



INTERNATIONAL FORUM

OSLO, NORWAY

April
NEWSLETTER
04/2019

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Number 442



INTERNATIONAL FORUM

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Forum Diary

DATE	EVENT	TIME	PAGE
April 25	Visit to the Henie Onstad Centre: The Moon	11:45	March NL
May 6	Monthly Meeting – Philippine Textile Industry	18:45	6
May 9	Visit to the Norwegian Academy of Music	10:45	7
May 23	Visit to artists Shian Yuan Yachi and Dag Hol	11:30	8

From the President



Dear Members,

Spring is always a welcomed change after a prolonged, dark and somewhat dismal winter. As the snow disappears, one can see a miracle evolving from the ground beneath. It is the re-awakening and renewal of life. The coltsfoot – hestehov – is the first harbinger of spring – this little seemingly uninteresting yellow flower, but strong and hardy as it makes its way up to the light. Then as spring progresses other flowers announce their presence – blue anemones (blåveis): not bountiful but precious in brilliant blue. Then wood anemones (hvitveis) appear and spread out like a carpet of white on the forest floor. Of course, there is the domestic garden variety, too, like crocus, tulips and pansies who have survived the long winter, ensconced under the protective mounds of earth, anxious to make their arrival.

Yes, spring is a time for change in nature. We are reminded that many other things change at this time of year, as well. For example, International Forum will be making changes to its board and renewing its different posts. We have a lot of excellent candidates who are ready to fill these posts and represent you in the coming year 2019-2020. The names of those candidates are listed further along in this *Newsletter*. I thank those of you who are willing to serve our International Forum. With your enthusiasm we can continue to grow, develop and bloom.

For those of you who can give just a little bit of your time to IF, even just two hours a month, there are still many opportunities. The IF office needs 6 to 8 team members in order to maintain the office, answer the phone, and generally be of service, doing relatively simple but meaningful tasks. As spring arrives in all its glory, I hope that you will be encouraged to lend us a helping hand and join us, to help make a difference, to keep IF going in a positive, upward direction.

Wishing you all a wonderful spring holiday,

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sally Dorgan".

President



NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, June 03 at 18:00

at Vinderen Seniorsenter

AGENDA

1. Welcome by the President
2. Approval of a member to take minutes of the meeting
3. Approval of two signatories to the minutes
4. Approval of four tellers
5. The Board's Annual Report
6. The Treasurer's Annual Report and the Auditor's Report
7. Membership Fee
8. Elections
9. Other Business

The Board

COMING EVENTS

MONTHLY MEETING

The Philippine Textile and Garment Industry



The Philippines has a long pre-history. It is believed that there were people in the archipelago almost 67 000 years ago. A great number of island nations became a country when the Spanish discovered the area under King Philip II of Spain (1556-1598). The Philippines remained a Spanish colony for over 300 years, before Spain ceded it to the US after the Spanish-American War in 1898, along with Puerto Rico and Guam.

The Philippines became independent on 4 July 1946. Today the Philippines consists of an archipelago of more than 7,000 islands.

The Philippine Ambassador, H.E. Mrs Jocelyne Batoon-Garcia will give a lecture on textile and garment production in her country.

DATE/TIME: Monday, **May 6** at 18:45 (for 19:00)

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Visit to the Norwegian Academy of Music - Norges Musikkhøgskole



The Special Events Committee has arranged, for the first time ever, a guided tour of the Norwegian Academy of Music (Norges Musikkhøgskole), which was established in 1973. Throughout the years, the Academy has educated many of Norway's most famous musicians. As a university college, it offers bachelor and master degrees in a variety of subjects: folk music, church music, classical music, jazz, composition, conducting and music therapy.

We shall begin our tour with a talk about the Academy and its history. Then our guide will show us around the buildings and facilities. We will also be able to see their collection of historical musical instruments. And – last but not least! – we will be treated to a ‘mini concert’ by a student of singing, a soprano, accompanied by her favourite house pianist.

When the concert is over at about 13:00, we will go for a light lunch at the college.

DATE/TIME: Thursday, **May 9** at 10:45 (The tour begins at 11:00)

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

ART COMMITTEE

Studio 26 – The studio of Shian Yuan Yachi and Dag Hol

Dag Hol and his wife and fellow artist Yachi share Studio 26 in their beautiful home. We are invited to visit this very interesting studio where they both work. They will both tell us about their work.



Dag Hol has been a well-known Norwegian artist since 1980, and has been somewhat controversial because of his classical romantic form. He has had exhibitions around the world, and many places in Norway, including Rådhusgalleriet in Oslo Town Hall. In 2016, his exhibition drew more than 3000 people to the opening, and around 22,000 people visited during the three-week showing.

Shian Yuan Yachi graduated from Taipei National University of the Arts. She has worked as an oriental calligraphic-ink painter for more than 10 years. Taiwan Art Bank, an institute sponsored by the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, has acquired many of her works. Yachi has exhibited in Shanghai, Singapore, Hong Kong (at Christie's) and in many cities across East Asia. She has also worked as a contemporary art reporter in Taiwan. Now she works and lives in Oslo.

DATE/TIME: Thursday, **May 23** at 11:30

For more information, please contact the IF Office.



Forum Singers Spring Concert

The Forum Singers choir has pleasure in inviting you to our Spring Concert on **Tuesday May 28** at 19:00. As usual we have a varied repertoire: a mixture of folk songs, jazz, pop, and ballads, in several different languages. Guitar and accordion players will accompany some of the songs. This year, it is the 120th anniversary of the birth of Duke Ellington, so we will be singing some of his compositions. We also have some singalongs so that you, the audience, can join in. Our conductor, Eva Landro, who is a free-lance soloist, has been conducting us since 2016, and the excellent Margrete Moen Birkedal will play the piano. Both Eva and Margrete will be treating us to solos.

After the concert, a tempting finger-food buffet with wine and beverages will be waiting for you to enjoy. All this for NOK 250,- (NOK 50,- for children).

The concert will be held at Vestre Aker Menighetshus, a pleasant and cosy place with good acoustics. There is plenty of free parking on the church grounds, and the church is easily accessible by public transport: trams and buses go almost to the door. So please do join us, bring your friends and family, for an enjoyable musical evening with delicious refreshments.

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, **May 28 at 19:00**

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

REPORTS

March Monthly Meeting

H. E. Anna Maria Siko on the history of Hungary

The Hungarian ambassador to Norway, H. E. Mrs Anna Maria Siko, gave a lecture on March 4 to some fifty-five Forum members. To understand the current situation in Hungary, we must look to the past. So, a brief survey of the Hungarian history is called for. The country has borders with seven countries.



The foundations of what was to become Hungary were laid in the ninth century by the great Árpád, who led Hungarian tribes westwards from the Don River. After settling in the Carpathian Basin, Árpád led the conversion of his people from paganism to Christianity. On Christmas Day in 1000, Árpád's great grandson Stephen ascended to the throne with a crown sent from Rome by Pope Sylvester II. The kingdom and nation of Hungary was born. The Árpád dynasty ruled the country from the late 9th century until the beginning of the 14th century. The country was transformed from a confederation of

Hungarian tribes into a powerful state of east-central Europe.

The three-hundred-year reign of the House of Árpád saw the country become increasingly westward-oriented. The succeeding Capetian House of Anjou and Charles Robert I, King of Hungary and Croatia, brought expansion into Poland. There was a great flowering of art and architecture: The First Golden Age had begun. Under King Matthias – lauded for his fairness and justice – Hungary flourished. However, the king's death was followed by devastation under the Ottomans, who ruled from 1541 to 1699. The combined armies of Poland and the Holy Roman Empire managed to swing the balance of power in the region, and helped the Habsburgs oust the Turks, heralding a more stable time of reconstruction.

As the Habsburg Empire floundered, a revolt in 1848 resulted in the dual monarchy of *Austria the Empire and Hungary the Kingdom*. In 1867, there were two capitals and two parliaments. This 'age of dualism' sparked an economic, cultural and intellectual renaissance in Hungary. The Second Golden Age had begun.

At the turn of the 19th century, Budapest was by many considered the birthplace of the modern world. World War II wreaked havoc. The country was reduced to almost one third of its original size, and millions of ethnic Hungarians found

themselves living outside the new borders. The country was now under strong Soviet influence. A Hungarian uprising ended in the Russian invasion in 1956. The 'iron curtain' that divided Europe in two was reinforced. The uprising against the Stalinist Soviet regime led to 1500 Hungarian refugees seeking shelter in Norway.

Hungary declared its independence as a free republic in 1989, and has been a free country for almost three decades. Modern Hungary is experiencing a new renaissance. Hungary became a member of NATO in 1999 and joined the EU in 2004. In 2018, the GDP increased with 4.5%, inflation is around 5-6% and unemployment stands at 3-4%.

Mrs Siko was disappointed about the many negative articles on Hungary in Norwegian media. She has been working in Oslo since 2015, and has invited numerous journalists to the embassy, but none have taken the effort to talk to her, yet. She told us that one of her tasks is to rectify, in a diplomatic manner of course, the skewed image that is being presented.

After the Ambassador's lecture, the audience had numerous questions for her about various topics such as minimum wages, demography, EEA funding, the relationship to Russia, religion, and the Hungarian language.

A very informative evening!

Ruth Klungsøyr

SPECIAL EVENTS

At The Maritime Museum

Sixteen Forum members met Per Norseng at the Maritime Museum on Tuesday, March 12. First we got some of the museum's history.

The Norwegian Maritime Museum was founded in 1914 in connection with the Jubilee Exhibition in Frogner Park, from which the museum received the maritime-related exhibition objects. However, these had to be stored until 1929, when the museum was able to move into new premises at the Norsk Folkemuseum, where it remained until 1960. Then the museum moved to new facilities at Bygdøyenes in Oslo. On January 1, 2010, the museum changed its name from Norsk Sjøfartsmuseum (Seafaring Museum) to Norsk Maritimt (Maritime) Museum.

The main objective of the museum is to be a national institution and disseminate knowledge of Norwegian shipping and activities related to the coast, the sea and the waterways in both a historical and contemporary perspective. Its mission is to explain the importance of shipping and maritime activities for the cultural, social and economic development of Norway. The museum is also responsible for managing and preserving underwater cultural heritage sites along the coast from the Swedish border to Åna-Sira in southwestern Norway.

After our introductory talk, we had a nice tour of this museum. We could have spent days there: so much to see and absorb! The museum really does live up to what it promises.



The boat hall, now an art hall, was fantastic with pictorial maritime art, especially a collection of maritime paintings including works by both unknown and well-known Norwegian artists.

The exhibition *At sea* shows seafarers from the Viking Age to the present: history as it was experienced by those on the decks, the galleries and in the engine room. The interactive *Norway is the Sea* exhibition is a modern display.



The museum changes exhibitions frequently, and hosts various events and lectures throughout the year. The current exhibition *Torpedoed: Norwegian seamen in the war zones during World War I* was truly fascinating.

The Norwegian Maritime Museum has something for everyone: the children's boat workshop (they can build their own boat); highlights from the museum's collection of traditional Norwegian boats; and not to forget a *boat lab* – a workshop demonstrating traditional Norwegian boat types. This is a museum that the whole family will enjoy!

Wenche Mohr

AROUND OSLO

Sun and spring in January



The Astrup Fearnley Museum

Open till May 5, 2019

Norwegian contemporary artists who represent a great diversity of conceptual expressions.

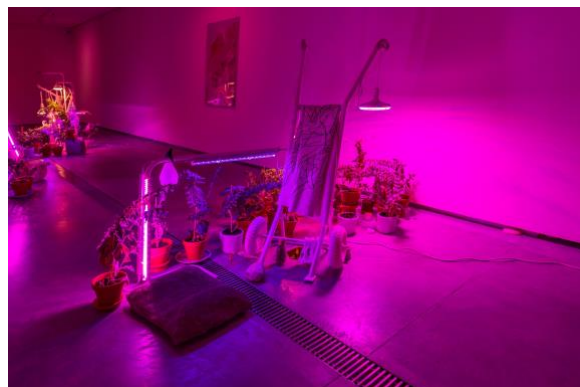
The Artists: Miriam Hansen, Johanne Hestvold, Anders Holen, Henrik Olai Kaarstein, Mercedes Mühleisen, and Constance Tenvik.

The Writers: Ina Hagen, Ingrid Halland, Simen Joachim Helsvig, Maria Horvei, Nora Joung, and Nicholas Norton.

The Collectors: Clarkson Platou by Peter M. Anker, Knut and Cecile Brundtland, Bettina Ford Jebsen, C. Ludens Ringnes Foundation by Christian Ringnes, AKO Art Foundation by Nicolai Tangen, and Talent Norge

Curators: Gunnar B. Kvaran and Therese Möllenhoff.

The exhibition is produced in collaboration with **Talent Norge**.



For more information, see <https://www.afmuseet.no/en/exhibition/sun-and-spring-in-january-next-generation-in-norwegian-contemporary-art>

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