



PORTLAND MUSEUM *of* ART



Phenomenal Iceland: Contemporary Art & Natural Wonders

With Mark H.C. Bessire,
Judy and Leonard Lauder Director, Portland Museum of Art

October 22–28, 2022



PORTLAND MUSEUM of ART

Dear Portland Museum of Art Members,

Iceland is literally a land of fire and ice, a pure terrain of volcanoes, glaciers, soaring geysers, and shimmering waterfalls. These surreal landscapes have inspired millennia of spectacular art, including some of the world's most groundbreaking contemporary works. In October 2022, in collaboration with the Reykjavík Art Museum, the PMA will visit Iceland as part of our new North Atlantic Triennial, a curated traveling exhibition including artists from Maine and the Arctic countries. You will have the opportunity to accompany PMA's curators for an inside look at this momentous occasion.

On a five-night autumn tour, join us in Iceland for behind-the-scenes access to the country's innovative museums. A thrilling highlight will be a private, early-opening perusal of the North Atlantic Triennial exhibit at the Reykjavík Art Museum, which comprises three venues that house a colorful array of works from Icelandic art masters. Our traveling lecturer will be Jaime DeSimone, Robert and Elizabeth Nanovic Curator of Contemporary Art, who is co-curating the North Atlantic Triennial and will open many doors for us in Iceland's most exclusive galleries and art spaces.

Iceland's natural beauty will also be on breathtaking display. We will explore sites from Iceland's 13th-century family sagas and follow in the footsteps of the country's Viking Age settlers. From the sparkling cascades of the Gullfoss waterfall to the basalt cliffs and black-sand beaches of the Snæfellsnes Peninsula, these vistas will amaze and surprise us at every turn. An architectural walking tour of Reykjavík will showcase how Iceland's landscapes have informed the design of buildings, including the dynamic Harpa, where we will delight in a private tour, dinner, and exciting choral performance.

Book with confidence: Your deposit will be fully refundable until 120 days before departure.

Sumptuous meals and a therapeutic soak in a mineral-rich geothermal pool will round out this journey, with accommodations at Reykjavík's luxurious Hotel Radisson Blu 1919. I hope you join us to celebrate this wonderful international event for the museum.

TRAVELING WITH YOU



Mark H.C. Bessire was named Judy and Leonard Lauder Director of the Portland Museum of Art in 2009. He holds an M.B.A. from Columbia University, an M.A. in Art History from Hunter College, and a B.A. from New York University. He was a Helena Rubinstein Fellow at the Whitney Museum of Art and a Fulbright Fellow in Tanzania. A widely published author and lecturer, he has organized numerous traveling exhibitions and participated on national art juries. He is active in local, community, and national public art programs. He is a founding board member of the non-profit organization Africa Schoolhouse, which is dedicated to building schools in rural Africa.

Sincerely,

Mark H.C. Bessire
Judy and Leonard Lauder Director
Portland Museum of Art

HIGHLIGHTS

JOIN the curator of the PMA's North Atlantic Triennial for a private, early-opening visit to the exhibition at the Reykjavík Art Museum, where we will marvel at dazzling contemporary works from Maine, Icelandic, and other artists (*pending confirmation*).

GO behind the scenes of the inventively designed Harpa, Reykjavík's concert hall and cultural center, to attend a choral performance and view areas of this architectural masterpiece not open to the public.

EXPLORE a vast array of Iceland's dreamlike landscapes and geological wonders, from the immense Gullfoss waterfall, to the UNESCO-listed Thingvellir National Park, whose caves, ravines, and water-filled rifts were showcased on *Game of Thrones*.

ENCOUNTER Jules Verne's fantasy world at the magical Snæfellsjökull volcano, which served as the portal to a dramatically different realm in his novel *A Journey to the Center of the Earth*.

SOAK in the steaming, mineral-rich waters of the Blue Lagoon, Iceland's famous geothermal spa set amid lava fields.

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Icelandic horses, photo by Ian Humes

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22: DEPARTURE

Depart for Reykjavík on an overnight flight.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23: REYKJAVÍK, ICELAND

Upon arrival this morning at Reykjavík's Keflavík Airport, transfer to the hotel where rooms have been reserved for guaranteed early check-in. Enjoy breakfast and feel free to explore the city on your own, or join PMA Curatorial staff for an optional tour of Reykjavík's many innovative art galleries. This evening, gather for a welcome dinner. B,D

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24: REYKJAVÍK / GOLDEN CIRCLE

Visit Thingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its volcanic terrain. Take in dramatic vistas of ravines and water-filled rifts, which made it a prime filming location for *Game of Thrones*. Discover the remains of the Althing, an open-air assembly representing all of Iceland and the world's oldest parliament still in existence, established in 930 A.D. At the Friðheimar horse farm, enjoy a lecture explaining the history and origins of the unique Icelandic horse, followed by lunch in the farm's beautiful greenhouses. Afterwards, explore the geothermal pools around Geysir, and watch as Strokkur, the most active geyser in Iceland, erupts every few minutes. Stand in awe before the vast and spectacular Gullfoss, one of the most powerful waterfalls in Europe. The name means "golden falls," alluding to how the powdery debris in the water glints gold in the sunlight, creating a shimmering effect. Return to Reykjavík for dinner at leisure. B,L

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25: REYKJAVÍK

This morning tour the three venues that comprise the Reykjavík Art Museum, the site of the North Atlantic Triennial exhibition. On a pre-opening visit, begin at the Hafnarhús, a refurbished fishery office and warehouse and now home to the works of Erro, one of the most well-known contemporary Icelandic artists. Then visit the Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum and Park. Ásmundur's art was influenced by Icelandic sagas and mythology, and the museum's stunning architecture was inspired by Egyptian pyramids and Islamic mosques. Lastly, visit the Kjarvalsstaðir, whose stark concrete exterior features floor-to-ceiling windows that look onto a beautiful park. Enjoy lunch here and view the exhibitions of paintings and sculptures by modern masters, most notably the works of famed Icelandic artist Jóhannes Kjarval. Dinner is at leisure. B,L

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26: REYKJAVÍK

Take a walking tour of Reykjavík featuring a visit to the Marshall House. Built in 1948 as a fish meal factory, the building was redesigned in 2017 as a cultural center and is home to the Living Art Museum, the Kling & Bang gallery, and the satellite studio owned by Olafur Eliasson, a leading Danish-Icelandic contemporary artist. Then take a behind-the-scenes tour of Harpa, Reykjavík's concert hall and cultural center with a gleaming, glass honeycomb façade designed by Eliasson. Experience how Icelandic nature inspired its vibrant, award-winning design as you explore areas not open to the public. Lunch and the rest of the afternoon are at leisure to explore the city's many art galleries and street art. Later, gather and return to Harpa for a festive dinner in one of their private halls, along with a choral performance and Viking storytelling. B,D





Blue Lagoon, photo by Roderick Eime



Thórsmörk, photo by Marie Jirousek

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27: REYKJAVÍK / SNÆFELLSNES PENINSULA

Experience the arresting natural landscapes of the Snæfellsnes Peninsula on a full-day excursion. Behold a glacier-capped volcano, lava fields, and basalt cliffs. Marvel at the Gerðuberg basalt cliffs comprised of towering hexagonally-shaped columns formed by ancient lava flows. Drive through the Snæfellsnes National Park, which boasts lava tubes, black-sand beaches, a glacier, and volcano. See the majestic Kirkjufell Mountain, the most significant geological site on the Peninsula. Enjoy lunch in one of the traditional fishing villages before returning to Reykjavík for dinner on your own. B,L

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28: REYKJAVÍK /RETURN

Following breakfast and a morning at leisure, visit the Blue Lagoon, a geothermal spa ensconced in a lava field. Relax in its steamy, mineral-rich blue waters before proceeding to the airport for flights home. B,L

DISCLAIMER: *The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Portland Museum of Art and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms*



Reykjavík

ACCOMMODATIONS

HOTEL RADISSON BLU 1919

Housed in a charming and historic building in downtown Reykjavik, the hotel boasts chic and comfortable rooms, an exquisite international restaurant, a modern fitness center open from early morning to late at night, and complimentary Wi-Fi.



Hotel Radisson Blu 1919

PROGRAM RATE

\$6,699 per person, double rate
\$7,699 single rate

RATE INCLUDES

- Five nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner); bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at dinners
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Guided sightseeing by private motorcoach and entrance fees for all included visits
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Executive Tour Director from Arrangements Abroad
- Taxes, service, and portorage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATE International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.



PORTLAND MUSEUM OF ART
PHENOMENAL ICELAND: CONTEMPORARY ART & NATURAL WONDERS • OCTOBER 22–28, 2022
RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, please call Arrangements Abroad at phone: 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944, fax: 212-344-7493; or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person (**fully refundable until 120 days before departure**) payable to *Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 W 39th Street, Suite 1701, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone (home)

(business)

Fax

E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel room preference One bed Two beds Single

I wish to share a room with _____

FORM OF PAYMENT

Enclosed is my check (payable to *Arrangements Abroad*) Debit card Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the *Terms & Conditions* of this Program (see www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date