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 Reykjavik 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 Reykjavik 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 Reykjavik 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 Reykjavik’s luxurious Hotel Radisson Blu 1919. I hope you join us to celebrate this wonderful international event for the museum.

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 Reykjavik 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, Reykjavik’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.

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.
Phenomenal Iceland: Contemporary Art & Natural Wonders
October 22–28, 2022

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
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27: REYKJAVÍK / SNAFÉLLSNES 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.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28: REYKJAVÍK / RETURN
Following breakfast and a morning at leisure, visit the Blue Lagoon, a geothermal spa enshrouded in a lava field. Relax in its steamy, mineral-rich blue waters before proceeding to the airport for flights home.

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

ACCOMMODATIONS
HOTEL RADISSON BLU 1919
Housed in a charming and historic building in downtown Reykjavík, 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.

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 porterage 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

On the front cover: Northern lights over Reykjavík, photo by Tom Willett