland and abroad. How are we similar? How are we different? How can we band together? Do you need more questions? **HJC**

June 19th—July 16th

Art Listings

Events are listed by venue. 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)

Opening

NORDIC HOUSE

**DesignMarch: Hringir**  
Íris Ösp sheds a light on the connection between motherly love and Mother Earth. As she says, "What we all have in common is to share the same mother." Hopefully she's not referring to the film by Aronofsky.

- Opens on June 24th, 2020
- Runs until June 28th, 2020

**DesignMarch: Vanishing Point**  
'Vanishing Point' is the result of research work involving epoxy resin, pigment and light. Basically, they played around with cool stuff to make cool reactions with utility and light. Love it.

- Opens on June 24th, 2020
- Runs until June 28th, 2020

**DesignMarch: A Prototype Chair**  
This exhibition is a tribute to Nordic design, manifested in the elegant and timeless 'Anna' chair. Don't sit on it please. Just observe it.

- Opens on June 24th, 2020
- Runs until June 28th, 2020

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - KJARVALSSTAÐIR

**Jóhannes S. Kjarval: At Home**  
Jóhannes Sveinsson Kjarval (1885-1972) was one of the pioneers of Icelandic art (the museum is literally named after him) and is one of the country's most beloved artists. His connection to, and interpretation of Iceland's natural environment is thought to have taught Icelanders to appreciate it anew, and to have encouraged pride in the country's uniqueness and the world of adventure to be discovered within it.

- Opens on June 25th, 2020
- Runs until December 31st, 2020

**What It Seems – Reality on Canvas 1970-2020**  
Many painters seek to achieve an impression of realism in their works. But is everything what it seems in paintings made in a realistic style? We don't know, that's why they made an exhibit about it.

- Opens on June 25th, 2020
- Runs until December 31st, 2020

Ongoing

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ICELAND

**Treasures Of A Nation**  
A selection of over 80 works chosen from the national gallery's collec-

tion displays the evolution of art since the 19th century.

- Runs until October 4th, 2020

**High Plane VI**  
Katrín Sigurðardóttir has for some years been exploring the effects of perception in her installations and works. Here, she dismantles a classic theme of Icelandic paintings: mountains, the blue of distant vistas, and the obsession with Icelandic nature.

- Runs until January 3rd, 2021

**Mats Gustafson**  
Swedish artist Mats Gustafson has always held a special feeling for the transient nature of watercolour. This exhibition contains all his best-known works, including ones made with fashion houses Dior, Yohji Yamamoto, Comme des Garçons, and more.

- Runs until August 30th, 2020

**Electromagnetic Objects**  
The "Electromagnetic Objects" are a collection of works by Woody Vasulka and the audio artist Brian O'Reilly. According to O'Reilly, "the works use sources excavated directly from the output of the Electromagnetic Objects, as well as further manipulations using Tom Demeyer's ImX software, developed with input from Steina." Sounds complicated, but we still stan.

- Runs until December 31st, 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 September 30th, 2020

**Ásmundur For Families**

Children get free entry to learn about Ásmundur Sveinsson, after whom the museum is named.

- Runs until September 30th, 2020

REYKJAVÍK MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY Witness

The photographic exhibition Witness is opening in unusual times, when its subject has temporarily disappeared. The visitor, in Iceland to see cascading waterfalls, advancing glaciers and surf crashing on the shore, is absent. Iceland's nature is alone once more.

- Runs until September 13th, 2020

**Obscure Presence**  
Coming from a small isolated island with extreme weather conditions and almost unearthly landscapes, Icelanders have a unique connection with the unknown. Here, Gunnlöð Jóna Rúnarsdóttir explores that unique connection.

- Runs until August 16th, 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. with two images of different origins against each other.

MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART Paperflowers

The bookwork 'Paperflowers' was made by Rúna Þorkelsdóttir over a period of two years on a Rotaprint machine at her studio in Amsterdam. In 2007, she along with Tao Kurihara made fabric inspired by the work, along with a summer collection using that.

- Runs until September 6th, 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

GERÐARSAFN 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.

- Runs until June 21st, 2021

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.

- Runs until July 12th, 2020

**Erró: Cyborg**  
This series of the great Erró was inspired by technology, science and the combination of the human and the mechanic. In particular, it examines how technology invades the body and how the human body adapts to the machine. The images offer questions concerning the borderlines between human beings and technology.

- Runs until December 31st, 2020

**Sol LeWitt**  
This exhibition spans 30 years of the great American conceptual artist Sol LeWitt's career. In LeWitt's works, all the planning and decision-making for the execution of an artwork is made beforehand, and with that, as he said, "the idea becomes a machine that makes the art."

- Runs until July 19th, 2020

**Hafnarhús – Depot of Ideas in the City Centre**  
It's the 20th anniversary of Hafnarhús! Yay! This special exhibition focuses on the building and its history and transformation, viewed through sketches and photographs, among other things. It also examines how the museum building, as a space, interacts with the art and connects to its environment, the city centre.

- Runs until July 16th, 2020

HAFNARBORG

**DesignMarch: material:wood**  
Wood is an organic matter that bends equally to the laws of nature and chance. It does not yield easily and the material itself often affects the final outcome, whether in regards to shape or finish. It also composes trees, which we like to hug.

- Runs until August 23rd, 2020

HVERFISGALLERÍ

**Houndshills, Hourdshollows**  
Guðmundur Thoroddsen, for his exhibition, was inspired by a beer called 'Hundur', which means dog. "You can understand why they think it necessary for this thing to have a name, that it is named something," he wrote in the accompanying text. "If the beer has a name like Dog, then we can create a context in which to understand what it is we are imbibing."

- Runs until August 1st, 2020

WIND & WEATHER WINDOW GALLERY

**Afdrep // Refuge**  
Ragnheiður Sigurðardóttir Bjarnarson's site-specific mixed-medium installation presents a bright sun-like shape rising over a series of white glacier-esque mountains. Perfect for the midnight sun. Remember: The window is open all day, everyday, so stop by.

- Runs until June 27th, 2020

MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART

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# Film

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The director, soaking in the sunlight

## Nothing So Serious

Sigurður Anton Friðþjófsson is here with 'Mentor'

Words: Sam O'Donnell Photo: Art Bicnick

Director Sigurður Anton Friðþjófsson, who goes by Toni—a play on his middle name—is known for his comedic works that play with heavy subject matter. His debut movie, 'Webcam,' was about a young lady entering the world of online stripping. His second, 'Snjór og Salome,' told the story of a woman dealing with her cheating boyfriend. But his newest offering, 'Mentor,' he says is a lot more fun. "This doesn't really get that heavy," he says. "It's just kinda 90 minutes of fun."

### Act 1. Synopsis

In 'Mentor,' a 17-year-old girl named Beta wants to enter a stand-up comedy competition, despite having never set foot on stage. In search of feedback on her set, she contacts Hugo, a comedian who won the competition ten years earlier, sending him down

memory lane in the process. "He takes it really seriously and starts getting nostalgic, reevaluating where he is in his life, and if he's where he wants to be," Toni says. Meanwhile, Beta is simply trying to overcome her insecurities in her own act.

The film was inspired by characters from Toni's own life, particularly Þórhallur Þórhallsson, who won the award for funniest man in Iceland back in 2007. He doesn't live in the past like Hugo does, but Toni says that it's a running inside joke that he does. Other moments were directly lifted from his own experiences as a standup comedian. "I know the community and all the people," he says, adding that he still goes to see shows whenever possible.

### Act 2. Exposition

Joe Swanberg, Kevin Smith, and

(in a perhaps surprising departure) Nicolas Winding Refn were particularly influential for the director. But would Toni ever enter the dark world of Refn? "Yeah," he says. "[But] my personal opinion is that every film should have at least some jokes. Otherwise it's not really realistic. It's 90 minutes and no one cracks a joke? That doesn't feel real."

### Act 3. Production

The film was in production for just over a year. Parts of the movie were shot in major locations in the Reykjavik comedy scene. "We shot two days in the Secret Cellar and one day in Gaukurinn," he says. "It was like I was shooting a part of my life." A number of local stand-up comedians make appearances in the movie, as well.

In the future, he plans to make more movies, focusing on naturalistic acting, improvisation, and sticking to a low budget. "I really like indie movies," he says.

'Mentor' will show in Smárabíó and Háskólabíó, as well as theatres across the country starting June 24th. 🍷

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# Stop Trying To Make Jono Duffy Happen

Because, according to the comedian, it might never happen

Info

'Jono Duffy: I'm Tired' is happening July 8th and 10th at Tjarnarbió at 22:00, July 11th at the Secret Cellar at 22:00, and July 12th at the Secret Cellar at 20:00. Tickets are 2,500 ISK.

Always hustling

"They way I've put it is that it could be," he says with a smile, sipping his beer, unexpectedly jovial about the subject matter. "See, in 2019 I had sellout shows in Iceland. I got to tour Europe. I got taken to Brighton Fringe. It was the best year of my career... But at the end of that, I felt like I needed to step back." Much of that, he explains, is due to the realities of being a performer in such a small country. "When you're a performer in a country this small, you're constantly afraid that people are going to get sick of you, but to be honest, I was sick of myself," he shrugs. "There's only so many times you can plug shows on Facebook before you say, you know I want to use Facebook to look at memes! Not to be constantly harassing people. Hey, buy tickets to

my show! How can I get someone to write about me? What favours can I pull?" And when he was celebrating the holidays with his fiancée and family in France, a lightbulb went off. "I remember saying, 'ok, here's my vacation. I finally have the time I have been waiting for when I can sit down and write a new show.' So I sat down with my laptop everyday and, after three days, I had nothing. It was a surreal experience," he says. "For the first time ever, nothing came to me. I was like, 'I'm not funny anymore. I've got nothing left. Can I even do this?'" So he decided to simply write a show about where he was at at that exact moment. "The only thing I felt was that, you know, I'm tired," he laughs. "Am I tired of making people laugh? No. I love that. I'm tired of the hustle."

Am I Grandi?

"See, as a performer, there's only so long you can do this before you start thinking, am I any good?" he continues. "You know Grandi? I always think about Grandi, like, stop trying to make Grandi happen. It's never going to happen!" he says, imitating the incompa-

rable Regina George. "Then I thought, oh my God, am I Grandi?" So, as he relays, he put the question to the universe: Should I, Jono Duffy, continue comedy? "Well, then COVID happened. So sorry everyone. I think I made it happen," he says, a cheeky grin

taking over his face. "I lost six months of work in one day." But, he emphasises, the answer is in the show. It might be his last show forever, or just for a while. That said, if this is Jono's last show, the Reykjavik Grapevine—which has covered every single one of Jono's shows—will no longer have any reason to ever talk to him again. So does he have one last statement for the paper that's fangirled on him since the beginning? "If this really is my last show, I have one last thing to say, and that's that I love you all, and well, I tried," he sighs in a faux-dramatic manner, before breaking off into his characteristically boisterous laughter. "But it will be funny! I promise. Or, well, I hope."



Words: Hannah Jane Cohen  
Photos: Art Bicnick and Natan Ndi-Etienne



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## Camping

The Reykjavík Grapevine 30  
Issue 04—2020



Pictured: Not our children

## A Tent, Some Tots... And More Alliterative Fun

You like camping? We got camping!

Words: **The Grapevine Camping Committee** Photo: **Art Bicnick**

Who would've thought? COVID-19 has brought the 80s back. Yes, instead of heading out to get sunburnt in Tenerife, summer 2020 is seeing parents taking their kids out for vacation in the countryside for a bit of camping. We know some of you are probably quite rusty in this endeavors, so here are our favourite Grapevine-approved family camping grounds.

### Pakgil

There are few ways to get closer to God—if you believe in such fairy tales—than visiting Pakgil. Close to Vík í Mýrdal, the campsite lies high in the mountains between the monstrous Mýrdalsjökull and the endless expanse of Mýrdalssandur. The site has every amenity you need for a good camp, including a beautiful pass that leads up to a small waterfall and a surround of steep hills to block the wind—a rarity for this godforsaken island. Plus, there's a natural cave where you can sit and eat your barbecue like a true barbarian Viking and the kids can roam around safely. A truly magical place for the family—you can't go

wrong at Pakgil. **VG**

### Húsafell

Two hours away from Reykjavík, this sleepy town has it all for the intrepid outdoors. You like hiking? They got hiking. You like camping? They got camping. You like horseback riding? They got horseback riding. Not to mention, golf, mountain biking and a secret hot spring in the mountains where you can soak your tired bones after a long day of hiking, mountain biking, golfing and horseback riding (with children). Wanna cool the kids off in the pool? Guess what? They have a pool! You want to have a crappy vacation? Don't go to Húsafell! That's what Borðeyri is for. (We're joking, Borðeyri is weird and fun.) **SPO**

### Ásbyrgi

To sleep in the hoof-print of a godly six-legged horse (I'm telling you, this one is no fairy tale) is pretty much the best reason to camp at Ásbyrgi in the northeast of Iceland. If you are an Icelander, chances are that you have been there at least

once with your parents, and while you can barely remember it, you can still viscerally feel the wonderful memories. Well, nothing's changed. Sure, the forest is a bit bigger, but the waterfall at the end of the canyon is still otherworldly and the echo from the steep cliffs can still keep kids occupied for hours. Just watch out for when they start cursing and the cliffs echo it all over the campsite like a foul-mouthed troll is waking up and everyone looks at you like you're a bad parent. Not that I can relate. My kids would never act so feral. **VG**

### Höfðavík

Located along the long, slender lake of Lagarfljót in eastern Iceland, and right next to Hallormsstaður, the island's largest forest, the camping site at Höfðavík is an ideal spot from which to experience the area. With Lagarfljót's waters right on the campsite, the prospect of a dinner under the light of the midnight sun on the lakeside picnic table (or for the intrepid, a quick dip into its chilly waters) beckons. And Hallormsstaður forest, easily visible from the campsite (not a common site in much of the country) offers the prospect of excellent hikes through forest paths under trees of 85 different species. **NB**

### Seyðisfjörður

In spite of its modest population of 678, Seyðisfjörður can seem like a vibrant, bustling metropolis after days of wandering through the Eastfjords. Boasting a well-equipped and fully functioning kitchen, its camping site, nestled comfortably right in the centre of town, makes for an ideal and affordable overnight resting place, as well as a base for enjoying the village's Instagram-famous Blue Church, cute and colourful houses, spectacular hilltop views, and easily accessible waterfalls. **NB**



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16:00 to 19:00.  
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Wine 900 ISK.

**APÓTEK**  
Every day from  
15:00 to 18:00.  
Beer 695 ISK,  
Wine 745 ISK.

**BASTARD BREW**  
Every day from  
16:00 to 19:00.  
Beer 600 ISK,  
Wine 750 ISK.

**BEER GARDEN**  
Every day from  
15:00 to 19:00.  
Beer 800 ISK,  
Wine 800 ISK.

**BRAVÓ**  
Every day from  
11:00 to 20:00.  
Beer 700 ISK,  
Wine 900 ISK.

**BRYGGJAN  
BRUGGHÚS**  
Every day from  
15:00 to 19:00.  
Beer 700 ISK,  
Wine 1,050 ISK.

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

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

**FORRÉTTABARINN**  
Every day from  
16:00 to 19:00.  
Beer 750 ISK,  
Wine 750 ISK.

**GEIRI SMART**  
Every day from  
16:00 to 18:00.  
Beer 500 ISK,  
Wine 600 ISK,  
Cocktails 1,200 ISK.

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

**ÍÐA ZIMSEN**  
Every day from  
19:00 to 22:00.  
Beer 495 ISK.

**ÍSAFOLD**  
Every day from  
16:00 to 18:00.  
Beer 600 ISK,  
Wine 900 ISK.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**MIAMI**  
Every day from  
15:00 to 20:00.  
Beer 500 ISK,  
Wine 800 ISK,  
Cocktails 1,000 ISK.

**PABLO DISCOBAR**  
Every day from  
17:00 to 18:00.  
Beer 700 ISK,  
Wine 1,000 ISK,  
Cocktails 1,500 ISK.

**PAPAKU  
REYKJAVÍK**  
Every day from  
16:00 to 22:00.  
Beer 690 ISK,  
Wine 800 ISK.

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

**PUBLIC HOUSE**  
Every day from

15:00 to 18:00 &  
23:00 to 1:00.  
Beer 890 ISK,  
Wine 890 ISK.

**PETERSEN SVÍTAN**  
Every day from  
16:00 to 20:00,  
Beer 800 ISK,  
Wine 1,000 ISK,  
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there. PS: Wear  
cool clothes. The  
crowd here is  
very stylish. 🍷



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Vegan option

2,000 ISK  
And Under

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Dish of the day  
soup & bread -

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11:00 - 14:30  
Fish of the day -  
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adult meals

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# Who Doesn't Want To Read About Sperm Banks And Erotic Sheep?

Welcome to the Grapevine book club, it's free

Words: **Valur Grettisson**

Photos: **Art Bionick & Hreinn Gudlaugsson/Wikimedia**



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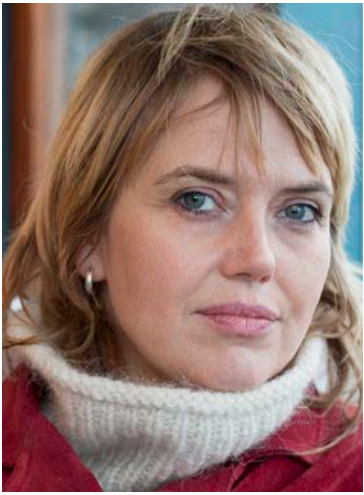
**LoveStar**  
By Andri Snær Magnason, 2013

If you are an Icelander and have already read ‘LoveStar’ by Andri Snær Magnason, read it again. The book not only predicted social media, but also how it would be utilised for marketing on a global level, and how it would eventually disconnect us from reality. When it was published in 2004, ‘LoveStar’ was supposed to be science fiction, but nowadays it’s more science than fiction. Set largely in the North of Iceland, Andri’s masterpiece critiques an Orwellian megacorporation—which is eerily similar to Facebook, to be honest. The summer is the perfect time to read it, we believe, because with the way 2020 is going, space burials are probably not too far off. **VG**



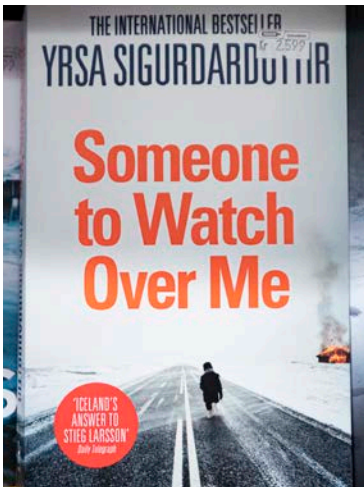
**Reply to a Letter From Helga**  
By Bergsveinn Birgisson, 2010

Bergsveinn Birgisson’s novel is one of those rare ones that’ll make you love your partner a little bit more. It’s a well-written saga about an old sheep farmer’s regrets when it comes to love. The story is incredibly modern and honest when it comes to the human experience and the terrible regret about love lost. Plus, it also contains some of the best sex scenes ever written in Icelandic. It’s almost mandatory to read this book in the countryside, under the cacophony of a running stream, a golden plover, and a distant, perhaps after reading, weirdly erotic, bleat. **VG**



**The Blue Blood**  
By Oddný Eir Ævarsdóttir, 2015

An autobiographical novella available on Kindle, ‘The Blue Blood’ charts the author’s journey as she attempts to become pregnant, via various means. Oddný’s search takes her from the corridors of a sperm bank, to a market in South America, to a cave under Eyjafjallajökull; along the way she muses on subjects like masculinity, Nazism, bohemianism, mythology and history. ‘The Blue Blood’ is full of vivid moments, and captures the turbulent joy, seriousness, sadness and absurdity of personhood. **JR**



**Someone To Watch Over Me**  
By Yrsa Sigurðardóttir, 2009

So, you want some mystery and thrill? We got you. The best way to enjoy the Icelandic psyche is to slip into the head of the country’s crime queen, Yrsa Sigurðardóttir. She is one of the most successful crime writers in Iceland and has sold millions of copies of her books around the world. But here is the Grapevine’s 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 keep reading. You won’t regret it. **VG**



**Moonstone: The Boy Who Never Was**  
By Sjórn, 2013

Sjórn’s book ‘Moonstone: The Boy Who Never Was’ is set in 1918 and explores the dramatic moment when Iceland declared indepen-



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

# Laima Ūdre

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen Photo: Art Bicnick



**Laima Ūdre (30) is a fashion designer**

- Wearing:**
- Top is my design.
  - Trousers are my design.
  - Jacket from Spútnik.
  - Reike Nen boots from Kvartýra №49.

**Describe your style in 5 words:**  
“Whatever feels right in the moment.” That’s six! Is that OK?  
For me, everything depends. I love wearing black because I love observing people and I don’t always feel like I need to stand out. But if I feel I want to wear purple, I’ll wear purple. Sneakers, tracksuits or dresses—everything depends.

**Favourite stores in Reykjavik:** That’s a good question. I love vintage stores because you can find some pearls and interesting things. Of course Hildur Yeoman as well and some concept stores. There, you can find some little treasures or something special. I don’t like fast fashion.

**Favourite piece:** Right now, it’s these boots. They are new so I’m still excited about them. I have mainly all black clothes so I am pretty excited about colour right now. They are also super comfy and I think as time goes on, I give more and more value to comfort in shoes, so a super comfy boot is like gold to me.

**Something you would never wear:** There’s nothing. I saw I had to answer this question and I was like—no, there’s nothing I wouldn’t wear.

**Lusting after:** A grey tracksuit that matches my hair. 🐾

## FJALLKONAN

KRÁ & KRÆSINGAR

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

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

**ICELANDIC PLATTER**  
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➤ Minke whale, malt glaze  
➤ Lamb tartar, chive mayo

**THE LAMB BURGER**  
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# Food

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Greetings, fellow eaters

## The Country Cuisine Handbook

Eating in Reykjavík is so January 2020

Words: The Grapevine Country Crew Photos: Art Bicnick & Various

So you've been to Dill, Bæjarins Bestu, Grillmarket and Hlölli. You think you're the King of Icelandic cuisine. Well slow down champ, there's a lot of goodies to be found outside the capital around the island. So expand your palate—and your mileage.



Photo by Jac. Janssen/Flickr.com

### Sænautasel

Jökuldalsheiði, Highlands

This Highlands turf house is the definition of a hidden gem. Lying in the middle-of-nowhere, the farm/museum/campsite/hotel/restaurant is run seasonally by a father/son duo and is actually rumoured to be the inspiration behind Hall-dór Laxness's 'Independent People.' Stay the night in their secluded no-electricity turf house and wake up to traditional Icelandic pancakes with blueberry jam served family style by a father and son duo. Then, spend the rest of your life dreaming of that idyllic breakfast.



Photo by Bryggjan

### Bryggjan

Grindavík

Another place that definitely deserves more attention. This Grindavík café (that has signs all over the city so you can't possibly miss it) serves up potentially the best lobster soup in the country—no hyperbole—that's so flavourful one bite will leave you spinning. Btw, you Icelanders are in for a treat because this place is the brainchild of none other than the legendary TV chef Siggí Hall. Bryggjan is a place with heart and some serious local-core.



### Simbahöllin

Fjarðargata 5, Þingeyri

Who says you can't get mouth-watering Belgian-style waffles in the middle of nowhere? Certainly not Simbahöllin. This café, nestled in the tiny fishing village of Þingeyri, makes a damn good latte, magical jam, and a Reykjavík 10-years-ago vibe that instantly makes you feel like a very in-the-know cool artist. Hello, fellow kids.



Photo by John Rogers

### Farmers Bistro

Garðastígur 8, Flúðir

Welcome to Iceland's only mushroom farm, where you can learn about mycelium, hyphae, fertilization, waste-free practices and other fungi-facts. The adjoining farm-to-table restaurant boasts a menu of locally-grown and fresh food that includes not only delicious mushroom soup, but a mushroom ice cream dessert. The prices are pretty outstanding for Iceland as well. Now that's a shroom trip that can't go bad.



Photo by Timothée Lambrecq

### Norð Austur

Seyðisfjörður

The crown of the East, Norð Austur's sushi will lead you to rethink your existence and even the fact that atoms combined to make us at all. And when you taste that Py-lsu Sushi, your brain will explode into distant galaxies. This place has literally left our food experts—yes, plural—speechless. One of our best, Shruthi Basappa wrote in 2017: "Is Norð Austur worth the trip to Seyðisfjörður? Is it the best sushi in Iceland? A resounding 'yes' to both."







Photo by Frida Chocolate Coffeeshouse

Frida Chocolate Coffeeshouse

Túngata 40a, Siglufjörður

Until 2016, the tiny northern town of Siglufjörður would probably not be your #1 destination for artisanal chocolates. But then Frida Chocolate Coffeeshouse opened and suddenly, unexpectedly, the winds of the Atlantic carried the scents of creamy, thick, piping hot chocolate out to the country and the Word was with God and the Word was Chocolate. What we're trying to say is that the homemade fancy chocolates at Frida are so good that we're currently on a sugar high and are having religious delusions. Help.



Photo by Tjöruhúsið

Tjöruhúsið

Ísafjörður

This little outpost was dishing out local, seasonal, affordable, nose-to-tail seafood dining long before they became a buzzword in Iceland's dining scene. The kitchen pushes out pan after pan of various fish and it's an all you can eat buffet, which means you will regret that you haven't starved yourself for days before when you taste these dishes. On any trip to the Westfjords, visiting Tjöruhúsið isn't a recommendation, it's a necessity. Send all thank you notes to grapevine@grapevine.is.



Freysnes

Skaftafell

Directly across from Hótel Skaftafell is an unassuming gas station, grocery store and restaurant. Don't be put off by its humble exterior; head to the buffet for a heaping plate of lamb, potatoes and salad that'll rival the best restaurants in Reykjavík. Seriously, this is one of those places you'll be recommending to your friends forever with the preface, "I know it looks like a gas station, but here me out..."



Photo by Vellir Farmers Market

Vellir Farmers Market

Skiðadalsvegur, 621 Dalvík

At the Vellir farm, they, as an unnamed devotee of the market told the Grapevine, "smoke the shit out of some cheeses and meats and it's everything." So if you're looking for delicious Icelandic chutneys, local ice cream, freshly plucked berries, veggies, herbs, particularly fantastic mushrooms, and "smoked the shit out of" cheeses and meats, you know where to go.



Slippurinn

Westman Islands

This one's a given. If you haven't been to the exquisite Westman Is-

lands eatery Slippurinn, you should probably start pinpointing where, exactly, your life went wrong. With locally sourced ingredients, incredible presentation and a very cosy setting amongst the beauty of the region, Slippurinn is possibly the best iteration of New Nordic fine dining. Head chef Gísli Matthías Auðunsson's menu incorporates wild seasonal herbs and berries from the islands' beaches, with local fish, seabird eggs and meat, prepared in creative and surprising ways.



Photo by Vallanes Organic Farm

Vallanes Organic Farm

Vallanes, Egilsstaðir

Home of Móðir Jörð, the Icelandic brand that produces organic vegetable-based products. The food is always fresh, tasty, local, vegetarian or vegan, and seasonal. Enjoy it in a newly built house made entirely of Icelandic wood, or in the greenhouse whilst chatting with the owners. Egilsstaðir has got some tricks up her sleeve, it seems.



Háafell Goat Farm

Borgarnes

Stop by for the cute cuddly goats. Stay for the fresh goat cheese and goat cheese ice cream (!!!!). Trust us, you haven't lived 'til you've covered your pasta in goat parmesan, with a baguette topped with goat brie on the side. We love goat. G.O.A.T. 🐐



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**AWARDS**

**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**

www.ban thai.is tel : 55 -22-444, 692-0564 banthai@banthai.is





# Travel

## Revisiting The Past

A decade after Eyjafjallajökull, a new crisis is taking over

Words: Valur Grettisson Photos: Art Bienick & Bjarki Sigursveinsson



**Travel distance from Reykjavik:**  
377 km

**Roads travelled:**  
Route One

**Car provided by:**  
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[islandshotel.is](http://islandshotel.is)

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our tour booking site



It was 2010 when Eyjafjallajökull erupted. A few weeks after the eruption, I went with a group of friends from work to climb Hvannadalshnjúkur, the highest mountain in Iceland. We took a bus there and Iceland was how it always was in 2010: dramatic, a little dangerous—I mean, there was an active volcano in our way—and largely abandoned. There were comparatively few tourists then.

Sure, you would pass another car every once in a while, but it was most likely locals. Oftentimes you would pass some sweaty cyclists battling the hills and feel bad for them—you knew the weather would not be kind. But those extreme athletes had been stopping by Iceland since the 80s, returning to the island every year like the Arctic tern. It was nothing out of the ordinary.

In the whole of 2010, 495,000 tourists visited Iceland. Though we didn't know it then, it would be the last year of empty streets.

### Not that high

For hikers, Hvannadalshnjúkur is not *that* high. It stands 2,100 meters. In fact, the top itself, Hvannadalshnjúkur—is actually only a white blimp-

shaped boulder plopped on the top of the glacier—is but 200 meters high. It's the glacier that's the true challenge. But this is often the trick about Icelandic mountains, they are not that high but can be risky in other ways. They are secretly brutal.

My group made it to the summit and in the distance saw the roaring Eyjafjallajökull spewing millions of tons of ash straight up to the sky, polluting the air and disrupting air traffic. The crisis was suddenly much more real and majestic. We, along with the rest of the world, were in awe, watching how the nature of a small island could stop everything, even if for just a moment.

There was no wind in the air nor clouds above us as we stood on the mountain. The beautiful weather contrasted sharply with the destruction that felt almost too near. But at that time, we didn't realise that we were watching a volcano that would change everything for Iceland.

### The world finally noticed

The effects of having Iceland's name in the world news every day for some weeks resulted in tourism on the island soon exploding to more than one

million visitors per year. A few years later, this number jumped to over two million. For reference, that's over five times the population of Iceland. All of a sudden, our nature was not only ours.

The empty black beaches became crowded with colourful Goretex Gullfoss and Geysir became a cliché. It was no longer possible to soak naked in the geothermal pools after a refreshing hike, sipping on cognac. And trekking the nature trail Laugavegur, was, well, like walking down Reykjavik's biggest shopping street, Laugavegur.

Although Icelanders welcomed tourism, something felt lost. We were sharing our previously ignored paradise with the world.

### The south revisited

I recently climbed Hvannadalshnjúkur again, venturing up the mountain with the Grapevine's trusty, but quiet photo editor Art Bienick. We visited Jökulsárlón, Skaftafell and Vík í Mýrdal to shoot videos for our Abandoned Iceland series, which you can find on our YouTube channel.

It was stunning to see the country in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nature had taken back its land, but this

time it was not a volcano that stopped the world, it was (most probably) a bat on the other side of the earth.

The roads were as empty as they were on my fateful drive in 2010. In fact, they were more empty—no cyclists zoomed by on the roadside. We slept at Fosshotel Glacier Lagoon and all of the guests were Icelanders, there to hike or just take in the scenery.

### A quiet destruction

Although travelling these empty roads felt familiar, it was odd to know that even if the weather was sunny and good, we were stuck in the middle of a storm once again. Empty roads meant destruction, and though the source was abroad, the effects domestically were still the same.

Around 50,000 Icelanders are, in one way or the other, at the mercy of the Directorate of Labour because of the loss of tourism. We have never seen such steep economic troubles, and don't forget: We are a country that once faced the complete destruction of our banking system in just a matter of weeks. We are used to crises, but nothing prepared us to have the whole of Icelandic nature back in our hands, the



Eyjafjallajökull, 17th April 2010. Photo by Bjarki Sigursveinsson.



Hvannadalshnjúkur, our former intern Josie, and a t-shirt



erie silence filled with the noise of birds and waves splashing on our shores once again. Iceland was once again ours—a gift we didn't ask for, but maybe needed.

### To find beauty again

After visiting the quiet Jökulsárlón, we hiked to Svartifoss in Skaftafell. Again we met no one except one middle-aged couple from Reykjavík, who decided to use the opportunity to revisit places they hadn't seen for years.

The waterfall fell from the cliff, surrounded by black basalt columns, into a small river. The silence was golden, as we sat together and listened to this wonderful waterfall, a waterfall close to the soul of Iceland—it even inspired Iceland's most famous architects, Guðjón Samúelsson, when building our National Theater in Reykjavík.

In this silence, I contemplated this unexpected, but beautiful side effect of this pandemic: Icelanders are finally finding beauty again in their country and re-experiencing the majesty of it that we've so often ignored. It's clear that we will not be travelling abroad this summer, but instead around our own island.



Svartifoss, a favourite of goths everywhere

And perhaps this will prove vital to save the travel industry. Icelanders have a knack for changing disaster into a gold rush. Our financial system, which we rebuilt in four years, has never been stronger

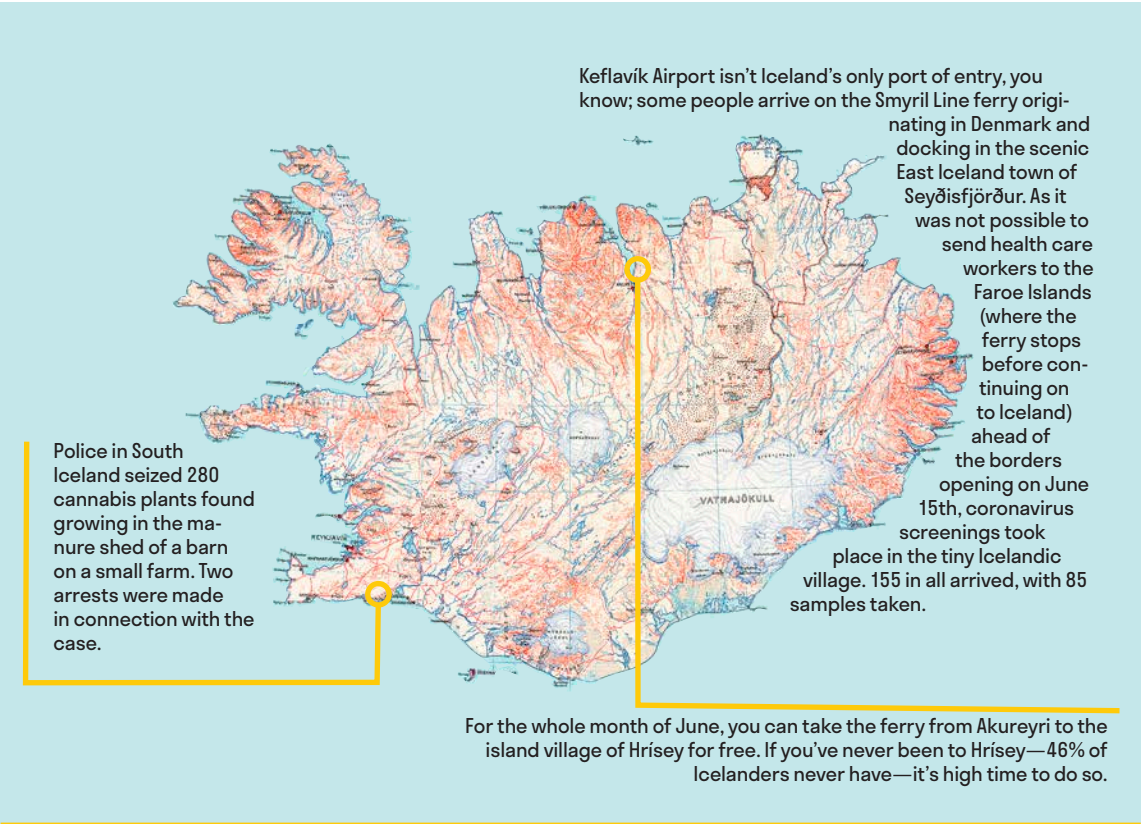
than now. Perhaps our interest in re-experiencing the wonders of Iceland will soften the economic impact and get us back on our feet.

In the meantime, I'll be underneath the waterfall, savouring the silence. 🍷

## Island Life

Hot news from the cold Icelandic countryside

Words: Andie Sophia Fontaine



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WELL, YOU ASKED



## Surrogating Your Succulent

Words: Nico Borbely

**I don't know what to do with my 300k Harry Potter slash fanfics now that J.K. Rowling has come out as a TERF. Help me, Grapevine!**

Keep them! Expand them! Build your story, make the universe your own. Make it as gay or as anything else as you want! Be the change you wish to see in the (wizards) world. J.K. Rowling may have created the Harry Potter universe, but your imaginings are yours to manage, develop and preserve as you wish. And you're not alone in your disappointment with the author: Daniel Radcliffe came out in support of the trans community as well, showing love really is the only way to defeat bigotry—and the Dark Lord. (Sometimes it really feels like the actors got their characters better than she did, no?)

**How can I be a good parental figure to my houseplants?**

Be warm, but stern when needed. Hang their art up on the fridge and tell them they did a good job. Compliment their photosynthetic progress. Be encouraging, but don't spoil them. And although people tend to shy away from giving children caffeine, coffee beans in their soil will help them grow.

**My cat suffers from seasonal depression. Any advice on living with a forlorn feline?**

Catnip, catnip, more catnip, and a little dash of extra catnip. Keep your stash of that good kitty kush well-stocked and send your feline friend on a magical journey surfing over rainbows and noshing on grade-A chow with the Bengal hunk of their dreams. Bonus points if they can spot, or better yet, kick it with Bastet, the ancient Egyptian cat goddess of the home (whose sacred status modern cats seem to think still applies to them). 🐾

HORROR-SCOPES

# In Space, Terrorism Is Great!

And JJ Abrams should direct it!

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen & Poppy Askham, "astrologers"

*In Horror-Scopes, the Grapevine's dedicated team of amateur astrologists break down your upcoming weeks based on shit like the Illuminati references in all the "movies" we watched "during quarantine."*



### Aries

Here's a thought: Sometimes terrorists are right! Especially if they are following the advice of former cult leaders whose lost philosophy once led to the murder of children by a deranged ex-member! In space, everything's cool. Including incest.



### Taurus

A diagnosis of cancer signals an upcoming meeting with your true love. Who will live? Who will die? As per the rules of drama, definitely one of you.



### Gemini

We get that you want some bling, Gemini, but stealing is not the way to go. Trust us: If you plunder that piece of jewelry you want, it's not only going to take a loooooong time to return, but there will probably be a ton of peasant casualties along the way. Expect the destruction of thousand-year-old creatures, the

creation of a new hybrid-species, and potentially multiple violent regime changes. On a totally different note, keep in regular contact with those birds you met.



### Cancer

Don't let your love of turkish delight keep you in the closet, Cancer. Be proud!



### Leo

Soon you'll be put in the position to choose whether to fuck an elderly virgin corpse or a sexy ripped dog. Follow your instincts, of course, but regardless of what you choose, the sexy ripped dog will eventually fuck your daughter. You'll be eerily ok with it.



### Virgo

Don't trust rich girls. Sure they make great artistic muses, but they never share. Hope you're good at swimming...



### Libra

You know what would be really great? If you sued the entire human race for speciesism. Honey is the product of an inherently exploitative capitalist system. Being vegan just isn't enough these days. Also, do you like jazz?



### Scorpio

Botany will pay off one day, Scorpio. In the meantime,



### Sagittarius

What on Earth will you spend your fortune on, Sagittarius? Here's an idea: Indulge your love of cosplay and do your best to stop the creepy clown epidemic.



### Capricorn

Stockholm syndrome might not be the most palpable method of seducing your beloved, Capricorn, but it's totally an effective one. Here's our advice: Restock your library, discipline your household staff to prevent her departure, and get your suit tailored for the inevitable first kiss. It'll no doubt be magical.



### Aquarius

What if that teacher that bullied you and your friends all throughout high school was actually just in love with your dead mother? That would definitely justify years of emotional abuse right? Oh and those relatives that forced you to live in a cupboard? Yeah they were just doing it out of respect for her too. Thanks mom.



### Pisces

Do it: Name your kid after a piece of bread. 🍞







# VOLCANO & EARTHQUAKE EXHIBITION

The Gateway to Iceland's Most Active Volcanic Area

Photo: Eyjafjallajökull Eruption 2010



## The creation of Iceland

A world class exhibition on volcanoes and earthquakes surrounded by active volcanoes.



## Where are we?

The Lava Centre is situated at Hvolsvöllur on the South Coast of Iceland.

More info and tickets at  
[www.lavacentre.is](http://www.lavacentre.is)

Open every day  
9:00 - 19:00

Lava now  
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Volcano & Earthquake Centre  
Austurvegur 14, Hvolsvöllur - South Iceland





**LAST WORDS**

## Empty Words On A Movement, Yet Full Of Hope

Words: **Chanel Sturludóttir**  
Photo: **Atli Freyr Steinsson**

I have never felt so discriminated against, but I have never felt so privileged.

I have never had so many things to say to the world without being able to find the words.

I have never felt so selfish yet I have never felt so much compassion for people I don't know. The people of the race to which I belong, yet have never belonged.

I've never felt so connected to my body, my brown skin, yet I have never felt my body so displaced. So far away from those who look like me, whom I feel I should be with.

However, my privilege lies in the fact that I do not share their experiences. Their abuse. The injustice they face. The hurt they have experienced. Yet I feel like I have felt it all. Racism is strange. So tangible yet so hard to grasp. A spectrum which most view as one-dimensional. A singular act of intentional hurt across races. But racism lies much deeper.

Our entire lives are racialised.

However, those who are the most privileged of all are those who cannot say to which race they belong.

Whiteness. A fake race which no-one can explain. Yet it seems to define all that exists. But what do these words mean anyway? Do they mean anything at all?

To someone who does not recognise the system from which they benefit.


The system which upholds their privilege. The system which affects all who are not white.

But who am I to speak?

My privilege is also upheld and I do not wish to lose it. I do not wish to experience the abuse, the brutality, the discrimination. Yet I yearn for it so bad. As I feel that my body will then be connected to my brothers and sisters. But will that help? What can I do? How can I help?

Is it money that is needed? Further education? My words? My body?

I feel helpless and detached. I yearn for the future—a future without racism in any shape or form. 🇮🇸





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