



Image credits from left to right: *Can't See*, 2023 by Edith Karlson, photo credit: Joosep Kivimäe. *The Myth*, performance by Netti Nüganen, photo credit: Alan Proosa. *Oyster*, 2023 by Anna Niskanen.

Sequences Biennial Announces Full Artist List for 11th Edition, 'Can't See'

Sequences Biennial is delighted to announce the full list of participating artists for its 11th edition, which will open to the public from 13–22 October in Reykjavík, Iceland. Titled *Can't See*, the Biennial explores the ever-growing threat of ecological destruction by delving into spaces that cannot be perceived by the human eye, from the depths of the sea and layers of the soil, imagining the debris of the past and visions of the future.

Curated by Marika Agu, Maria Arusoo, Kaarin Kivirähk and Sten Ojavee, a curatorial collective from the Estonian Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA), Sequences XI will feature a central exhibition, displayed across four local institutions (The Nordic House, The Living Art Museum, National Gallery, Kling & Bang) and a wider programme of installations, performances,

workshops, concerts and more, taking place across the city. Aiming to bring people together during Iceland's darkest time of the year, the exhibition will run beyond the ten-day period, enabling more visitors to experience the artists' work.

The artist selection reflects the curators' interest in fostering new and deeper connections between the Baltic and Icelandic artistic communities, spotlighting unique, decentralised narratives from these geographical and cultural borders. With over 45 participants confirmed, the biennial will present new commissions and site-specific installations, alongside artists' existing works and for the first time, loans from Icelandic and Baltic museums.

The curators say: *"Coming from Estonia and working in Iceland with this diverse group of artists has been an exciting and thought-provoking process, exploring how their ideas matched with our own. It has also been equally thrilling to spotlight existing, sometimes rarely exhibited works from artists and museum collections, which are so valued and loved by locals. It has been a privilege to be an advocate for smaller, sometimes yet to be heard narratives."*

Ahead of the Biennial, there will also be a satellite event held by Sequences at HIAP Helsinki, Finland on 8 September, featuring special performances from Icelandic emerging artists Brák Jónsdóttir and Dúfa Sævarsdóttir.

SEQUENCES XI ARTIST HIGHLIGHTS

Sequences XI will feature some of the most exciting emerging and established artists from the Baltic and Nordic regions, interwoven with visionary artists across the world. With a multidisciplinary, cross-generational line-up, highlights will include Estonian sculptor **Edith Karlson**, who will exhibit a new iteration of her piece *Can't See* (2023), which inspired the title of this edition of Sequences. Karlson, who will also represent Estonia at the 60th Venice Biennale, is known for her eerie installations and dark humour and this sculpture will depict a hybrid creature from between the land and sea, looking at the uncertainty of the world. She will be exhibited at Nordic House alongside Lithuanian artist **Emilija Škarnulytė** who will be presenting a large-scale, immersive video installation, *Sirenomelia* (2017), contemplating deep time and invisible structures, from the mythological and cosmic to the ecological and political. Ukrainian artist **Katya Buchatska** will present a painting of silt, collected from the new land, exposed again after the destruction of the Kakhovka Dam and the vast natural and humanitarian catastrophe that it caused in early 2023.

There will be public and site-specific installations situated across Reykjavík's city centre and the harbour. Nigerian American artist **Precious Okoyomon**, who is known for their vast installations composed of living, growing and decaying natural materials, will create a new commission in collaboration with American artist **Dozie Kanu**. Presented in Seltjarnarnes' historic lighthouse in Gróttta, the work will explore wind as a central element in Icelandic nature. The Estonia-based American artist **John Grzninch** will also focus on wind, creating site-specific 'harp towers' that channel local wind patterns into sound. Icelandic-Polish artist **Grzegorz Łoznikow**, will present ephemeral ice sculptures in public spaces, that melt only leaving a plague behind.

The Biennial will feature performances by Norwegian artist and saxophonist **Bendik Giske**, who has received critical acclaim for the physicality, vulnerability and endurance of his performances. For Sequences he is working with Icelandic musician **Úlfur Hansson**. Estonian artist and musician **Netti Nüganen**, will restage her piece *The Myth* (2022), for which she won Estonia's best performance award last year. Korean American writer, artist and musician **Johanna Hedva** brings together mystical and political states in cathartic live performances, which are informed by the Korean tradition of Pansori singing, which demands rehearsal next to waterfalls in order to ravage the vocal cords.

Participating from Iceland, Icelandic-Polish artist **Pola Sutryk** will be setting up her own studio-kitchen as a festival hub. **Bjarki Bragason** will present a major new commission at Kling & Bang, which will deconstruct, transport and resurrect his grandparents' garden, which was on the verge of destruction, within the gallery space. Bragason's practice often involves expeditions to Iceland's glaciers, exploring how geological and human time manifests itself within places and nature. Also reflecting on Iceland's unique landscape, artist **Þorgerður Ólafsdóttir** will exhibit a new public artwork, looking at the unique Surtsey Island from the shore of Iceland in Kambarnir, Hellisheiði.

Other local artists have reflected on Iceland's traditions and folklore, such as **Hrund Atladóttir**, who will project a new video work which will be based on the old practice of útisetur, spending time dwelling in and connecting to nature. **Brák Jónsdóttir**, an exciting new voice in the country's art scene, will present a new sculptural commission that aims to create new mythologies for our contemporary era by reimagining and creating new extinct or otherworldly creatures.

In addition to contemporary artists, for the first time Sequences will feature museum-loaned historical artworks to bring significant historic artists to new international attention. This includes works by beloved Icelandic artist and beloved art teacher for many generations **Valgerður Briem** from Gerðarsafn Kópavogur Art Museum, and unique wooden sculptures by **Gudrun Nielsen** from Safnasafnið – The Icelandic Folk and Outsider Art Museum, together with legendary Icelandic painter **Jóhannes Sveinsson Kjarval**, one of the country's most important and celebrated artists. The Icelandic artists are put in dialogue with historical artists from Eastern Europe: leather artist **Elo Järv**, who is having a moment of rediscovery in Estonia, with inclusion in three major exhibitions this autumn, **Zenta Logina**, a Latvian artist with a spectacular body of works who worked during the Soviet occupation. Works will also be displayed by **Agnes Denes**, the iconic land artist who emerged in the 1960s and 1970s who is internationally known for her immense public installations such as *Wheatfield* and *The Mountain*.

FULL LIST OF PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Aaloe-Ader-Flo-Künnap-Soosalu (Estonia)
Agnes Denes (Hungary)
Alma Heikkilä (Finland)
Anna Líndal (Iceland)
Anna Niskanen (Finland)
Antti Laitinen (Finland)
Bendik Giske (Norway) in collaboration
with Úlfur Hansson (Iceland)
Benjamin Patterson (US)
Bjarki Bragason (Iceland)
Boji (Ukraine)
Brák Jónsdóttir and Dúfa Sævarsdóttir (Iceland)
Brynhildur Þorgeirsdóttir (Iceland)
Daiga Grantina (Latvia)
Daria Melnikova (Latvia)
Dénes Farkas (Estonia)
Dodomundo (Lithuania)
Edda Kristín Sigurjónsdóttir (Iceland)
Edith Karlson (Estonia)
Elo-Reet Järv (Estonia)
Emilija Škarnulytė (Lithuania)
Gerður Helgadóttir (Iceland)
Grzegorz Łoznikow (Poland/Iceland)
Gudrun Nielsen (Iceland)
Guðrún Vera Hjartardóttir (Iceland)
Gústav Geir Bollason (Iceland)
Hrund Atladóttir (Iceland)
Jóhannes Sveinsson Kjarval (Iceland)
Johanna Hedva (US/Korea)
Johhan Rosenberg (Estonia)
John Grzinich (US/Estonia)
Jussi Kivi (Finland)
Kadri Liis Rääk (Estonia)
Kärt Ojavee (Estonia)
Katja Novitskova (Estonia)
Katya Buchatska (Ukraine)
Monika Czyzyk (Poland/Finland)
Naima Neidre (Estonia)
Naufus Ramirez-Figueroa (Guatemala)
Netti Nüganen (Estonia)
Ólöf Nordal (Iceland)
Pakui Hardware (Lithuania)
Pola Sutryk (Poland/Iceland)
Precious Okoyomon and Dozie Kanu (US)
Radio Gufan (Iceland)
Sigurður Einarsson (Iceland)
Þorgerður Ólafsdóttir (Iceland)
Uku Sepsivart (Estonia)
Vaim Sarv (US/Estonia)
in collaboration with Flaaryr (Argentina),
Ásta Fanney (Iceland)
Valgerður Briem (Iceland)
Zenta Logina (Latvia)
Young Boy Dancing Group

NOTES TO EDITORS

Please click here to access the press kit:
<http://egnyte.suttoncomms.com/fl/UDr6293DUW>

For more information please contact:
Sophie Balfour-Lynn,
Sutton, sophiebl@suttoncomms.com
Olivia Forster,
Sutton, oliviaf@suttoncomms.com

ABOUT SEQUENCES

Sequences is a non-profit artist run biennial in Reykjavík. The aim of the festival is to produce and present progressive visual art. Founding members of Sequences are artist run Kling & Bang (est. 2003), the Living Art Museum (est. 1978) and the Icelandic Art Centre, that together with artists active in the local art scene, run the festival.

Kling & Bang

Nýlistasafn
The Living Art
Museum

Listasafn Íslands
National Gallery
of Iceland

The Nordic House

ABOUT THE CURATORS

The curatorial collective is formed by four Estonian based curators and writers: Marika Agu, Maria Arusoo, Kaarin Kivirähk and Sten Ojavee who have worked together since 2017 at the CCA. More clearly, they defined their platform in a collectively curated exhibition *A-tishoo, A-tishoo, We All Fall Down* (2019) which exhibited in EKKM, the Contemporary Art Museum of Estonia. Other than this, they have curated and organized lecture series, seminars, article series, public art projects and video events. As curators they have different backgrounds, spanning artistic practice, social theory, philosophy, art history and semiotics. They have teamed up to bring together different experiences and ways of thinking, to save resources and reduce overproduction. They believe that working together rather than as individuals allows us to create more sustainable models of working.

PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

Nordic Culture Point, Estonian Ministry of Culture, Estonian Cultural Endowment, Helsinki International Artist Programme, Estonian Centre for Contemporary Art, Visual Arts Fund, The Children and Culture fund of Iceland, The City of Reykjavík, National Gallery of Iceland, The Nordic House, Reykjavík Art Museum, Icelandic Art Center, The Living Art Museum, Business Iceland, and Kling & Bang Gallery.

ESTONIAN
CENTRE FOR
CONTEMPORARY
ART

h.i.a.p.

Icelandic Art Center
Ótáðirmistilbrym

Business Iceland

Myndlistarsjóður
Icelandic Visual
Arts Fund

EESTI KULTUURKAPITAL

Nordic Council
of Ministers

REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

swiss arts council
prohelvetia

City of Reykjavík

ZUZUM