

GALLERY 2

Iceland-Another Take

Photographs by John Welsh



Photograph by John Welsh

"Iceland-Another Take" is the title of a forthcoming book by Philadelphia photographer, John Welsh, in which he documents through written and photographic journals, his travels through Iceland.

Working as a professional photographer since 1987, Welsh photographs sporting events, fashion spreads, and streetscapes, emphasizing fundamental composition as a means to a simple, sophisticated style.

Switching gears, Welsh set out for Iceland taking more than eight-thousand photographs in Iceland's empty spaces. Welsh's goal was to differentiate his work from others who have photographed Iceland, a challenge that took him across deserts, over mountains and through fields of lava.

"It's a different place to be," Welsh says, "You're in touch with the land, the weather and nature. It puts you in touch with yourself."



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SPIRIT ROOM & GALLERY

The Spirit Room Gallery is a non-profit arts and cultural center in downtown Fargo, North Dakota, whose mission is to enrich people's lives through the development and practice of creative, contemplative and healing arts.

The Spirit Room began as a grass roots organization responding to a need to establish a center for gallery exhibits, classes and performances. A building in downtown Fargo was redeveloped in 1998 that had been vacant for over thirty years, becoming a second home to a growing number of interested people.

Since opening, the Spirit Room has held over eighty visual arts exhibits, regular classes in dance and yoga, and monthly literary readings.

The Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival is celebrating its 28th year June 24, 25 and 26th, 2005. Six clubs make up the festival: the Red River Danes, the Red River Finns, the F-M Icelandic Klub, the Sons of Norway Kringen Lodge #25, the Sami Circle and the Swedish Cultural Heritage Society.

For the last three years, the Spirit Room Gallery has planned a complementary visual exhibit to coincide with the festival. This year, 2005, the Icelanders are the featured group at the festival and subsequently, the Spirit Room is pleased to exhibit the works of three photographers of Iceland's extraordinary landscape, Gudmundur Ingolfsson, Wayne Gudmundson and John Welsh.



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Askja-The Icy Volcano:

A Source of Icelandic Emigration



Photograph by Gudmundur Ingolfsson

Two Icelanders come together once again in this exhibition of landscape photography entitled, "Askja-The Icy Volcano: One Source of Icelandic Emigration." Photographers Gudmundur Ingolfsson of Reykjavik, Iceland, and Wayne Gudmundson of Moorhead, Minnesota, show photographs of the Icelandic volcano, Askja, at the Spirit Room Gallery in Fargo.

Color photographs by Gudmundur Ingolfsson of Reykjavik, Iceland, illustrate the 2005 release of, "Meditation at the Edge of Askja- On Man's Relation to Nature," a book about the power of natural places.

"Meditation" contains Ingolfsson's photographs of Askja, and an essay by Icelandic writer, Pall Skulason. Skulason reflects upon the human mind and spirit, questioning the nature of reality. He speaks of Askja as a "being-of-itself," producing a powerful sense of place, a no-man's land that stimulates contemplation. Skulason wonders why people so quickly lose connection with nature and how places such as Askja can jolt us back into that relationship.

Gudmundur Ingolfsson was born in Reykjavik, Iceland in 1946. He studied at the University of Iceland and at the Folkwang College of Art in Essen, Germany; and has exhibited his work at Aarhus and Odense, Denmark; the Barbican Center in London, England as well as in Seattle, and Winnipeg. He was part of the traveling group exhibit, "Frozen Image," which was shown throughout Europe and the United States, including the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1982. Since 1972, Ingolfsson has operated a commercial studio in Reykjavik, Iceland.

JUNE 15 THROUGH JULY 31, 2005

SPIRIT ROOM
& GALLERY

111 Broadway, Fargo, ND | 701.237.0230 | www.spiritroom.net



Photograph by Wayne Gudmundson

In the years 1993 and 1995, Wayne Gudmundson, of Moorhead, Minnesota, traveled to his ancestral Iceland to begin work on a photographic collection. These photographs later became part of collaboration with Gudmundur Ingolfsson with the publication of "Heimahagar-Homeplaces."

The subject of the photographs was the other's home: Ingolfsson photographed Icelandic America, Gudmundson photographed the home-place, Iceland.

The eruptions of Askja in 1875 resulted in the devastation of the northeastern portion of Iceland and prompted a large scale emigration, primarily to Manitoba and North Dakota, creating strong Icelandic ties to our region. Towns such as Minneota, Minnesota; Mountain, North Dakota; and Winnipeg and Gimli in Manitoba, celebrate their rich heritage resulting from the Icelandic emigration to North America.

A current exhibition at the Spirit Room Gallery consist of Gudmundson's black and white photographs of the volcano Askja, taken during the 90's for the collaborative book "Homeplaces," and Ingolfsson's color photographs for the recently published book, "Meditation at the Edge of Askja."

This second collaboration between the two Icelandic photographers has produced the Spirit Room exhibition, "Askja - The Icy Volcano: A Source of Icelandic Emigration."

Wayne Gudmundson was born in Fargo, North Dakota, in 1949. His photographs have appeared in eight different books. He has edited 12 other books as part of the Prairie Documents Photographic Book Series. His work is in several permanent collections, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the PaineWebber Collection in New York, the Canadian Center for Architecture in Montreal, and the U.S. Embassy in Reykjavik, Iceland. Gudmundson currently teaches photography at Minnesota State University Moorhead and is the Director of New Rivers Press.

Opening Gallery Receptions

A Dinner of Fine Icelandic Cuisine

Jazz singer, Ruth McKenzie

Friday, June 24, 2005

3:00 Opening Reception for Icelandic Exhibits

"Askja-The Icy Volcano: A Source of Icelandic Emigration"-
Photographs by Gudmundur Ingolfsson and Wayne Gudmundson

"Iceland-Another Take"
Photographs by John Welsh

3:30 Artist's talk by John Welsh

4:00 A talk by Wayne Gudmundson,
"Introduction to the Volcano"

A reading by Susan Sugurdson from
"Meditation at the Edge of Askja"
by Pall Skulason

6:30 A Dinner of fine Icelandic Cuisine by
Icelandic chef, Andrea Baumgardner

9:00 Jazz singer Ruth MacKenzie with
guitarist Dean Magraw

A Dinner of Fine Icelandic Cuisine
in the Gallery
by chef, Andrea Baumgardner

Menu

Smoked Arctic char, beet tartare,
Icelandic brown bread crostini

Roast lamb, juniper tarragon sauce, boiled
new potatoes, summer beans

Ponnukokur
(Icelandic pancakes/crepes)
rhubarb berry compote, whipped
crème fraiche

Shot of Brennivin
White and light red wine and
bottle water available

Reservations Required: 701.306.2613
Limited Seating/\$25

Music by jazz singer, *Ruth McKenzie*
with guitarist, *Dean Magraw*



Minneapolis singer and composer Ruth MacKenzie uses vocal sounds and oral poetry of the Scandinavian and Finn-Ugic traditions to weave her tapestry of sound. Ruth sings ancient women's songs (cry singing, spell singing and animal calls) with stories of the untamable within each of us. Come early for best seating. Beer and wine available by donation.