

ICELANDSCAPES

A GROUP SHOW OF CONTEMPORARY ICELANDIC ART

Hay Hill Gallery presents the group show of works by contemporary artists from Iceland. The exhibition revolves around the landscape, one of the major themes in Icelandic art, depicted in photographic works and paintings.

It is no wonder that having been brought up in a land of fire and ice and formed by it, artists from Iceland have a very different vision and approach to the creative process. The exhibition demonstrates the mutual penetration of art into landscape and the landscape into artists' minds.

For painter **Tolli**, landscape is an arena where everything of consequence happens; each event affecting changes in the landscape. And for Tolli, no matter how often he puts himself against distant landscapes, trekking in the mountains of Africa, traversing the glaciers of Greenland or climbing the gorges of Nepal, there is only one landscape that really matters to him, namely the highlands and fjords of Iceland. Extraordinary light which penetrates Icelandic landscape all year round is the lifeblood of Tolli's paintings. Massive mountains, not least the glacial run-offs tumbling down their sides, solid expanses of sea, highland bogs dotted with rocks as well as the coarse sand and turf under the painter's feet, all of these tangible phenomena either give way to light or are dependent upon it in one way or another.

Gudrun Kristjansdottir's personal view on nature also evolves around the constant weather and light changes in Iceland. She frames the everyday landscape of altering imprints and in order to recreate the perpetual movement of nature. In her works she intertwines paintings and videos, murals and light, reflections, wallpapers, sculptures, prints, photos and music to create an ambient environment, highlighting the complex relationship between perception, art and nature.

London based photographer **Iris Thorsteinsdottir** shows a series of works which were shot in either a window, or a sheet of glass that was carried in one arm, with the camera held in the other. The objective is to provide, simultaneously, both a sense of shelter provided by the architectural interiors, and exposure to the adjacent exterior environment. Here, the essence of both inside and outside, shelter and exposure, manmade and natural, co-exist.

Another photographer, **Bjargey Olafsdottir** works with symbols which have come into being, either in the artist's dreams, or have sprung into her consciousness between sleeping and waking. Bjargey takes the observer with her into a world where beauty and the spiritual reign and bathe in a mystical light and gaudy colour.





Tolli

Tolli emerged as one of the instigators of the New Icelandic Painting in the early 1980's. But in those days, reflecting the mood of a generation, Tolli's landscapes were unrelentingly gloomy and harsh. Today his works are bright and colourful manifestations of life and the beauty of nature. Tolli held solo exhibitions in Luxemburg, Denmark, Norway, UK, Monte Carlo, Germany and Switzerland.



Tolli, 'After the ash I' . Oil on canvas 140 x 160 cm



Tulli, 'Wasteland Glacier' . Oil on canvas 160 x 30 cm each (Diptych)



Snefeilsglacier 50 x 50 cm



Peaks 50 x 50 cm



Dawn 50 x 50 cm

Gudrun Kristjansdottir

Gudrun Kristjansdottir works intensively on her exhibition projects in Iceland, Europe, Americas and Asia. For over twenty years she has been a professional artist and also as a curator, editor, lecturer and leader of the Icelandic union of artists. She has received a number of prestigious grants and awards, notably from the respected Pollock-Krasner fund for her painting technique. Her works are in the permanent collections of Reykjavík Municipal Art Museum, The National Art Gallery of Iceland, National Bank of Iceland and private collections in Iceland, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, USA, Canada and Germany.



Gudrun Kristjansdottir, "Thaw II", Oil on linen, 115 x 115 cm



Gudrun Kristjansdottir, "Thaw IIIB", Oil on linen, 115 x 115 cm



Gudrun Kristjansdottir, "Thaw Ili", Oil on linen, 115 x 115 cm

Bjargey Olafsdottir

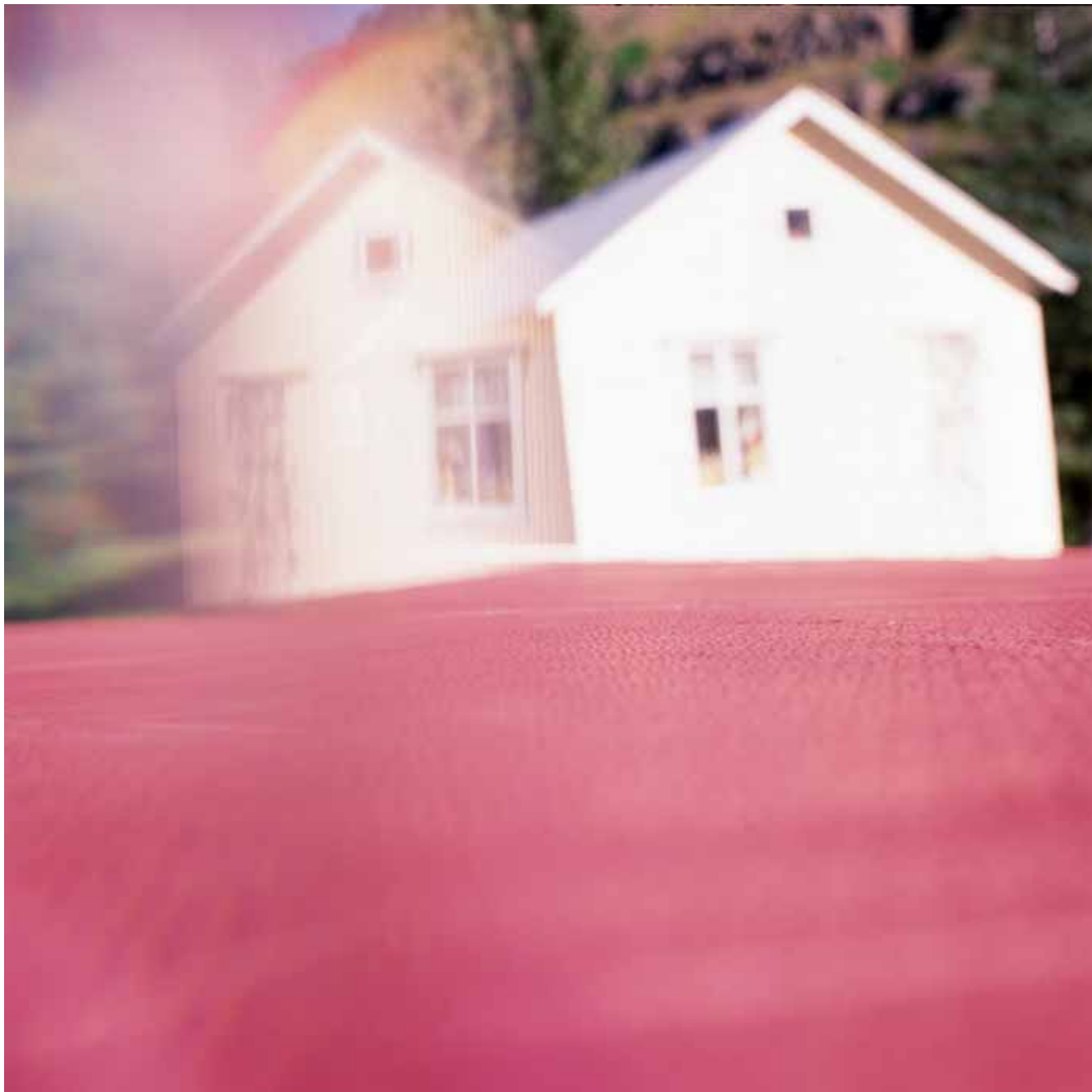
The art of Bjargey Olafsdottir is not confined to a single medium – she picks the medium she feels is most apt for each concept. Thus she may be likened to a versatile musician who has mastered many instruments, as Bjargey works in film, sound art, performance art, drawing, painting and photography. Bjargey's works are represented in permanent collection of Reykjavik Art Museum, The Icelandic National Museum, Museo de Bellas Artes de Santander (Spain), Reykjavik Energy and Bores Konstmuseum (Bores, Sweden).



Bjargey Olafsdottir, 'Dream Mountains', Photography, 80 x 80cm



Bjargey Olafsdottir, 'Mesmerized', Photography, 80 x 80cm



Bjargey Olafsdottir, 'Twin House', Photography, 80 x 80cm

Iris Thorsteinsdottir

Iris Thorsteinsdottir is an Icelandic artist living and working in London. She recently moved from California, where she was living for 10 years and studying her masters in Photography under Lon Clark at the AAU in San Francisco. She started her Reflection series at the Marin Headlands in California 2005. Her work has been exhibited at the SFMOMA Artist Gallery in San Francisco and at the Royal Academy of Arts in London.



Iris Thorsteinsdottir, "Borgarnes", edition of 5, 100 x 150 cm



Iris Thorsteinsdottir, "Borgarnes II", edition of 5, 150 x 100 cm



Iris Thorsteinsdottir, "Hveragerdi", edition of 5, 100 x 150 cm

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