



# **INTERNATIONAL FORUM**

**OSLO, NORWAY**

**January**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**01/2017**

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**Number 417**



# INTERNATIONAL FORUM

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## Forum Diary

DATE	EVENT	TIME	PAGE
January 17	Visit to the Ibsen Museum	11:15	7
January 24	Gallery Walk – downtown Oslo	11:45	8
February 01	IF Event at the Munch Museum	14:00	7
February 06	Monthly Meeting	18:45	6
February 14	Takashi Murakami at Astrup Fearnley	12:10	9
February 16	Visit to the Oslo Stock Exchange	11:00	8

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## From the President



Dear members,

I hope that you all have had a relaxing and pleasant Christmas holiday with family and friends. I also hope that the coming year will bring new opportunities and challenges, and that 2017 will be a year in which you and your loved ones can prosper and enjoy life to the fullest.

The Forum year starts off with several interesting events that I hope you will appreciate.

One such event is the Monthly Meeting. The Monthly Meetings are the backbone of the International Forum, and I therefore hope to see as many as possible joining us once a month for an interesting evening.

Let me also remind you of some of the numerous activities which are starting up again in January, such as the Cooking Group, the Book Club, the Bridge Group, or the new Photo Workshop. You may want to go swimming at Lysebu or participate in the Indoor Golf Group. The possibilities are many if you are a member of the Forum, so please join!

Last but not least, let me draw your attention to the very special event that will take place at the Munch Museum on February 1 from 14:00 – 16:00. As already announced in the December *Newsletter*, the International Forum, in cooperation with the Munch Museum, is organising an event at the Museum where you will have the rare chance to meet and listen to the internationally renowned Mieke Bal, who will be curating a first-of-its kind art exhibit in Oslo, entitled *Emma and Edvard: Love in the Time of Loneliness*. For members with friends, this is a unique opportunity, not only to listen to Mrs Bal's presentation of the exhibition, but also to hear what the Director of the Munch Museum, Stein Olav Henrichsen, has to say. In addition, you will be given a guided tour of the exhibition.

You will find the programme for the event and information about how to sign up in the December *Newsletter*. See also page 7.

I am looking forward to an interesting season, and I wish you all the best for the year to come!

*Siri S. Frigaard*  
President

## *FROM THE OFFICE*

### **Help required with the IF website**

Are there any members who would like to help keep the website up-to-date? You should be familiar with using a PC / Mac and have a good working knowledge of English.

If you are interested, please contact Patricia Blackwell for more details, mob.: 930 86 516 or email: [pablackwell4@gmail.com](mailto:pablackwell4@gmail.com)

### **THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE**

#### **The Nomination Committee has now started its work ....**

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.

It doesn't necessarily take a lot of time to be a member of a committee, and it can be very rewarding. It is also a good way to learn more about the International Forum and to become better acquainted with other members.

The Nomination Committee prepares a list of nominees, which is submitted to the Board. Six weeks before the AGM the list of all nominees will be published in the Newsletter. Members may then send the Board further proposals, which can be put on the final list for election at the AGM. There is no vote by proxy at the AGM. The candidate receiving the most votes will be elected.

Included in this Newsletter is a form for your proposals which we hope that you will fill out. Please return **as soon as possible (by email or post) and by March 1 at the latest** to the Leader of the Nomination Committee: Ellen Vollebæk,

Do remember that your suggestions will form the basis of the Committee's proposals when members are nominated for election at the Annual General Meeting in 2017.

We cannot emphasise how much we look forward to receiving the names of as many nominees as possible.

Thank you!

The Nomination Committee

*Ellen Vollebæk (Leader)*

*Sigrid Langebrekke, Barbara Lee Ødegaard*

## COMING EVENTS

### February Monthly Meeting



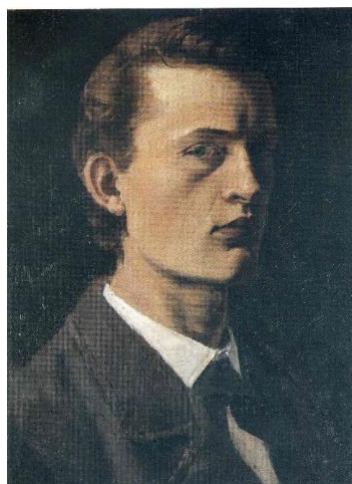
IF Member **Barbara Ødegaard** will talk about the American election system and give us some insight into a very complex system.

Barbara has worked as a peace negotiator for the United Nations. She has degree in Business Administration and has worked for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at the UN Headquarters. She was assigned to the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon and worked with the forces there for five years. This posting covered South Lebanon, Syria, Israel and Egypt.

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

*For more information, please contact the IF Office.*

### **INTERNATIONAL FORUM** In Cooperation with the Munch Museum **An Extraordinary Encounter and Exhibition** **at the Munch Museum**



*Edvard Munch, Self Portrait 1882 Mieke Bal – by Roberto Conciarto*

Wednesday, **February 1**, 2017, from 14:00-16:00 (2 p.m. – 4 p.m.)

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

### **The Ibsen Museum**

Tuesday, **January 17, 2017**, at 11:15 (for 11:30)



The Special Events Committee has the pleasure of inviting you to a visit to the Ibsen Museum.

For more information, please see the December *Newsletter*.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**



### **The Oslo Stock Exchange**

The Special Events Committee has the pleasure of inviting you to a visit to the Norwegian Stock Exchange (Oslo Børs), which is the central market for listing and trading of financial instruments in Norway. Oslo Børs was founded in 1819 and offers the only regulated market for securities trading in Norway today.

The Oslo Børs provides access to capital through listing on international and attractive marketplaces and makes it possible for purchasers and sellers of securities to carry out their transactions in a rapid, efficient and secure manner. Market surveillance, quality assured processes and consistent application of the regulatory framework ensures that the marketplace offers a secure and reliable environment for all participants.

The Oslo Børs marketplace enjoys a unique position for companies in the energy, shipping and seafood sectors. Companies from all over the world turn to the Norwegian market to raise capital, access liquidity for their shares and benefit from a range of world leading investment research coverage available in Oslo. Investors look to the Oslo market for access to high-quality Norwegian and international companies.

DATE/TIME: Thursday, **February 16**, 2017, at 10:45 (for 11:00)

*For more information, please contact IF Office.*

## **ART COMMITTEE**

### **Gallery Walk in central Oslo**

Tuesday, **January 24** at **11:45** (for 12:00)

For more information, please see the December *Newsletter*.

### **Takashi Murakami**

The Art Committee is pleased to invite you on a guided tour at the Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art on **February 14**.



Takashi Murakami, *Blue Life Force* (2012) ©Takashi

In early 2017, the Astrup Fearnley Museum will, for the first time in

Scandinavia, present an exhibition focusing on the world-famous Japanese artist Takashi Murakami (1962 – ).

The exhibition will not only feature his works of art, but will also present aspects of his activities as a collector, gallerist, businessman and activist. In the last twenty years Murakami has been extremely visible on the international art scene but he has also taken an active role within the Japanese art world, redefining the position of the artist through his involvement in different arenas of society.

In this exhibition, we will concentrate on two periods in Murakami's artistic development. There will be works from the late 1990s related to his creation of the figure 'DOB' (his alter ego) and the notion of 'Superflat', which place him within the legacy of Pop art but with an exceptionally original artistic language.

Moreover, there will be a selection of works from recent years, in which Murakami has developed an intelligent personal dialogue with Japanese historical paintings. A special room will be dedicated to his films and TV series. The exhibition will also include works by other artists from his personal collection and by those whom he has discovered or promoted. In addition, there will be an important selection of his merchandising, which Murakami, more than any other artist, has developed, produced and propelled into the art world.

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, February 14th. 2017 at 12.10 for 12:30

*For more information, please contact IF Office.*

## **ACTIVITY GROUPS AND COURSES SPRING 2017**

### **Activities Committee:**

Anita Solheim.

International Forum Activity Groups are formed when one member or a group of members get together and organise an activity. No payment is taken, and the activity is open to all members depending on availability. Are you interested? See the contact information below.

If you are interested in an activity that is full, sign up anyway, as there may be cancellations. If you have problems joining an activity because it is full, please contact Anita Solheim, as we might consider forming new groups.

*For more information, please contact IF Office.*



## **NORWEGIAN CONVERSATION (brush up your Norwegian)**

The only requirement is that participants have had a few Norwegian lessons and are prepared to have fun. We meet every two weeks (Fridays from 11:00-14:00) in private homes to give non-Norwegian speakers a chance to discuss daily matters with native speakers. We practice Norwegian in a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere. No fixed subjects, no homework. The hostess serves a light lunch and/or refreshments.

**Contact:** Trudy Brand-Jacobsen:

*For more information, please contact IF Office.*

## **DRAMA READING GROUP**

The play readings are held once a month in members' homes. Plays chosen are both old and new. The dates for the readings are flexible and usually decided a month in advance depending on how many can attend on a certain date. A light lunch is served between acts.

**Contact:** Suzanne Garman-Vik

*For more information, please contact IF Office.*

## **INTERNATIONAL BOOK CLUB**

We meet on the third Wednesday of the month in a member's home to discuss a book, usually a novel from the worldwide literature, chosen by the group. The hostess serves a light lunch.

**Contact:** Marit Wright:

*For more information, please contact IF Office.*

**NOTE:** The International Book Club is full for the time being, but we are working on establishing a new parallel group. If you are interested in starting a new reading group or participating in one, please contact Anita Solheim: *For more information, please contact IF Office.*

## **CHOIR GROUP**

The choir practices every other week on Wednesday evenings from 18:30 - 20:30 in Frogner Kirkestue at Frogner Church. We meet at 18.15, in order to start promptly at 18.30.

We are about 30 members and we give two concerts a year with a varied repertoire

**Contact:** Lydia Rostad: *For more information, please contact IF Office.*

## **COOKING GROUP**

We are a small group of ladies who love good food and are interested in sharing recipes and learning from each other. We meet in each other's homes **about once a month**. The cost of the ingredients to be shared between us.

The January cooking session is going to be a little special. Our Russian member will present us with a traditional Russian Christmas dish.

**Contact:** Liss Laan:

NOTE: For the moment, the group is full, but we are working on establishing a parallel group. If you are interested in starting a new reading group or participating in one, please contact Anita Solheim:

*For more information, please contact IF Office.*

## **INDOOR GOLF GROUP**

This is an indoor activity between November and the end of April when outdoor golf is impossible. All levels of golfers are welcome – also those who are beginners – so do come along! We meet every Thursday at 10:30, usually starting with a coffee. We have a special price for balls and private lessons can be arranged. We play at Fornebu Indoor Golf Centre, Snarøyveien 69, 1367 Snarøya (the old aircraft hangar)

**Contact:** Hilary Sem: *For more information, please contact IF Office.*

## **MONDAY DUPLICATE BRIDGE**

We play at Ris Menighets hus' Peisestue, between 09:50 until approximately 13:15. Everyone can choose whether to pay a "semester fee" or NOK 50.- per session. If you wish, you can bring your own lunch; coffee and cookies are provided.

If you are interested, please contact one of the organisers below. Let us know as early in the week as possible. It would be good to sign up with a partner; however, if you do not have one, we can try to find one for you if possible.

**Contact:** Tone Fredrikson:

*For more information, please contact IF Office.*

## MONTHLY WEDNESDAY BRIDGE GROUP

We usually meet on the second or third Wednesday of the month, depending on the holidays. We are usually 8 or 12 players, on occasion 16.

We play duplicate bridge and enjoy a light lunch afterwards. You are most welcome!

**Contact:** Inger Støtvig: *For more information, please contact IF Office.*

**NOTE:** The **February Bridge Session** will take place on February 15 at 10:30. Tone Fredrikson has kindly offered to house the group, and she can arrange three tables.

## WALKING GROUP

**No walking group in the winter. Too icy and slippery!**

We will start walking again in spring when the roads and paths are free of ice and snow. Kerstin Pettersen will send an e-mail to the group members, and new members should please contact her.

**Contact:** Kerstin Petersen: *For more information, please contact IF Office.*

## PHOTO CLUB: **New Activity Spring 2017**

Learn how to use your photos creatively. Do not let your beautiful shots and precious memories get lost among thousands of other pictures on your computer. Organise your photos so that you can find them easily and use them to make beautiful, personalized cards or picture collages for yourself and for friends.

The plan is to have a “workshop” once a month where we can meet and discuss specific subjects of interest to the participants. Subjects range from how to make greeting cards, collages; how to import and organise photos on the computer; how to print photos; how to scan old photos from prints or from positive and negative film, and much more...

Beginners, skilled amateurs and professionals are all equally welcome. The idea is to share our knowledge and skills in handling digital photos, to have fun, and to learn as we go. I myself am a dedicated amateur who has taken several courses in photography and image processing/Photoshop.

If you are interested in this activity, please send an email to Anita Solheim and state whether daytime or evening suits you best and if there are certain weekdays that we should avoid. I will then set up a schedule for the spring, knowing that it might not be possible to meet everyone’s wishes.

For January 2017, I propose: Monday, January 16 at 12:30 – 15:00. If need be, I may also arrange a workshop that evening from 17:30 to 20:00 for those who

cannot come in the middle of the day. We will work at Kveldsro terrasse 8, 1368 Stabekk.

**Contact:** Anita Solheim,email:

*For more information, please contact IF Office.*

## **SWIMMING AT LYSEBU**

### **(The Danish Cultural Centre at Voksenkollen)**

International Forum members are most welcome to swim at Lysebu and only have to show their IF membership card at the front desk. The fee is NOK 130.- per visit. This is not a group activity as such, but IF members can use this great, newly renovated facility as a group or individually. Any questions?

**Contact:** Anita Solheim:

*For more information, please contact IF Office.*

## **COURSES**

### **ENGLISH**

Individual Courses tailored to your Needs. Refresher courses for conversation, all levels.

**Contact:** Soo Lan Höegh Henrichsen M.C.S.D (Graduate of Liverpool University, Teachers College)

*For more information, please contact IF Office.*

### **SPANISH**

Beginners, Intermediate Level and Advanced Level.

Mondays and Wednesdays: Beginners at 15:00 to 16:00, Intermediate at 16:00 to 17:00, and Advanced at 18:00 to 19:00

Courses will start the second week of January and will last eight weeks.

**Contact:** Margarita Ludena Stavholt, *For more information, please contact IF Office.*

## TRADITIONAL NORWEGIAN ROSE PAINTING



Rosepainting (“rosemaling”) is a traditional Norwegian folk art which goes back to the 1700s and which is still alive in many parts of the country.

Morning and evening courses can be organised for large or small groups.

For more information, please call Vivian Grieg Teisner .*For more information, please contact IF Office.*

## *R E P O R T S*

### **DECEMBER CHRISTMAS MEETING**

Nearly 60 members had registered for the Christmas meeting. Unfortunately, six or seven members cancelled because of the influenza, including most members of the Forum Singers. The sing-along was therefore led by some of our more heroic members.



The food was delicious and plentiful. The raffle raised NOK 6500.- for our selected good cause, Natteravnene. It was a truly lovely evening!

A big 'Thank you!' to the Monthly Meeting Committee for their 'effortless' running of the show!

Elizabeth Rasmussen

## Christmas Lunch at and Guided Tour of the Asker Museum

On a chilly, windy morning on November 29, over 50 Forum members gathered at Asker Museum at Hvalstad, outside Oslo. Instead of driving, many of us took the train, a happy journey which felt like a school excursion, with a feeling of friendship and togetherness. A lady with a Christmas apron welcomed us at the station. Her name was Sigrid and she offered those who needed it a ride in her car. After a short walk through a modern residential area, we suddenly found ourselves amid distinctly older buildings, representing the elements of folk culture and modernity over a century ago.

After a Christmas drink, *gløgg*, we moved to the main hall. The Director, Fredrikke Hegnar von Ubisch welcomed us and gave us a brief history of the Museum.

The Asker Museum was once a farm and the home of Otto Valstad (1862-1950) and Tilla Valstad (1871-1957). Otto Valstad was the son of a carpenter. He became a teacher, painter, writer and illustrator, and was an enthusiastic collector of Norwegian cultural heritage items.



The Valstad Collection shows an amazing diversity, incorporating the contemporaneous trends from abroad. It includes not only many of his paintings, drawings and furniture, but also farm buildings. Parts of the local church have been used again in the interior. Tilla was the daughter of a rich ship-owner in the maritime city of Tønsberg. She received an education and worked as a teacher in a working class environment. She wrote books and articles about her experiences. The couple were very active in the cultural life of the local community. They held many parties at their home and welcomed visiting artists who sometimes stayed with them. One of them was Anne Grimdalen, whose sculptures are found in the museum's garden, and one on the wall of the Oslo Town Hall. Both the house and the whole Valstad collection of cultural items were donated to the Municipality of Asker, now the City of Asker, in 1949.

We also learned the unique story of Gunhild Bakke, a 17-year old girl who came here as a young servant, but who stayed on almost 70 years. She eventually served as Director of the Museum (1957-1970), further contributing to maintaining the legacy of the Valstads.

The Valley of Hvalstad once went by the name 'Kunstnerdalen' (the Valley of Artists), evocative of a special sentiment for the times gone by and the lifestyle in a remote suburb of the capital. Many famous writers, artists and composers lived in this area, among them, Frits Thaulow, Halfdan Egedius, and the Garborgs. Otto and Tilla Valstad returned to his hometown around the turn of the century. Hulda and Arne Garborg had then resided there since 1897.

We were treated with two great surprises. We all joined in a ring, trying out a Norwegian folk dance, accompanied on *Hardingfele* by a young musician, Tuva Færden, the granddaughter of one of our members. She gave us a wonderful concert and took us into the world of traditional Norwegian folk music, such as *Halling*, *Fossegrimen* and a Norwegian Christmas song. It was a great treat for us: practising folk dance, listening to the history of the museum, and enjoying the folk music.

After the concert, in the adjoining room, we sat down for a warm lunch, healthy and full of nourishment, based on a recipe by Hulda Garborg and accompanied by lively conversation.

We then were divided into two groups with Fredrikke and Randi as our guides for a tour of the two homes: the home of Arne and Hulda Garborg and that of Otto and Tilla Valstad. The two well-known couples were neighbours and asserted a strong influence on each other; both couples upheld distinctly liberal values in art and writing. In Norway, the *bunad*, the national costume, was restored as one of the key elements of Norwegian cultural identity, a process to which Hulda Garborg greatly contributed.

The last stop was the Art Gallery, which Otto Valstad had built for his *own* works, containing drawings and oil paintings. We were surprised by his prolific production and the amount and quality of the works. Some of them reminded us of those exhibited in the *Japanomania* exhibition in Oslo last summer.

The day turned out to be an unforgettable excursion into the world of cultural treasures from modern Norway with uniquely artistic and architectural characteristics and a symbol of patriotism for the preservation of cultural heritage. It was also a great inspiration for us to learn about Hulda Garborg and Tilla Valstad, who were pioneers and role models for contemporaneous women and who were supported by their husbands despite criticisms from society at large. On our way home, a colourful sunset followed us to the station.

Hiroko Kimura



**Issued by the Board of the International Forum**

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