



INTERNATIONAL FORUM

OSLO, NORWAY

October
NEWSLETTER
10/2018

2	Forum Diary
3	President's Page
4	From the Board
5	Coming Events
11	Reports

Number 436



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 Administrator	Dorota Steensland
Office Team	Lydia Afolabi, Lillan Akcora, Kirsten Wensell, Anne-Sofie Troisdahl-Oraug
Board 2018 – 2019	Sally Bergan (President), Anita Pratap, Anne-Grethe Skagestad, 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
October 25	Visit to Snøhetta Architects	17:30	Sep NL
November 5	Monthly Meeting – The Gokstad Ships	18:45	6
November 8	Marlene Dumas and Edvard Munch	11:45	10
November 15	Wettre Micro-Brewery in Asker	12:30	8
December 3	Christmas Meeting	TBA	7
February 12	40 th Anniversary Celebration	18:00	5

From the President



Dear Members,

Unstoppable! Great teamwork! Go team!

Once again, members of the International Forum have demonstrated their awesome prowess as participants in the Oslo 10 km. race, (part of the Oslo Marathon event), which was held on September 15th. Three of our very own IF members put themselves through the gruelling test of endurance, “running” through Oslo’s formidable streets. Our IF team ran together with members from many different embassies, as part of the “Ambassadors for Peace” team. Anita Pratap, Åsny Wedege Walters, and our forever young Soo Lan Høegh-Henrichsen were our team’s representatives. Well done, ladies! Applause! You are inspirational!

Otherwise, our ad hoc 40th Anniversary Committee is another team at work in preparation for our 40th anniversary celebration on **February 12, 2019**. Have you already noted that date in you diary/calendar? If not, do so right away! Please see the invitation notice in this Newsletter.

Speaking of teamwork, I am personally delighted with the members of our IF teams: the Board, the Executive Committee, the Office team, Editor/ Editorial team and Dispatch team. These members are hard-working, dedicated and enthusiastic. How fortunate we are to have a variety of teams representing us, working for us towards common, positive goals.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sally Bergan". The script is cursive and fluid.

Sally Bergan,
President

F R O M T H E B O A R D

MEMBERSHIP FEE

ATTENTION PLEASE !!

There are still some members who have yet to pay their membership fees for this year (General membership: NOK 500, Associate and Overseas membership: NOK 200. The fee was due on September 30.

Your payment will be accepted even though we are in the middle of October. Please pay today!

If you don't pay, your name will be taken off the list and your membership will be terminated. Please don't let that happen.

We look forward to an exciting new year at International Forum, and we want you to be part of it.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sally Bergan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sally Bergan
President

COMING EVENTS

International Forum's 40th Anniversary Celebration



SAVE THE DATE !!

Tuesday, February 12, 2019

Please mark this date on your calendar. It is
a great occasion for all IF members.

Our 40th anniversary will take place at Det Norske Teatret in the Spiegelbar
(a separate room for ourselves)
at 18:00.

Price: NOK 750.- per person

This includes a delicious three course dinner with two glasses of wine and a
welcome glass of bubbly on arrival.

Menu:

*

Welcome drink

*

Starter: (cold)

Norwegian halibut with dulce, spring onion emulsion

Vendace roe and tapioca pearls with soy

*

Veal Coulotte with parsnip purée broccolini, and kale with gremolata

Veal jus with thyme

*

White chocolate cream with grapefruit sorbet, frozen raspberry pearls and
baked chocolate

*

White and red wine/mineral water

Coffee/tea

There will be wonderful **musical interludes**, lots of **merriment**, and a bit of **nostalgia**.

We would like to ask for a **NOK 250.- deposit** to be paid by **November 1** to International Forum account: 1600.40.36631

Please include your name and write “40th Anniversary deposit”

* **Note**: The NOK **250.-** deposit is non-refundable

Please join us for a great evening!

Ad-hoc Committee
40th Anniversary Celebration Committee

Do you have questions? Please contact:
Barbara Ødegaard: Kirsten Chryssanthakis:
For more information, please contact the IF Office.

NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

Geir Gokstad on the Gokstad Viking Ships



Geir Olav Gogstad (b. 1950) is a biochemist and researcher who has worked with basic research, industrial research, and research administration at the Oslo University Hospital.

His experience with and interest for old Viking ships are the result of his family background at the Gokstad farm, near the town of Sandefjord.

A Viking ship, known as the Gokstad ship, was discovered at and excavated from his great-grandfather's estate at Gokstad in the year 1880.

Today, the ship and its contents, including the bones of a male person, are exhibited at the Viking Ship Museum at Bygdøy, Oslo.

For a long time, the vessel remained a fabulous and somewhat mysterious, almost 1000-year-old ship, found in a burial mound for an unknown personality of a certain contemporaneous importance. New technologies and archaeological research have now modified the story of the burial ship and its ‘captain’. Adding a significant new piece of knowledge to Norwegian history.

Mr Gokstad will talk about the Gokstad ships.

DATE/TIME: Monday, **November 5** at 18:45 for (19:00)

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

Christmas Meeting



A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

The programme for the Christmas Meeting will be a special performance by Angela Halvorsen Bogo with musical accompaniment by Jan-Egil Egnes

To reflect that we are an international organisation, we kindly invite members to bring along a **sample of a national cake or dish** which is typical for this season of the year.

Please contact Laila Hægh if you are willing to contribute. More information about this year's December meeting will be in the November *Newsletter*.

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Lunch at Wettre micro-brewery at Vettre Farm in Asker

November 15, 2018, at 12:30.

The Special Event Committee has for many years invited members of International Forum to interesting events. We invite you now to Wettre Microbryggeri in Asker in November.



Wettre Microbryggeri was founded on December 12, 1912, and is a local brewery at Søndre Vettre Farm in Asker.

In addition to producing beer for the local customers, they also brew specialty beers for businesses, hotels and restaurants. You can find their products in some local stores and at 'Vinmonopolet'.



The brewery has its own pub – Kråka – which is open to the public every Friday. The brewery organises beer tasting and personalised events for groups, clubs, and especially interested people who want to arrange tailored events for their guests.

Søndre Vettre farm was one of two Vettre mills in the Middle Ages. The farm was among the fifteen best in the village in 1647, and has long traditions of grain production. The hops grow naturally in the underbrush and scrubs around the farm, something that, along with the old brewery in the basement, indicates that beer has been brewed at Vettre for centuries. The committee members will serve you traditional GLØGG with some snacks upon arrival at Kråka Pub.

Hans Ellef Wettre, the owner of the farm and brewery, will welcome us and introduce us to the activities in the brewery. We will be served ‘spekemat’ (cured meat) and traditional side-dishes accompanied by four different kinds of beer. Later we will enjoy coffee and homemade cake before returning home.

A keyboard will be available so that we can be accompanied when singing our songs about beer, hopefully also accompanying those who would like to present a ‘beer song’ from their country or some other favourites.

DATE/TIME: Thursday, **November 15**, at 12:30

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

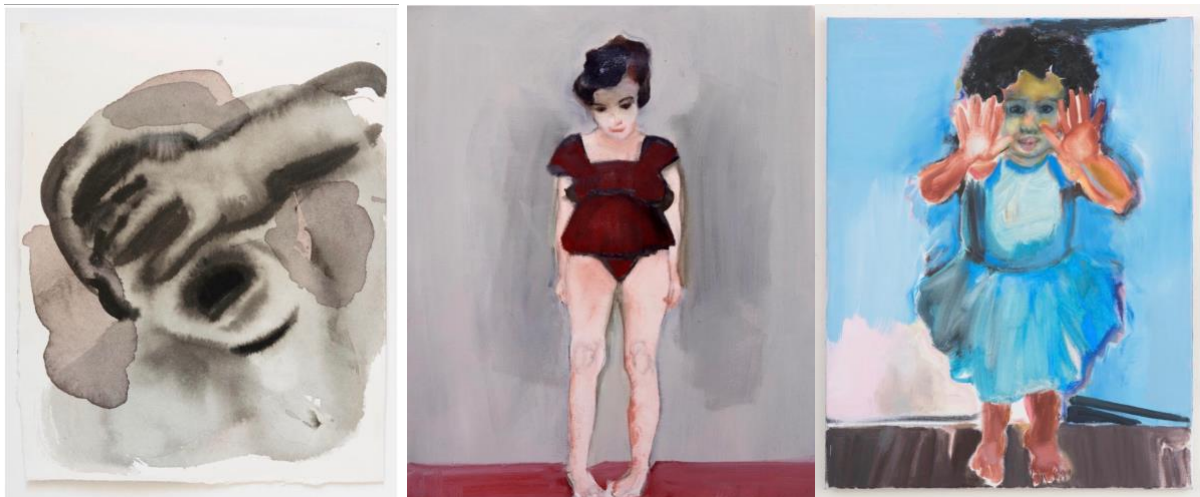
ART COMMITTEE

Marlene Dumas and Edvard Munch

Moonrise

Marlene Dumas is one of the most influential painters in contemporary art. She confronts and seduces us with her expressive figurative motifs. Taking on the role of curator for the first time, she shows Edvard Munch's art in dialogue with her own pieces of work.

Dumas is renowned for her visually striking paintings. She has been fascinated by Munch's body of work for a long time. According to her, Munch painted modern love stories - not just between men and women but also between mankind and nature. This exhibition encompasses themes such as innocence, sexuality, loneliness, anxiety and death. The title, 'Moonrise', is borrowed from one of the lithographs in the series. Dumas associates the moonrise with something feminine and magical, yet connected to the darkness of the night. She writes the following about Munch: 'Yes, he understands the night with its shadows. Yet his works are bright with light.' The atmosphere of the exhibition is coloured by the moonlight.



This exhibition provides a unique opportunity to experience works by two of the world's most prominent artists. It also contains selected works by Dumas' colleague, Dutch artist René Daniels. These three artists share a similar approach to painting and drawing, recognising the importance of the transparent brushstroke and the unpainted canvas. According to Dumas, 'René Daniels taught me how to see Munch.'

DATE/TIME: Thursday, **November 8** at 11:45 (for 12:00)

For more information, please contact the IF Office.

REPORTS

MONTHLY MEETING

Kristin Bech on the Evolution of the English language

Steve Hamilton's talk on the International Organization for Migration was cancelled and will be rescheduled to a later date. Fortunately, Ms Kristin Bech, who had originally been booked for November, kindly agreed to step in on very short notice to give her talk on the development of the English language.

Kristin Bech – Associate Professor of English Language at the Department of Literature, Area Studies and European languages at the University of Oslo – is now the chair of the Norwegian Academic Council for English Studies. In her talk: 'From englisc to English, 1500 years of language and history', Ms Bech took us on a fascinating journey from the origins of the English language, starting with the Anglo-Saxon settlement in the British Isles in the late 400s and the gradual development of the Anglo-Saxon language from the fall of the Roman Empire up to the present day.

The Romans conquered Britain in the year 43 AD and ruled over the various Celtic groups for round 400 years. When the Romans withdrew their military forces from Britannia (as they called the territory), because of unrest and recurrent attacks by Germanic tribes in other parts of their vast empire, Britain became vulnerable to foreign invaders.



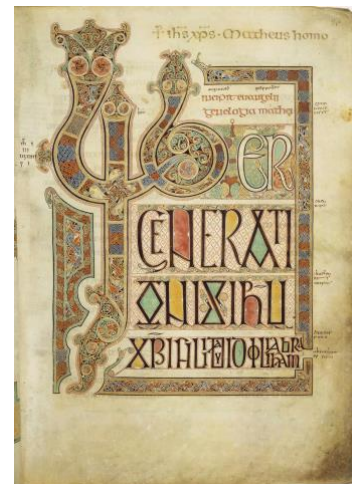
The Celts, already threatened by attacks from Picts and Scots from the north, turned to Germanic tribes for help, especially the Angles, Saxons and Jutes. The Anglo-Saxons saw the potential and soon took possession of the land and pushed the Celts into Wales, Cornwall and Brittany. The Anglo-Saxon language evolved into Old English, the first of four distinct stages in the development of the modern English language: Old English 500 - 1100, Middle

English 1100 - 1500, Early Modern English 1500 - 1800, and Late Modern English 1800 to the present.

Old English did not borrow many words from the Celtic languages, nor many Latin words from the Romans either. Nevertheless, a few Latin words in modern English date back to the Roman period and are still in use today, such as *street*, from *via strata*, meaning 'paved road'. Another word is *wine*, derived from the Latin *vinum*. *Chester*, a word that can be seen in many place names, comes from the Latin *castrum*, 'military camp'.

The vast influence from Latin in English came much later through the Church, as Latin was the language of religion and worship. The people of the British Isles were Christianised early. The Benedictine monk Augustin, sent by the Pope from Rome, became the first Archbishop of Canterbury in 597. The Church built numerous monasteries, many of which became reputed centres of learning where books and documents were produced. Britain soon became an intellectual power in Europe.

Ms Bech showed us a picture of a beautifully illustrated page [*illumination*] from The Lindisfarne Gospel, a manuscript from the 8th century. This Gospel was miraculously saved from a raid of the Lindisfarne monastery by the Vikings in 793. Numerous other valuable documents did not fare as well. The number of monasteries and monastic schools was reduced as a result of the repeated Viking attacks. Alfred, King of Wessex (871 – 899) managed to defeat the Vikings and came to an agreement according to which Britain was divided and the Vikings got Northumbria as their territory.



King Alfred aimed to re-establish Britain as a European intellectual and cultural power. Because the Latin skills were now poor among both teachers and pupils, King Alfred proposed to make use of the vernacular language – Old English – in teaching and to translate from Latin those books that were necessary and essential to an educational program.

The Norman invasion in 1066 led to yet another phase. French became the administrative language in Britain and held its position for 300 years. Many French words were borrowed into the English vernacular during this period. The language changed in other ways too. What is called ‘the great vowel shift’ – a series of major changes to the vowel sounds – between the 13th and the 18th centuries altered the pronunciation of the language quite significantly. The spelling, however, did not change accordingly, which explains why the spelling of many written words is so different from the way they are pronounced.



Ms Bech demonstrated how both the vocabulary and the pronunciation of words have changed from one period to another by reading aloud to us beautiful passages from Shakespeare and Chaucer. Her insight into and vivid description of how languages are constantly changing inspired the audience to rethink their own attitudes towards language changes in general.

For those interested, Ms Bech's book *Fra englisc til English, et språk blir til* from 2016 gives a popular account of the history of English aimed at a general audience according to the publisher, Pax Forlag.

Gunnel Anita Solheim

ART COMMITTEE

Edward Munch: *Between the Clock and the Bed*

A large and eager group of IF members and guests had the privilege of being guided by Luisa Aubert on one of the last days of this exhibition, for which the Munch Museum cooperated with the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Metropolitan Museum in New York. Munch's self-portrait, which he painted when he was nearly 80 years of age, gave this exhibition its title. The thirty-eight paintings represented a selection of his most renowned artworks from all stages of his 60-year-long career. The juxtaposition of works from different times in Munch's life was, in part, to disprove the claim by some that there was a decline in his work after 1908-09. None of the works were titled so as to encourage the viewer to take a closer look at the paintings rather than focus on their titles. The following is a small sample taken from our interesting tour.



In *Between the Clock and the Bed*, a self-portrait from 1940-43 (one year before his death), Munch places himself in a three-dimensional room full of personal meaning. He is looking back on his life and facing the end of it. The clock has no hands, as if to signify that his time is running out. The bed will be where he draws his last breath. And yet, while he is an old man without any illusions, at the same time his sunburned face and red cheeks represent a vital resistance to the end.



Self-Portrait with the Spanish Flu (1919), while creating a depiction of the artist infected with the Spanish Flu, is unclear whether it was true since he made the diagnosis himself. In this painting, the artist blends the colours in such a way as to create an aura of infection: The colours all bleed into each other, giving the impression of a dirty and unsterile space. Munch's bedroom appears as a tropical swamp. The Spanish Flu was a global pandemic that broke out after WW1, killing millions of people. Munch exhibited this painting as soon as he had completed it, presumably to tap into its urgency in society.

Munch repeated certain motifs throughout his work. Many of his works can be understood as meditations on death, and he painted, drew and printed scenes of death and dying throughout his career. This shows how affected he was by the many deaths in his family. In his death images, Munch is quite interested in the emotional reactions of the bereaved. His experimental use of colours, as well as

of strange and abstract objects, represents not only a death struggle but of space transgressing its physical boundaries: it is invaded by emotions, affects and spirituality. Ultimately, Munch's experimental use of colour brought him closer to the concept of death as a space where the bodily and the spiritual meet.



The Night Wanderer (1923 – 24) portrays Munch in darker, quieter colours and strokes, permeated by Scandinavian blue lights. He looks out reservedly at us, appearing startled, almost afraid. Munch suffered insomnia for many years and in this honest self-portrait he shows a more sensitive man who is older and thinner. Munch worked much more than people realised and his frequent travelling to prepare for exhibitions also took its toll physically, eventually leading to a breakdown.

Self-Portrait (1886) was painted when Munch was a young artist and bohemian in his early twenties, living in Kristiania (today's Oslo). His gaze does not meet ours. His facial expression shows confidence, perhaps even arrogance. The paint is most thickly applied on the face and becomes thinner towards the edges of the picture. The many layers of paint are like an armour protecting the vulnerable and sensitive self of the artist.



The Artist and His Model 1919-21. The room in this painting is filled with dynamic forms and colours. Its bending walls and colourful carpet make the room look as if it's about to burst. The artist and his model look out at us, as if they are not part of the room. Thin paint runs from the model's chest, while her face is modelled by thick layers. Her eyes are reduced to dark dots. In one sense she looks dead and

otherworldly while at the same time she is vivid and full of emotion. In this painting, as in his other works, Munch's reduction of his figures leaves it to the viewers to create the narrative.

Trudy Brand Jacobsen

SPECIAL EVENTS

Visit to Emanuel Vigeland's Mausoleum

On a dark, rainy day, seventeen IF members gathered outside Emanuel Vigeland's Mausoleum in Grimelundsveien. After an introduction to Emanuel Vigeland's life by the guide, we entered the 800 m² dark, vaulted room, completely covered with dimly lit fresco paintings about human life from conception till death.

Emanuel Vigeland was born in 1875, the younger brother of the sculptor Gustav Vigeland. Inspired by his older brother, he decided to become an artist, and began his training in Kristiania (as Oslo was then called) in 1894. He received several bursaries which enabled him to study in various European cities. He learned the fresco technique and became a master in Copenhagen. His interest turned to glass painting and he started his own school in 1919 at his atelier at Slemdal.

In 1926, he erected the monumental building, first intended as a future museum for his sculptures and paintings. Eventually, he decided that the museum should also serve as his mausoleum. Emanuel Vigeland died in 1948, and his ashes were laid to rest in an urn, placed at the top of the entrance door.

Influenced by Italian prototypes, he named his building 'Tombe Emmanuelle'. His grandchild, goldsmith and artist Tone Vigeland, now lives in his home behind the museum.

The tomb is often used for concerts since it has extraordinarily good acoustics.



Liss R. Laan

AMBASSADORS FOR PEACE 2018

Marathon! Here we go Again!

It is our sequel! For the second year, we organised the Ambassadors for Peace Team to run the *Ten for Grete* in the Oslo Marathon. Last year, it took a lot of effort and three months to put the team together. But in the end, it was well worth it, with sixteen Ambassadors and spouses and eight Forum members participating.



This year, without prodding, several Ambassadors came forward wanting to run. In no time, the group swelled to twenty-three! Our team was a mini United Nations with representatives from Belgium, Bosnia, South Africa, Lithuania, Sweden, India, Estonia, Poland, Japan, Ecuador, and of course Norway.

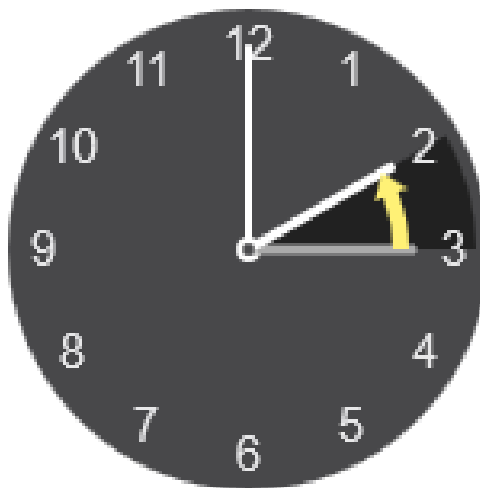
The day turned out to be glorious, perfect for running: sunny and a crisp 16°C. Takenari Yamamori, our team topper from Japan, completed the run in an impressive 42:45 minutes, while Ecuador's Carla Melo was the fastest among the women, clocking in at a creditable 51:12 minutes. A round of applause to Forum member Soo Lan Høegh-Henrichsen who ran even though she was on antibiotics and recovering from a cold. She brushed aside all concerns and pursued her goal with remarkable determination. We extend our deep gratitude to the team at BMW Oslo Marathon for all their fantastic support!

Capturing the spirit of our team, Nancy Rossignol, Ambassador of Belgium, said ‘I’ve run *Ten for Grete* before, and this is my best result. It is not getting easier, but I feel I am getting stronger. You don't have to run fast: just keep putting one foot in front of the other. Running in the encouraging company of the friends of the Ambassadors for Peace gave me wings! So rewarding.’

Come September, and it is Oslo Marathon time. Please save the date for next year: September 21.

Anita Pratap

End of Daylight Savings Time



On **Sunday 28 October** 2018, at **03:00**, clocks are turned back **one** hour to **02:00**. Sunrise and sunset will be about one hour earlier than the day before. Some of us will enjoy having an extra hour on Sunday!

Issued by the Board of the International Forum

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.
October 18, 2018.