



INTERNATIONAL FORUM

OSLO, NORWAY

May
NEWSLETTER
05/2019

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Number 443



INTERNATIONAL FORUM

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Forum Diary

DATE	EVENT	TIME	PAGE
May 23	Studio 26: Shian Yuan Yachi and Dag Hol	11:30	9
May 28	Forum Singers at Vestre Aker Menighetshus	19:00	10
June 03	Annual General Meeting	18:00	4
June 04	Kistefos Museum and Sculpture Park	09:15	7

From the President



Dear Members,

As I was reading this morning's daily newspaper, I happened upon a somewhat 'strange' and remarkable announcement of a special event that occurs in Oslo (as elsewhere in Norway) at the very beginning of May. It is called a *kuslipp* in Norwegian or 'spring cow release' in English. What on earth is *that*, you may wonder? To put it simply, it's the time in spring when the cows are allowed to abandon their confines of the barn and are released to lush pastures to graze and do more or less what they want.

What's so wonderful about that you ask? Well, it's a very special and happy occasion, at least for the cows. The cows are so ecstatic to be free, to taste the fresh spring air, that they literally jump for joy. This is freedom and happiness manifested in the animal world and worth witnessing. It puts a smile on everyone's face (even the cows', I imagine). This specific *kuslipp* – or cow release – takes place at Bygdø Kongsgård (the King's farm) at Bygdøy.

The public is invited to come and observe this happy 'rite of spring'. The release is something quite extraordinary for people like me, who grew up in a metropolis and never related particularly with cows or any other farm animals. As an observer of this event, one can't help thinking how happiness can exist on all levels of life, and what it's like to feel blissfully free.

I am thinking, too, about how much happiness is derived from just feeling free. There is much to be happy about – like just being out in the open air and able to romp and frolic about without constraints. Isn't that just a great form of freedom?

I wish International Forum a spring full of happiness as we look forward to the summer months, the warmest and most comforting season of the year.

With that, I look forward to seeing you all at the **AGM** on **June 3** at the Vinderen Seniorsenter at 18:00. There is no charge for the meeting. That should make us all happy...

Best regards to you all!

President

COMING EVENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, June 03 at 18:00
Please note the time!

A light buffet and wine and soft drinks will be served after the meeting.

- PLACE: Vinderen Seniorsenter, Slemdalsveien 72, 0373 Oslo
- PRICE: **Free of charge**
- SIGN UP: By email: int.forum@online.no or telephone **22 83 62 90** no later than **Wednesday, May 22**.
Please indicate clearly if you do NOT wish to stay for supper.
- TRANSPORT: T-Bane 1 to Vinderen. **NB!** There is **no longer free parking** on the square right by the centre and in the adjoining area until after 20:00. Please read the parking signs carefully!
The meeting starts at 18:00. We ask you to please be seated by this time.
NB: The Annual General Meeting is for members only.

The Board



AGENDA

1. Welcome by the President
2. Approval of a member to take the 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

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND THE ART COMMITTEE

Kistefos Museum at Jevnaker

June 4, 2019



The founder of Kistefos Pulp Mill, Consul Anders Sveaas (1840-1917), was a typical entrepreneur: a visionary with distinctive business sense. He conducted business in several Norwegian and foreign companies and did business in far-off places such as Australia and many South American countries. He participated in the founding of Heen Træsliberi near Hønefoss in 1881. This was when he realised the possibilities of the Kistefossen waterfall near Jevnaker. He acquired the rights to the fall and the adjacent property. In 1889, he founded Kistefos Pulp and Paper AS – of which he was the main shareholder. After only one year of intensive construction, he started the production of pulp. The mills were in operation until 1955.

Today, the original factory is an industrial museum unmatched in Scandinavia. We shall start with the story of the pulp grinder, and get an understanding of the working conditions and social life in the area. In 1896, the grinder was expanded with a building called the ‘new factory’. Today, all the machinery has been removed, yet the industrial atmosphere has been preserved. The ‘new factory’ is now an art gallery, *Kunsthallen*, spanning two floors and offering dynamic and exciting art experiences. There are new exhibitions every year. Some are dedicated to specific artists, others are based on themes, or periods. This year’s show is *Tempo Tempo Tempo*, consisting of primarily site-specific works by young Norwegian artists such as Ragna Bley, Marthe Ramm Fortun, Urd J. Pedersen, and Fredrik Vørslev. The exhibition is curated by Rhea Dall.

The Kistefos Museum's **sculpture collection** has been conceived in close interaction with the area's beautiful and peaceful nature. Famous international and Norwegian artists are represented in this unique park. The sculptures emerge as surprising presences between the birches, on a slope, behind buildings or in the river. The ever-growing sculpture park now consists of 37 contemporary sculptures.

The world-famous Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama is this year's supplier of sculpture to Kistefos. She is also known as the 'Polka-dot Queen'. Rumour has it that her *Shine of Life* is a great work. It is also the first monumental outdoor work of Kusama in a Nordic country.

DATE /TIME: Tuesday, June 4.

Looking forward to seeing you!

Special Events and Art Committee

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

ART COMMITTEE
Studio 26 – Shian Yuan Yachi and Dag Hol

May 23 at 11:30

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.



For more Information, see the *April Newsletter*.

ACTIVITIES

Cooking Group I

A big thank you to Inger for a very nice morning making Portuguese dishes. We really enjoyed your hospitality!



The next cooking morning is going to take place in Nesbyen at the home of our Indonesian member Soen Eng Yap on Tuesday, **May 21**. Separate information regarding details has been forwarded to the group members. Liss R. Laan

For more information, please contact the IF Office.



Forum Singers Spring Concert

Tuesday, May 28 at 19:00

The Forum Singers choir has pleasure in inviting you to our Spring Concert on **Tuesday May 28th at 19:00** at Vestre Aker Menighetshus. 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. We also have singalongs so that you, the audience, can join in.

Our conductor is Eva Landro, who is a free-lance soloist and has been conducting us since 2016, and Stefan Ibsen Zlatans will accompany us on the piano. This year is the 120th anniversary of the birth of Duke Ellington, so we will be singing some of his compositions. We are also celebrating Villa-Lobos, the famous Brazilian composer, who died 60 years ago. Our conductor, Eva, will be singing one of Villa-Lobos' works.

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 our favourite venue, Vestre Aker Menighetshus, a pleasant and cosy place with good acoustics. There is plenty of free parking on the church grounds, and it 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.

R E P O R T S

ART COMMITTEE

Henie Onstad Art Centre

The Moon – from inner Worlds to outer Space

We were a full group from the Forum – including a handful of husbands – guided by Anne Weyer-Larsen. She had a difficult job explaining this multi-media exhibition, but did an excellent job. As she said, ‘an art historian does not know so much about science, and vice-versa.’

Perhaps a combination of science and art makes a good exhibition. The result is artworks that feel more relevant to our real lives. Technology has always fascinated many artists, but the actual technology is rarely shown at the same time. Art is not created in an airtight room; it is developed through a dialogue with contemporary culture and science. Galileo’s drawings have one foot in science and one foot in the world of art. The Romantics used moonlight to place humanity in the vastness of our natural world. The Surrealists used astronomy and mythology to present the Moon as a route through which to make contact with our deepest spiritual longings. Contemporary art turns a very critical eye to our ecological crisis and the race for colonization of space.

The 50th anniversary of the moon landing is the background for this large-scale exhibition and celebrates the role, importance and power of the Moon. 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 meet the mythological and mystical Moon, the poetic Moon, the scientific Moon, the Moon as a science fiction destination, and the Moon as a new territory within *realpolitik*.

The exhibition is in six sections:

1. Mapping of the Moon – Selenography

In 1609, Galileo Galilei was the first to draw a map of the moon with the help of a home telescope. As an artist, he understood that shadows meant an uneven surface. Scientific study of the Moon began. This section contains drawings, paintings, photos, satellite photos, and models of new observatories and space accommodation that brings the Moon closer and closer.

2. Moonlight

The Romantics saw moonlight as a tool for contemplation. The Moon is not the focus point in these paintings. The focus is on the cold and mystical light, the chiaroscuro of moonlight, which gives the perfect opportunity to observe sublime nature. Moonlight is a mediator bringing the human being into contact with Grand Nature. We perceive our place in the greater universe.

These paintings depict the last time we saw the Moon without any light pollution from gas or electricity. Joseph Wright of Derby's *Virgil's Tomb* 1782 includes for the first time both moonlight and another source of interior lamp light. He was a member of *The Lunar Society*, a fellowship of industrialists, artists and scientists who only met at the full moon.



The contemporary artist, Darren Almond, has made a series of photographs taken all over the world in 2005/7, taken at full moon in wild settings, with a very long exposure. The result is light, as we would not normally see it. Stars become stripes of rain, and water moves like a fog.



3. Moon of myth

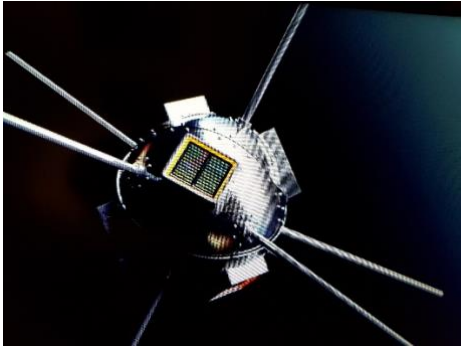
We can find moon symbols used in all ancient civilizations, represented particularly in this exhibition through Sami artefacts. The Surrealists looked into what they saw as the astrological power of the Moon, and you must take time to watch the first science-fiction film made by a French magician in 1902. A strobe light installation illustrates everything we frantically do every day while the moon silently continues through its phases. The pull of the Moon has made humanity consider her a power of fertility.

4. The Moon Landing

The influence of this spectacular event cannot be underestimated. Photos show the first time we actually looked at the Earth from the outside. Robert Rauschenberg was a guest at NASA from 1969 and made several series of artworks celebrating the new technology. *2001 A Space Odyssey* influenced fashion, science fiction and the art of movie making. Yves Klein made his iconic photograph *Leap into the Void*. The “great step for mankind” was a game-changer.

5. Space Colonization

There are now 100 million pieces of space junk orbiting the Earth. There are satellites constantly observing us. There are satellites that can help the military to attack with the minutest precision. Film and photographs in this section show us the enormity of it all, and we feel a sense of our world heading out of control. The peace of the cosmos seems to be threatened. We wonder who owns Space.



6. Deep Time

Humanity is the biggest source of destruction the Earth has ever seen. We now plan to send robots to the Moon to search for minerals, establish factories and space stations. All the super-powers are competing.

The exhibition ends with a film about gravity. A returning astronaut tells us how *heavy* everything feels. Even his ears feel heavy on his head. Turning the body feels like a massive job. Deep into future Time, we may have to live lighter lives on another planet.

Our thanks to Inger and Victoria for organizing this event. A mesmerizing and fascinating exhibition that everyone should see.

Jane Steenbuch

Issued by the Board of the International Forum

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