



NORDIC Nature

DEBORAH ISKANDAR
INTRODUCES THE EXHIBIT,
“IT CAME FROM THE NORTH”

A region of mythical beauty, Northern Europe is well-known for snowy tundras and never-ending green forests. In this region, nature is not only valued for its beauty, but also considered as an essential part of daily life. The Nordics seem to possess an inherent bond with nature and easy access to the wilderness is taken for granted. The government is even supporting such initiatives; the Nordics have special rights to freely enjoy the forests and professional life is organised

in such a way that there is always time to enjoy the outdoors after work, every day. Nature is thus an endless source of inspiration for Nordic artists and a reoccurring theme in art, which is why we have decided to embrace the topic in our new group exhibition, “It Came from the North”.

Presenting a collection of photographs portraying the natural beauty of the Nordic countries, the exhibition honours the peculiarity of

Nordic nature through artworks in traditional landscape imagery and abstract forms. It seeks to give an insight into the unique relationship the Nordic people have with nature, demonstrating why it has such a special place in society and explaining how it has been incorporated into daily life, at the individual and communal levels. Presented by PT Jakarta Land and curated by ISA Art Advisory, the exhibition is located at the lobby of the WTC 2 building in Jakarta and will stay open until 22 March.

The exhibit focuses on the works of some of the best award-winning artists from the Nordic region. In addition, we have also selected two emerging artists from Indonesia, Vicky Tanzil and Alexander Thian, who will present their visions of the North. Tanzil is a commercial and fashion photographer originally from East Kalimantan, who likes to step out of the ordinary in his pictures. Thian, on the other hand, is a Jakarta-based Instagram sensation, whose images and storytelling skills keep captivating audiences. Some of the chosen artists solely focus on landscape photography and nature as a theme, while others have varying themes and a more multidisciplinary approach. What they all share is a deep love and appreciation for nature and a will to look after it.

Representing Norway, Stig Marlon Weston worked as a photographer since 1995. He has developed a truly unique style of camera-less photography, where he only uses light and film or photo paper to create striking images, pushing the medium of photography back

to its roots of truth-based printmaking. Tine Poppe is an awarded Norwegian photographer and visual storyteller living and working in Oslo, Norway. Her practice focuses on bringing attention to social, political and environmental issues, in particular the refugee crisis, racism and climate change through art and documentary photography. Nanna Hänninen is one of the most successful Finnish fine art photographers, born in the North of Finland in Rovaniemi, an enchanting place in Lapland, also believed to be the real home of Santa Claus. Frequently exhibiting since 1996, she often combines photography with colourful painting and plays with oppositions. Interestingly, Sandra Kantanen, our second Finnish artist, comes from the opposite end of the country, for she lives in Hanko, the southernmost peninsula in Finland. Her surroundings also inspired her to create the series seen at “It Came from the North”. She photographs mainly landscapes, working with both traditional pigments and digital tools.

Hailing from Denmark, Mads Peter Iversen is known for impressive fine art landscape pictures. While he finds inspiration all over the world, he is above all drawn to the cold and harsh, yet stunningly beautiful Nordic nature. Contrary to the others, he shoots to edit, meaning that a considerable part of the work is done in the editing phase when the pictures come to life, his current mood influencing the result. Astrid Kruse Jensen is one of Denmark’s most established photography-based visual artists. In her works, she explores the frontier between the apparent and the hidden, the real and the imaginary, her dreamy images often

blurring the concept of memory and time. She plays with what is shown and what is not, leaving the viewer to find the meaning. A true nature lover, Stefan Isaksson is a Swedish advertising and landscape photographer. One of the recurring topics in his works is the Nordic landscape shown in calm compositions, low light and subtle colour palettes. To find the perfect view and lighting, he often hikes to remote places, usually during seasons when the weather is unpredictable and the outdoor conditions tough. Awarded artist duo Inka and Niclas Lindergård, from Finland and Sweden respectively, have been working together for over 10 years. With their unconventional imagery, they challenge the way we look at the border between humans and nature. Inspired by popular culture, their work investigates the role of the photographer as a messenger of nature’s mysterious image, while bringing new life into landscape photography.

While “It Came from the North” is about beauty with its dreamy images and majestic landscapes, it also seeks to remind us of

the fragility of nature and consequently, the staggering ramifications of climate change. Art has the potential to ignite environmental action, whether locally or in a larger international context, therefore it has value beyond the visual pleasure it procures. Whether we are from the Northern or Southern hemisphere, preserving and protecting the environment is one of the most pressing concerns that affects us all; it is a collective issue that we should all address. The exhibition invites the viewers to immerse themselves in the magic of the North, and in doing so, they can reflect on and examine their own personal relationships with nature and its significance.

1. *Grove series* by Stig Marlon Weston
2. *Icy Aurora* by Mads Peter Iversen
3. *Untitled (Forest 8)* by Sandra Kantanen
4. *Crystals* by Stefan Isaksson

Deborah Iskandar is Principal of ISA Advisory, which advises clients on buying and selling art, and building collections. An expert on Indonesian and international art, she has more than 20 years of experience in Southeast Asia, heading both Sotheby’s and Christie’s Indonesia during her career before establishing ISA Art Advisory in 2013. She is also the Founder of Indonesian Luxury, the definitive online resource for Indonesians looking to acquire, build and style their luxury homes.

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