

FEATURE SPEAKER



**KAREN
GUMMO**

Torment & Triumph in the Nineteen Twenties: Laura Goodman Salverson and Winnifred Eaton Reeve - Gifted Immigrant Writers

A storyteller, artist and writer, Karen carries her Nordic ancestry close to her heart. She has created oral tales based on her experiences and family histories, has shared wisdom tales from around the globe including the Norse myths and sagas, and has done extensive research on historical characters from her home community of Calgary and beyond. Using a creative non-fiction approach, Karen has researched and created performances based on the lives of many local citizens of note including Lady Isabella Lougheed and member of the Famous Five, Irene Parlby. In partnership with other storytellers and solo, she has performed at local historic sites, in community halls, bookstores, schools and libraries.

FEATURE SPEAKER



DR. CHRISTOPHER CROCKER

The first English translation of the Sunshine-children's letters

Christopher Crocker is a scholar of medieval and modern Icelandic literature currently based in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. He has worked at the University of Manitoba, the University of Winnipeg, and the University of Iceland. He also works as a translator and in addition to his English translation of the Sunshine-children's letter, he has translated or co-translated works by Guttormur J. Guttormsson, Jón Thoroddsen, and Theodóra Thoroddsen:

FEATURE SPEAKER



LAUREL JOHANNESSEN

Laurel Johannesson studied at the University of Calgary, the University of Saskatchewan, and the Royal College of Art in London. She has twice been a visiting artist and scholar at the American Academy in Rome and an invited artist in residence at institutions in Iceland, Greece, and the South of France. She is a fellow of the Bau Institute [Italy] and has had the rare opportunity to research at the Vatican Library. In 2017, she was an invited artist in residence at Palazzo Monti in Brescia, Italy.

Laurel's work often takes place in or around water in site-specific locations and depicts uncanny juxtapositions between body and nature, realism and dream. She works across various mediums, including photography, digital collage and painting, as well as moving images and interactivity to create imagery that addresses our understanding of time and space. She is particularly interested in the beach as a liminal or temporal space and the intersection of art and technology.

FEATURE SPEAKER



SARAH E. FULLER

Sarah Fuller is a Canadian visual artist and photographer who makes work about human intervention in the landscape.

Sarah has been an artist in residence at Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, Laughing Waters in Nillumbick Shire, Australia, the Klondike Institute of Art and Culture, Yukon, Fondazione Antonio Ratti, Italy, and the Association of Visual Artists (SIM), Iceland. She holds a MFA from the University of Ottawa and a BFA from Emily Carr University.

Recent exhibitions include Terra Incognita at PLATFORM centre for photographic + digital arts, Winnipeg, Refugio at the University of Lethbridge Art Gallery and And perhaps in me someone very old still hears the living sound of wood at the Ottawa Art Gallery. Her video work has been screened at Art on the Screens (Mississauga 2019) and Photophobia (Hamilton 2019). In 2017 she collaborated with Moment Factory and the Banff Centre on the site-specific installation Illuminations: Human/Nature.

FEATURE SPEAKER



**KRISTÍN
ÓMARSÐÓTTIR**

Another Lady of the Mountains

Kristín Ómarsdóttir has published eight collections of poetry, nine novels, six collections of short stories, and six staged plays. Ómarsdóttir has received almost every major Icelandic literary award, in almost every genre, including the DV Culture Prize for Literature, the Icelandic National Theatre Award for Playwright of the Year, the Maístjarnan Poetry Book of the Year Award, and the Icelandic Women's Literature Prize, to name just a few. She has also been shortlisted twice for the Nordic Council Literature Prize and four times for the Icelandic Literature Prize. One of Iceland's most celebrated living authors, who is widely translated, Kristín is also a visual artist and has taken part in art exhibitions and in collaborative works with other artists in Iceland and abroad:

FEATURE SPEAKER



DR. BIRNA, BJARNADÓTTIR

Birna Bjarnadóttir read literature at the Freie Universität in Berlin, University of Warwick and the University of Iceland, and completed her PhD at the University of Iceland (2003) in Guðbergur Bergsson's aesthetics. She served as the Chair of Icelandic at the University of Manitoba (2003–2015), and as a Project Manager at the Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Institute (2015–2020).

Her key areas of research are modern literature and aesthetics, Icelandic–Canadian literature, Icelandic-American literature, immigration in modern literature, and the inheritance of exile in modern literature.

She is a published author on both sides of the Atlantic, (monographs, fiction, translations, essays, articles and book-chapters), and has edited numerous books, including bilingual and trilingual editions of both modern Icelandic literature and Icelandic-Canadian literature.

FEATURE SPEAKER



BJARKI SVEINBJÖRNSSON

Director at Iceland Music History Museum

Bjarki Sveinbjörnsson (1953) graduated as a Music Teacher at Reykjavik Conservatory of Music in 1976. In the years 1989-1998, he lived in Denmark studying Musicology at the University of Aalborg. He graduated with Ph.D. in Musicology in 1998 with his doctoral dissertation „Music in Iceland in the 20th century with emphasis on the Electronic- and Computer Music emergence and development “.

From 1997 he worked as a Program Producer at the Icelandic National Radio in Reykjavik and as Head of Music from 2002-2006.

Bjarki has worked with his colleague, Dr. Jon Hrolfur Sigurjonsson to build up a large database with Icelandic music historical objects like manuscripts, old recordings, Ethnology (including music), interviews to name a few, as well as the Development of Music and musical life among Icelanders who settled in Canada in late 19th and 20th Century.

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FEATURE SPEAKER



ÁSA HELGA HJÖRLEIFSDÓTTIR

A letter for Helga

Ása Helga Hjörleifsdóttir is an Icelandic writer/director. She was born in 1984 in Reykjavík, but until 2014, she lived more or less outside her native Iceland - in England, France, Canada and the United States. Ása holds a BA in Comparative Literature from the University of Iceland and the Sorbonne - Paris IV University, and is a graduate of the Columbia Film MFA program. Her films include the short film ÁSTARSAGA (2013 finalist for a Student Oscar), the feature films THE SWAN (premiere at TIFF 2017, received major awards at Kolkata and Kairo Film Festivals) and A LETTER FROM HELGA (2022), international premiere on November 19, 2022 in Tallinn, Estonia. Ása is also a collaborator of the visual artist Ragnar Kjartansson and recently directed his performance piece SANTA BARBARA in Moscow. Alongside her creative work Ása is a founding member of the recently launched film department at the Iceland University of the Arts, where she currently teaches

FEATURE SPEAKER



UNNAR ÖRN

The Mountain Inside-Out

In his practice Unnar Örn traces fragments from recent history and stages them within socio-political context, often in combination with personal collections of artifacts from present-day politics and culture. His narrative-based investigation has focused on the principal framework and procedures involved in the construction of history. A preoccupation with the power of historiographies and institutional hierarchies has led him to push and pull at the symbolic and sometimes physical boundaries of the exhibition site. Use of printed matter makes up an extensive part of Unnar Örn's practise and is a body of work that traces through various media over a period of 20 years. Unnar Örn is at the forefront of contemporary art in Iceland and has exhibited with other artists in Iceland and abroad, including Ragnar Kjartansson:

FEATURE SPEAKER



SVERRIR SIGURDSSON & VERONICA LI



Viking Voyager: An Icelandic Memoir

Sigurdsson grew up in Iceland and graduated as an architect from Finland in 1966. He pursued an international career that took him to the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and the U.S. His assignments ranged from construction of the palace and harem of the ruler of Abu Dhabi to building schools in developing countries in Africa and elsewhere. He has worked for the international aid agencies, UNESCO and the World Bank. He recently published his memoir, *Viking Voyager: An Icelandic Memoir*, which has won two international awards.

His coauthor is his wife, Veronica Li. She received her Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of California at Berkeley and her master's degree in International Affairs at Johns Hopkins University. She has worked as a journalist for the *Asian Wall Street Journal* and as a project officer for the World Bank, and is currently a writer. She has published four titles, including a memoir about her mother's life, *Journey Across the Four Seas: A Chinese Woman's Search for Home*.