

ICELANDIC TALES WORKING TITLE
EXHIBITION CONCEPT





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ICELANDIC TALES is an attempt to view Iceland and Icelanders from the outside, through the language of modern photography and literature. Five well-known Polish photographers together with five superb Icelandic writers work on individual human stories helping people identify with the inhabitants of this unique country.

The authors wish to present their photo essays on exhibitions in both countries, enabling people to confront the stereotypes and the presented reality. The exhibitions will take place in a gallery in Reykjavik as well as in Akureyri and Hveragerdi. Whilst in Poland exhibitions will take place in Warsaw, Katowice and Gdańsk.

The other in depth approach to the subject will be the webpage and the published book where photos will be presented together with texts written by Icelandic writers and journalists. A CD containing the multimedia presentation, created during the project, will be attached to the book. This publication will be distributed free of charge during the exhibitions in both Iceland and Poland as well as being offered to the libraries in both countries. The authors wish also to make the publications available in the airplanes flying between both countries.

The project is curated by **ANDRZEJ KRAMARZ** – remarkable Polish artist and lecturer of photography.

The project is carried out by **SPUTNIK PHOTOS** International Association of Photojournalists (Międzynarodowe Stowarzyszenie Fotoreporterów Sputnik), Warsaw/Poland in partnership with **CULTURAL CENTER OF GERDUBERG** (Menningarmiðstöðin Gerðuberg), Reykjavik/Iceland for Cultural Exchange Fund within the framework of the **EEA FINANCIAL MECHANISM** and **THE NORWEGIAN FINANCIAL MECHANISM**.



THE CONCEPT BEHIND THE EXHIBITION

The exhibition is going to consist of five separate photo essays, showing various aspects of the life of contemporary Icelanders. In a present moment artists are in the course of plein-air workshops on Iceland. The very first effects of it we are presenting in the next part of the material.

On the exhibition we are to show about 50 photos, both in colour and in black and white, in different sizes.

The other part of it is multimedia projection - five short form materials (about 5 min long) based on photos and videos made by photographers and their Icelandic writing partners.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a book with photos and written essays created for the project due to cooperation between writers and photographers. This publication will be distributed free of charge



JAN BRYKCZYŃSKI

(1979) - Graduated from Photography faculty at National Film School in Lodz. He also studied Social Sciences at Warsaw University and Photography at FAMU Film School in Prague. He was a participant of the workshop of VII Photo Agency (France). He regularly contributes to leading Polish magazines and he is distributed worldwide by Anzenberger Agency. Jan is interested in the process of social transformations that Eastern Europe has been experiencing, and his work focuses on issues of youth and immigration in the region.

THE LIFE OF ICELANDIC PROVINCE

I am going to visit about 5 small villages in different regions of Iceland. What is important for me is showing different relations between members of small communities, families, neighbours, friends, especially in the isolation of Icelandic nature.

I want to show simple private life of Icelanders through this local perspective.

Artist is going to visit Iceland for the first time In September 2010.

Cooperation: Kristín Heida Kristinsdóttir.



MICHAŁ ŁUCZAK

(1983) – Graduated from Institute for Creative Photography in Opava, Czech Republic. He is focused on documentary photography. His Project ‘Young Miners’ has been awarded with Magnum Expression Award. For the project ‘The White House’ he was awarded with Mio Photo Award. He regularly contributes to leading Polish magazines as Przekroj. He published also in TP, Pozytyw and Private Magazine.

ISOLATION

Isolation is the key word in my photo essay about Iceland. I’m interested in many meanings of this expression but more or less it is connected to the relation between human and nature (landscapes, animals, portraits); and human and city/culture/ music. All pictures are in black and white taken in a very subjective way.

Cooperation: Hermann Stefánsson







RAFAŁ MILACH

(1978) - Graduated from Academy of Fine Arts in Katowice, Poland (2002) and the Institute for Creative Photography in Opava, Czech Republic (2003). He was a participant of the workshop of VII Photo Agency (France), and Joop Swart Masterclass of Word Press Photo Foundation in Amsterdam.

His photos were published in Time, Newsweek, GQ, D de Repubblica, Courrier International, L'espresso, Die Zeit. His work was exposed at the Photoespana, LOOK3, Backlight, Kiyosato Museum of Photographic Arts in Japan or Museum for Contemporary Art MoCA Shanghai. In addition Rafal's work has been awarded in such contests as World Press Photo and Pictures of the Year International. Since 2006 Rafal is a member of Austrian based Anzenberger Agency.

A MOTEL

There is a road that surrounds the whole island. There is Gudjon Aragon, who has spent all his life between the rock on the one side of this road and his farm on the other side. There is Patrek, who is able to drive from Reykjavik to Patreksfiordur (394 km) in 3,5h in his Subaru 4x4. There is abandoned community center on the 1970 km of the road and a sheep watching me while taking photos.

The encounter with Iceland was like a visit in a motel to me. Short and highly intense. You wake up in the morning, you pay and you leave but for the rest of the day you remember the sight of the crumpled bedclothes in your room.

Cooperation: Huldar Breiðfjörð.







ADAM PAŃCZUK

(1978) - Graduated from Academy of Fine Arts in Poznan. In his artistic work he is asking questions – straight but figuratively at the same time. He is inquiring about identity, consciousness and attitude towards world, people. He was awarded with the scholarship of Polish Ministry of Culture as well as many international and Polish awards: Magnum Expression Award, Lens Culture International Exposure Awards, HotoEspaña (PHE) OjodePez Award for Human Values, BZ WBK Press Photo, Grand Press Photo, Sony World Photography Awards, National Geographic. He is

He contributes to National Geographic / Newsweek / Polityka / Dziennik / Foto / Private Magazine.

HUDAFOLK

I want to show contemporary Icelanders through myths, legends and beliefs about hidden people, elves. What is interesting for me is the way they impact culture and everyday lives of the inhabitants of Iceland these days. I would like to present how it functions and how it can be discerned on everyday basis. I am portraying people, who had something in common with elves. Each portrait will be captioned with the people's stories of their relations with elves.

Cooperation: Sindri Freysson.







AGNIESZKA RAYSS

(1970) – studied history of Arts at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow and Sorbonne in Paris. Then she switched to photography. In 2004 she was selected to VII Photos workshop for emerging photographers from Eastern Europe and received Visegrad Fund scholarship in 2007.

Her interests include post-communist societies in their attempt to follow Western patterns, pop culture aspects of transformation, female and gender issues and sports. She publishes in leading Polish magazines.

Her project „American Dream” was presented during Noorderlicht Festival as well as on Biennale in Prague, Vilnius and Kovno (Lithuania).

WATER=ENERGY

„Water is like gold here” - this is what I heard from my landlady in Reykjavik and which is perfectly true. It is like gold and source of energy, both in literal and metaphorical way. Energy for the country – power plants or heating, energy for people – wonderful swimming pools everywhere with all this swimming pool culture, so unusual for a foreigner. This is what I want to show in my essay - variety of using water.

Cooperation: Sigurbjorg Prastardottir.







CONTACT

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