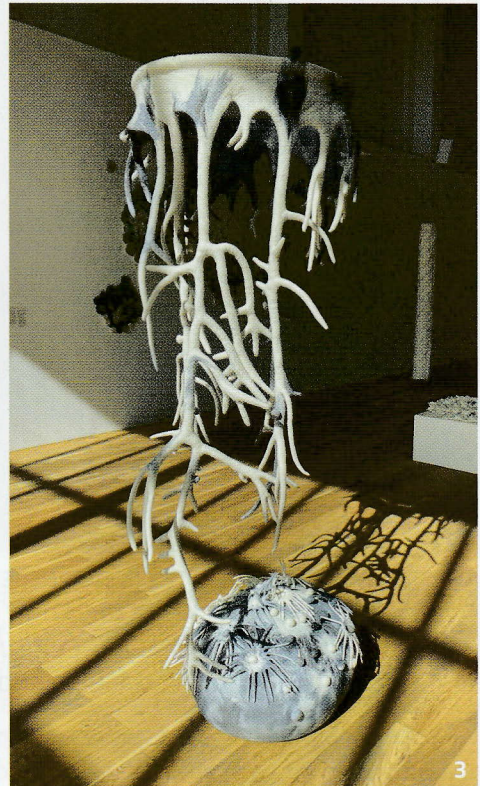


FELT EXHIBITION

DISAPPEARING NATURE - AKUREYRI ART MUSEUM, ICELAND

CONTRIBUTED BY SIRPA MÄNTYLÄ, EXHIBITION COORDINATOR
FOR THE FINNISH FELT ASSOCIATION, FILTTI.



IN THIS JOINT FELT EXHIBITION, ICELANDIC AND FINNISH FELT ARTISTS DEAL WITH THE EXHIBITION THEME AND PRESENT THE VERSATILITY OF FELT.

The theme is challenging; it is about climate change, its influence and the consequences. The landscape disappears, nature has already transformed and nobody knows what lies ahead for future generations regarding these matters.

Co-operation between the Icelandic and Finnish felt artists started in 2017 when we held the "Northern Landscape" felt exhibition in Jämsä, Finland. This exhibition was included in the official event calendar for the 100th Independence of Finland.

Last spring, Filtti received an invitation from the Akureyri Art Museum - via felt artist Anna Gunnarsdottir - to join the Icelandic felt artists in the "Disappearing Nature" exhibition. The Finnish felt works were juried by Finnish visual arts critic, Mr. Hannu Castrén, and he selected a collection of 15 felt works.

From Filtti, the works of the following felt artists feature in the exhibition: Aaltio Leena, Anne-Mari Ohra-aho, Eeva Piesala, Elina Saari, Kikka Jelisejeff, Leena Sipilä, Mari Hämäläinen, Mari Jalava, Marika Halme, Marjo Ritamäki, Rea Pelto-Uotila, Rutsuko Sakata, Sirpa Mäntylä, Tiina Mikkelä and Tupu Mentu.

Participants from Iceland are: Anna Þóra Karlsdóttir, Gerður Guðmundsdóttir, Hanna Pétursdóttir, Heidi Strand, Olga Bergljót Þorleifsdóttir, Sigríður Ólafsdóttir and Sigríður Elfa Sigurðardóttir.

The curator is Anna Gunnarsdottir.

The range of felt works in this exhibition describe melting glaciers, floods, purity of water, species of fish, birds, mammals and corals threatened by extinction, the effects on forests, trees, plants, berries, seeds and much more. The artists have clearly thought deeply about the situation affecting the whole globe.

The Art Museum arranged the exhibition, opening on 6th June 2020. The Ambassador of Finland, Ann-Sofie Stude, made the opening speech, together with the Mayor of Akureyri, Asthildur Sturludottir. Felt artist Anna Gunnarsdottir introduced the works as curator. The exhibition closes on 20th September 2020.

Covid-19 prevented the Finnish felt artists from travelling to participate in the opening.

CONTACT DETAILS

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IMAGES

- 1) Diffusion I-II by Gerður Guðmundsdóttir.
- 2) The Ice is Melting by Rea Pelto-Uotila.
- 3) Silent Witnesses by Elina Saari.
- 4) Hat Hummocks by Sigríður Elfa Sigurðardóttir