



Backgrounder: Fogo Island Arts Corporation Director and Advisory Board

Elísabet Gunnarsdóttir

Elísabet Gunnarsdóttir, director of the Fogo Island Arts Corporation, re-located to Fogo Island a year and a half ago. She will work to build the Arts Programs to establish a world class profile within the international arts community. Ms. Gunnarsdóttir comes to Shorefast and the Arts Corporation from her position as the director of the Nordic Artists' Centre in Dale, Norway. From 2003-2008 she was the artistic and managing director of NKD, one of Northern Europe's leading contemporary art venues specializing in residencies and related activities. Her background as an architect, curator and catalyst for various contemporary art projects and programs will help attract international visiting artists to Fogo Island, where they will take part in locally rooted projects that resonate with this unique place and its people.

The first three members to join the advisory board

The members of the Fogo Island Arts Corporation Advisory Board are among the world's top curators in contemporary art, architecture and design. They will help to identify artists who would benefit most from a period of residency on the Islands – and who would contribute the most to the community during their stay.

Kitty Scott

Kitty Scott is an internationally acclaimed curator, educator and critic. She is currently Director, Visual Arts at the Banff Centre, where she has helped attract artists from across Canada and around the world for self-directed and thematic residencies.

Prior to her appointment at Banff, Scott served as curator of contemporary art for the National Gallery of Canada, and chief curator of the Serpentine Gallery, one of London's foremost contemporary arts spaces.

Scott has curated exhibitions of artists including Francis Alÿs, Janet Cardiff, Paul Chan, Peter Doig, Ragnar Kjartansson, Silke Otto-Knapp, Ken Lum and Ron Terada. As an independent curator, she organized exhibitions for the Tate Modern and the Melbourne International Biennial.

In addition to her curatorial work, Scott also holds posts at the California College of Arts, as well as at York University, the University of British Columbia and University of Ottawa. Her publication record is prolific, and includes contributions to journals such as *Parachute*, *Parkett* and *Canadian Art*. She is editor of the forthcoming *Raising Frankenstein: Curatorial Education and Its Discontents* and a contributor to *Creamier: Contemporary Art in Culture*, soon to be published by Phaidon.

Joseph Grima

Joseph Grima studied architecture at the Architectural Association, London, and has since worked internationally as an editor, curator, writer and critic in the fields of architecture, art and design.

From 2007 to early 2010, he was director of the non-profit Storefront for Art and Architecture, an internationally renowned gallery and events space in New York City. Storefront is devoted to the advancement of innovative positions in architecture and art. Architecture critic Michael Sorkin has called it “the most innovative, progressive and fearless gallery devoted to architecture in the United States.”

Grima has conceived and designed installations appearing in international events such as the Venice Biennale of Architecture and the Shenzhen/Hong Kong Triennale of Architecture/Urbanism, as well as at institutions including the Architectural Association and Beijing Planning Hall.

He is author of numerous works, including the books *Instant Asia* (Skira, 2007), a critical overview of young and emerging architecture practices in Asia, and *Shift: SANAA and the New Museum* (Lars Müller, 2008).

In 2011, Grima will take over the editorial reins at *Domus*, the famed Italian architecture and design magazine where he previously worked as an editorial consultant.

Nicolaus Schafhausen

Nicolaus Schafhausen is the director of Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, a position he has held since 2006. The institution presents the latest developments in contemporary art while seeking to reach a broad public as well.

Schafhausen studied art history in Berlin and Munich, and worked as an artist before beginning his career as a curator in 1990. He managed the Lukas & Hoffmann gallery – which he co-founded – both in Belini and Cologne, organizing exhibitions for artists such as Kai Althoff, Olafur Eliasson, Carsten Höller and Antje Majewski, all of whom would go on to international success.

He served as artistic director of the Künstlerhaus Stuttgart from 1995 to 1998, and was artistic and managing director of the Frankfurter Kunstverein from 1999 to 2005. In 2005, Schafhausen was appointed to a two-year term as founding director of the European Kunsthalle in Cologne.

Schafhausen's career has been marked by his commitment to teamwork and to encouraging discussion on contemporary social issues. He is also no stranger to the international stage. Schafhausen curated the German Pavilion at both the 2007 and 2009 Venice Biennials, and in 2010 he will curate the Platform Festival in Seoul, together with Sunjung Kim.

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