



INTERNATIONAL FORUM

OSLO, NORWAY

March NEWSLETTER 03/2019

2	Forum Diary
3	President's Page
4	From the Board
5	The Nomination Committee
5	Coming Events
8	Reports
18	New Members
18	Summer Daylight Saving Time

Number 441



INTERNATIONAL FORUM

P.O. Box 1505 Vika, 0117 Oslo, Norway

Org.nr. 994 566 806

Visiting address **Arbins gt. 2, Victoria Passasjen, 5th floor**
Telephone **22 83 62 90**
Office email int.forum@online.no
Office hours **Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10 – 12**
Office Coordinator **Dorota Steensland**
Office Team Lydia Afolabi, Lillan Akcora, Kirsten Wensell
Board 2018 – 2019 **Sally Bergan** (President), Anita Pratap, Anne-Grethe Skagestad, Yan Donko, Soo Lan Høegh Henrichsen, Heidi von Weltzien Høivik

Treasurer **Anne-Lise Fasteland**
Auditor **Verena Krienke**

Website www.iforum.no

Forum Diary

DATE	EVENT	TIME	PAGE
March 21	The Swan Princess – Russian Art at the Munch Museum	11:45	6
April 25	The Moon – Henie Onstad	11:45	7
May 09	Visit to the Norwegian Academy of Music	10:45	5

From the President



Dear Members,

It's time to strap on your skis and enjoy what is left of winter. As I write this, the forests around Oslo are still filled with bounteous snow, and if good weather prevails, a ski trip should be a rewarding experience. As spring approaches, we can envision longer days and milder weather, a real impetus to get us out into the fresh air, either on skis or just in walking shoes (with cleats).

Looking back on the past winter months, we have seen a flurry of activity in International Forum. Our biggest event has been the 40th Anniversary at Det Norske Teatret. A big *Thanks* to all 87 members who joined in this celebration, for making it a memorable evening!

As we look forward to lighter and brighter days, we will find that there's a lot in store for IF members: great art exhibitions, excursions, and engaging talks by distinguished speakers at our monthly meetings. Let us all take part and enjoy these opportunities!

Let us remember, too, that IF can only continue as a viable organisation with the help and good will of volunteers. We need several people to help work in the office (a couple of hours a week). We also need people to join the Board – which is a great opportunity to help shape and structure International Forum for the future. We need a member to look after our accounts. Please consider what you can do to contribute to International Forum's longevity, so that we will be able to celebrate our 50th anniversary in 10 years from now.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Sally Burgan'. The script is fluid and cursive.

President

FROM THE BOARD



Introducing the International Forum Office



Open house at 12:00 on Tuesday, March 19, 2019, Arbins gt. 2

The Office is an important and essential part of the International Forum. It is the focal point of communication within our organisation and is where our diverse activities are coordinated and structured. The Office is a meeting place for the Board, the Executive Committee as well as other smaller groups and individuals.

We aim to ensure that the Office is manned on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 to 12:00. This means that there is someone there to take telephone calls and messages, to generally help members with their queries and to provide information for both members and non-members.

NB although useful to have, data knowledge will **not be** required.

In order to fulfil this aim, an important restructuring of the Office Team is being planned, so that members do not have to commit themselves to being there for two hours every week, but can be part of a flexible rota. To achieve this the Office Team needs to have at least double the number of members (e.g. 6 – 8).

Why not come and visit the Office on Tuesday, March 19 at 12:00? You are cordially invited for a ‘free trial’, coffee and cake, more information and a chance to meet other prospective team members? You don’t have to commit yourself.

Please just consider helping us as much or as little as you can manage. We’d love to hear from you. If you’d like to come, please send a message to the Office, tel. 22 83 62 90 or by email: int.forum@online.no

The Office is just a five-minute walk from the city centre and Nationaltheatret T-bane station, bus stop and trams.



The Board



FROM THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE

The Nomination Committee is now working hard...

We are looking for members, who would like to take an active part in the running of the International Forum over a period of time. Please feel free to suggest yourself or submit the name of another member whom you think would be able to contribute in some way.

You can find a form for your suggestion(s) in the February and January *Newsletters*. Fill it in and send it to: Ellen Vollebæk.

Thank you!

The Nomination Committee:

Ellen Vollebæk (Leader), Sigrid Langebrekke, Barbara Lee Ødegaard

C O M I N G E V E N T S

MONTHLY MEETING

There will be no Monthly Meeting in April. The next meeting will be on May 6, and the Philippine Ambassador, H.E. Jocelyne Batoon-Garcia will give a lecture on textile production in her country. Details will be announced in the April *Newsletter*.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Visit to the Norwegian Academy of Music

Thursday, May 9 at 10:45

KEEP THE DATE!

For the first time ever, the Special Events Committee is able to invite Forum members to a guided tour of the Norwegian Academy of Music (Norges Musikkhøyskole). Put the date in your calendar! Full information, including sign-up instructions will appear in the April *Newsletter*.

Best regards,
Sigrid Riddervold and Rosemary Hauge

ART COMMITTEE
The Swan Princess: Russian Art 1880-1910
The Munch Museum



Through a unique collaboration with the State Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow, the Munch Museum has gained access to some truly iconic Russian works of art. Works by some of Russia's most renowned artists are on display alongside works by Edvard Munch and some other famous Nordic artists.

The exhibition is particularly relevant in the current tense political climate, in that it makes possible an important cultural dialogue with Norway's most powerful neighbour.

This exhibition demonstrates how society stood at a new watershed between national mythologies and a new transnational modernity that challenged the traditional value systems of the time.

Not to be missed!

DATE/TIME: Thursday, **March 21** at 11:45 for 12:00

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

The Moon - From inner Worlds to Outer Space

Guided visit at the Henie Onstad Kunstsenter

We celebrate the 50th anniversary of the moon landing with this large-scale exhibition that highlights the role, importance and fascinating power of the Moon. The exhibition presents approximately 200 works and objects, from Galileo's 17th century sketches to contemporary art installations.



The exhibition mixes art, film, architecture, cultural history, design and natural science into a vibrant and diverse portrait of our closest neighbour in the sky. We encounter the Moon as a symbol and a goal for our romantic and artistic longings, scientific inquiry, existential issues—and the urge for political expansion.

With this exhibition, we commemorate man's first steps on the Moon and call attention to a strong and renewed interest in the Moon both in art and as a springboard for a new Space Race with all its strategic and economic implications.

The exhibition was originally curated by Louisiana Museum of Modern Art and is presented at Henie Onstad Kunstsenter with additional Norwegian works.

DATE/TIME: Thursday, **April 25** at 11:45 for 12:00

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

R E P O R T S

February Monthly Meeting

Mr Torbjørn Færøvik on China

The speaker at February Monthly Meeting 2019 was Torbjørn Færøvik, a well-known Norwegian historian, journalist and non-fiction writer. Mr Færøvik talked about China today and some of the challenges facing this populous Asian giant. He outlined China's long history, in order to back his analysis of the current situation in China today.

There were many prosperous and stable dynasties in the past. The Chinese made a number of truly revolutionary inventions such as the compass, paper, and printing. The country emerged as a unit more than 2000 years ago and was run by God-like emperors, ensuring stability and progress. However, the Middle Kingdom started facing serious challenges some 200 years ago, with the arrival of predominantly Western intruders. In the late 1800s, Japan launched the first Sino-Japanese War.

A strong population increase made problems even worse, and in 1911, the imperial Qing dynasty came to an end, resulting in a republican rule ending in chaos, instability and civil war. In 1949, the Communist Party came to power and Chairman Mao became the 'new emperor' in Beijing, claiming that he, and he alone, had the wisdom to rule the country, Mr Færøvik explained.

After 1976, when Chairman Mao died, a new reform-minded government followed. They changed the economic system and introduced private enterprise in many fields. The one-child-policy was introduced, because the population had almost doubled from 500 million in 1950 to almost a billion in 1976.

Since then, China's economy has had a rapid growth and millions of Chinese have been brought out of poverty and starvation. The country has become the world's second biggest economic power. The reason for the rapid growth was partly due the recovery of the economy in 1976, which started at a very low level. In addition, foreign investment from USA and other Western countries helped spark the kick-off. Access to valuable foreign technologies through deals with international companies was also important. Another factor explaining the success is the total ban on free trade unions in China. The growth has been unevenly dispersed, some people have become extremely rich, whereas a large portion of the population remains very poor, especially in rural areas.

As a result of the rapid economic growth, pollution and environmental destruction has become a rather daunting problem. Beijing is one of the most polluted cities in the world.

According to Mr Færøvik, China is a closed political system, characterised by strict censorship. Ordinary citizens do not have free access to information, and

critical debate of current political issues and decisions are also forbidden. In Mr Færøvik's opinion, the political leaders seem to have lost contact with ordinary people and many decisions are made in secrecy. The public is being closely monitored, just as in the times of Chairman Mao. New electronic technologies have made it easier to ensure advanced state control of large masses of people.



Mr Færøvik, Sally Bergan and Ruth Klungsøyr

The present leader, Xi Jinping, came into power six years ago. He is referred to as 'wise and faultless' and the only person able to lead China into the 'bright future'. A constitutional clause aiming at preventing a leader from being re-elected more than once was removed in March last year. This gives Xi Jinping the possibility to lead the country for life.

Modern China aims at taking on a leading role in the world and is investing enormous sums abroad. In the process, many countries take up loans which they may not be able to repay, thus making dependent on China. Mr Færøvik warned against depending too much upon any autocratic country.

Anita Solheim

The International Forum 40th Anniversary



Here are just some of the responses we received after the party

‘Everything was so well planned and beautiful.’

‘... a marvellous evening from beginning to end. Great music, delicious food and drink, good speeches and of course, lovely company.’

‘... a true treat.’

‘I enjoyed it very much and met so many of my old friends.’

‘The food and entertainment were excellent.’

‘Well done to all those who have been involved in making this such a success.’

‘... a fantastic celebration!’

‘Everything from the welcoming drink to the cake at the end was perfect.’

‘I will keep it in my Great-Memories-Thoughts for a long time to come.’

‘... it was evident everyone enjoyed themselves.’

‘The food was heavenly.’

‘Great fun, great food, great company!’

Just look at all the happy faces!



Current and past presidents of the International Forum



Grethe Frydenlund, one of the first presidents, accompanied by her daughter Gina Lund



These three ladies were all at the very first IF meeting!
Elizabeth Bøhn, Grethe Frydenlund and Patricia Blackwell









Felix Peili (clarinet) and David Skinner (piano)







💖💖💖 Dear President Sally Bergan, 💖💖💖

Dear members of the Ad Hoc Committee for the 40th Anniversary Celebration,

What a fantastic celebration this was, with champagne before we mounted the stairs to our banquet hall at Det Norske Teater to enjoy truly pleasant and festive evening amongst old and new friends!

We were served a lovely three-course meal with excellent wine. Anita Pratap guided us through the celebration with witty and joyful comments in between swinging music and celebratory speeches.

A very big '*Thank you!*'

Liss R. Laan, Former President (2004-2007)

New Members



We would like to welcome our new members:

Ina Susanne Bach	Germany	CD
Yan Donko	Austria	CD
Diane Shirley Hanisch	Canada	GM
Jaana Mäki- Tuominen	Finland	CD
Jessie Sandosham	Canada	GM
Laura Maria Scapin	Switzerland	GM
Gunilla Svedman	Sweden	FO
Anne Maureen Raw	Great Britain	GM
Yachi Shian Yuan Yang	Taiwan	GM

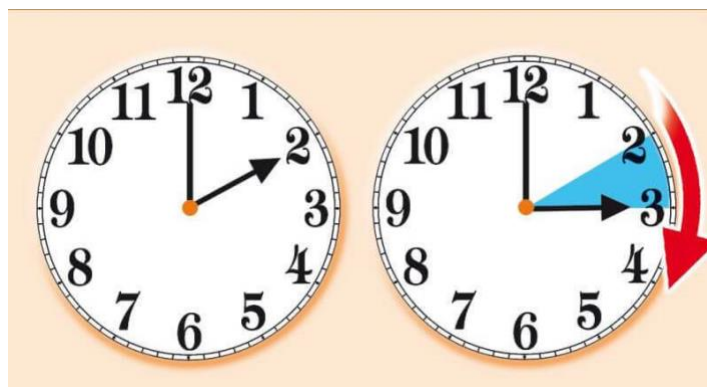
We are looking forward to seeing you at our events!



REMEMBER

Summer Daylight Saving Time

Remember to advance your clock by one hour at 02:00 on Sunday, March 31!



Dispatch:	Dispatch team
Editor and Layout:	Elizabeth Rasmussen and Editorial Team
Editorial Team:	Elspeth Walseth and Patricia Blackwell
President:	Sally Bergan

The Editor and the Editorial Team reserve the right to edit all material.

Printed by Utenriksdepartementets Hustrykkeri.

February 14, 2019