

#

For immediate release

## FROM ICELAND

Guðbjörg Lind  
Guðný Kristmanns  
Guðrún Kristjánsdóttir  
Thórdís Alda Sigurðardóttir

Gústav Geir Bollason  
Guðjón Ketilsson  
Níels Hafstein  
Jón Laxdal

### ICELAND AS A MYTH

Some years ago, *Icelandic artists* would have been a category unfamiliar to the American art public. It would have seemed a category without discernible unity or order, thus devoid of the kind of meaning that would allow itself to be turned into myth. By connecting all the dots we have the beginnings of a myth centering on a society precariously poised between the civilized and savage, urban and rural, self-depreciation (How do you like Iceland?) and dreams of world domination.

Typically, the Icelandic artists included in this survey both conform to this myth and render it meaningless. All of them have close ties to the countryside; they use it as refuge or incorporate its features and legends into their art, both of which is true of Guðbjörg Lind, Guðrún Kristjánsdóttir and Níels Hafstein. At the same time they are ready to fly to New York, Paris or Beijing at a moment's notice. Their approach to their work may be firmly centered on the physicality of the body, as is the case with Guðný Kristmanns, or it may be predicated on the dissolution of materiality, which is the kind of thing we find in the work of Gústav Geir Bollason. Or they may take up a position midway between sense and big time sensuality, as happens in the highly literate and knowing work of Jón Laxdal and Thórdís Alda.

--Adalsteinn Ingolfsson

**Title:** FROM ICELAND

**Dates:** 9 February – 17 March 2012

**Reception:** 10 March 3 – 6 PM