

LUHRING AUGUSTINE

RAGNAR KJARTANSSON & ART BASEL VIEWING ROOM MARCH 20-25

For the inaugural Art Basel Online Viewing Room, Luhring Augustine is pleased to present a selection of works by Ragnar Kjartansson that highlight the artist's ongoing preoccupation with notions of the Romantic landscape. Inspired by the dramatic natural environment and panoramic views in his native Iceland, depictions of landscapes feature prominently throughout the artist's oeuvre. Following in the artistic tradition of illustrating the picturesque and sublime, this selection of Kjartansson's paintings and videos convey his passion for portraying the subject's beauty as well as its banality.

For full details and larger images, please see the end of this document.



Ragnar Kjartansson
Omnipresent Salty Death, 2015
Watercolor on paper
58 x 76 cm
Framed: 62.5 x 82.5
(C33722)

[View detail](#)

\$ 8,000.00



Ragnar Kjartansson
Eldhraun, 2019
Oil on canvas
31 1/2 x 41 3/8 inches
80 x 105 cm
(C32756)

[View detail](#)

\$ 32,000.00



Ragnar Kjartansson
Raging Pornographic Sea (drawings), 2014
Pencil and charcoal on paper
11 5/8 x 16 1/2 inches
29.6 x 41.9 cm
Framed dimensions: 15-3/4H x 20-3/4 inches
(C24982)

[View detail](#)

\$ 6,000.00



Ragnar Kjartansson

Raging Pornographic Sea (drawings), 2014

Pencil and charcoal on paper

11 5/8 x 16 1/2 inches

29.6 x 41.9 cm

Framed dimensions: 15-3/4H x 20-3/4 inches

(C24993)

\$ 6,000.00

[View detail](#)



Ragnar Kjartansson

Figures in Landscape (Wednesday), 2018

Single-channel video

Duration: 24 hours

Edition of 6 plus 2 artist's proofs

\$ 35,000.00

[View detail](#)



Ragnar Kjartansson

Bjarni Bömmer Listens to Roy Orbison's "Crying," 2019

Oil on canvas

63 x 70 3/4 inches

160.0 x 180.0 cm

(C32542)

\$ 60,000.00

[View detail](#)



Ragnar Kjartansson

Eldhraun, 2019

Oil on canvas

31 1/2 x 41 3/8 inches

80 x 105 cm

(C32746)

\$ 32,000.00

[View detail](#)



Ragnar Kjartansson

Eldhraun, 2019

Oil on canvas

31 1/2 x 41 3/8 inches

80 x 105 cm

(C32754)

\$ 32,000.00

[View detail](#)



Ragnar Kjartansson

Omnipresent Salty Death, 2015

Watercolor on paper

Framed: 24 5/8 x 32 1/2 inches

62.5 x 82.5 cm

(C33723)

\$ 8,000.00

[View detail](#)



Ragnar Kjartansson
Omnipresent Salty Death, 2015
Watercolor on paper
58 x 76 cm
(C33724)

\$ 8,000.00

[View detail](#)



Ragnar Kjartansson
Guilt Trip, 2007
Single-channel video with sound
Duration: 10 minutes 24 seconds
Edition of 7 plus 1 artist's proof

\$ 25,000.00

[View detail](#)



Ragnar Kjartansson
Figures in Landscape (Sunday), 2018
Single-channel video
Duration: 24 hours
Edition of 6 plus 2 artist's proofs

\$ 35,000.00

[View detail](#)



Ragnar Kjartansson
Figures in Landscape (Saturday), 2018
Single-channel video
Duration: 24 hours
Edition of 6 plus 2 artist's proofs

\$ 35,000.00

[View detail](#)



Ragnar Kjartansson
Scenes from Western Culture, Rich German Children (Ingibjörg Sigurjónsdóttir), 2015
Single-channel video with sound
Duration: 52 minutes 46 seconds
Edition of 6 and 2 artist's proofs

\$ 50,000.00

[View detail](#)

RAGNAR KJARTANSSON
Omnipresent Salty Death, 2015



Watercolor on paper
58 x 76 cm
Framed: 62.5 x 82.5
(C33722)

\$ 8,000.00

Image 1/2

Description

Painted "en plein air," Ragnar Kjartansson's series of watercolors, "Omnipresent Salty Death," capture the vastness, romance, and drama of the sea. Kjartansson says about the works, "The sea was an obvious choice. It is the ultimate romantic motif from Gustave Courbet to Gerhard Richter. It is omnipresent here in Iceland."

Please contact Julia Speed: julia@luhringaugustine.com for any inquiries.

Exhibitions

2015-16

Ragnar Kjartansson: Seul celui qui connaît le désir, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France



Image 2/2

RAGNAR KJARTANSSON

Eldhraun, 2019



Oil on canvas

31 1/2 x 41 3/8 inches

80 x 105 cm

(C32756)

\$ 32,000.00

Image 1/2

Description

Inspired by the nineteenth-century Romantic artists' tradition of painting "en plein air," the Ragnar Kjartansson often paints outdoors, surrounded by the natural landscape. His "Eldhraun" paintings, a series the artist continuously painted over one icy winter, depict scenes of a snow covered, rocky, lava-stricken landscape that was the result of a powerful eruption in the Laki volcanic fissure in Iceland.

Please contact Julia Speed: julia@luhringaugustine.com for any inquiries.

Exhibitions

2019

Ragnar Kjartansson. Scheize – Liebe – Sehnsucht, Kunstmuseum Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Germany



Image 2/2

RAGNAR KJARTANSSON

Raging Pornographic Sea (drawings), 2014



Pencil and charcoal on paper

11 5/8 x 16 1/2 inches

29.6 x 41.9 cm

Framed dimensions: 15-3/4H x 20-3/4 inches

(C24982)

\$ 6,000.00

Description

"Raging Pornographic Sea" is a series of drawings Ragnar Kjartansson made with his father. They are the result of en plein-air drawing, in which the two sat by the sea and copied the rolling Icelandic waters. The series is both an example of Kjartansson's relationship with his father, and also his "drawing as performance" practice.

Please contact Julia Speed: julia@luhringaugustine.com for any inquiries.

RAGNAR KJARTANSSON

Raging Pornographic Sea (drawings), 2014



Pencil and charcoal on paper

11 5/8 x 16 1/2 inches

29.6 x 41.9 cm

Framed dimensions: 15-3/4H x 20-3/4 inches

(C24993)

\$ 6,000.00

Description

"Raging Pornographic Sea" is a series of drawings Ragnar Kjartansson made with his father. They are the result of en plein-air drawing, in which the two sat by the sea and copied the rolling Icelandic waters. The series is both an example of Kjartansson's relationship with his father, and also his "drawing as performance" practice.

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RAGNAR KJARTANSSON

Figures in Landscape (Wednesday), 2018



Single-channel video

Duration: 24 hours

Edition of 6 plus 2 artist's proofs

\$ 35,000.00

Image 1/3

Description

Ragnar Kjartansson's "Figures in Landscape" is a series of seven distinct, 24-hour, silent videos filmed on hand-painted sets that depict archetypal landscapes, such as a forest, snow-covered mountains, or a meadow. During the course of the videos, a handful of figures dressed in lab coats walk in and around the scenery, sometimes stopping for conversation, or examining the paper flowers or fake snow. Describing the series, Kjartansson says, "'Figures in Landscape' has no narrative, nothing happens, simply the movement of a small number of people in white lab coats walking around in the landscape. 'Figures in Landscape' is a nod to heroic murals of science and prosperity, with a modern, mundane twist." Kjartansson adopts the artistic stance that nature is a symbol of the sublime, and a stage for storytelling. It is in these Romantic landscapes that his figures roam and wait, as if with continued conviction that nature is still the source of every great deed.

Please contact Julia Speed: julia@luhringaugustine.com for any inquiries.

Exhibitions

2019

Figures in Landscape, i8 Gallery, Reykjavik, Iceland



Image 2/3



Image 3/3

RAGNAR KJARTANSSON

Bjarni Bömmur Listens to Roy Orbison's "Crying,", 2019



Oil on canvas

63 x 70 3/4 inches

160.0 x 180.0 cm

(C32542)

\$ 60,000.00

Description

Kjartansson approaches his painting practice as performance, often creating a series of works repetitively over a period of time, in connection with durational performances. "Bjarni Bömmur Listens to Roy Orbison's 'Crying,'" is one of a number of paintings Kjartansson has made of his friend Bjarni in which the artist and subject listen to specific songs on repeat. In the picture, Bjarni casually reclines, his slippered feet propped up on a tree stump, next to him lies a large rock on top of a fine art shipping crate. This surreal combination of elements creates a dreamlike composition

of man, art, and nature.

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RAGNAR KJARTANSSON
Eldhraun, 2019



Oil on canvas
31 1/2 x 41 3/8 inches
80 x 105 cm
(C32746)

\$ 32,000.00

Image 1/2

Description

Inspired by the nineteenth-century Romantic artists' tradition of painting "en plein air," the Ragnar Kjartansson often paints outdoors, surrounded by the natural landscape. His "Eldhraun" paintings, a series the artist continuously painted over one icy winter, depict scenes of a snow covered, rocky, lava-stricken landscape that was the result of a powerful eruption in the Laki volcanic fissure in Iceland.

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Exhibitions

2019

Ragnar Kjartansson. Scheize – Liebe – Sehnsucht, Kunstmuseum Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Germany



Image 2/2

RAGNAR KJARTANSSON

Eldhraun, 2019



Oil on canvas

31 1/2 x 41 3/8 inches

80 x 105 cm

(C32754)

\$ 32,000.00

Image 1/2

Description

Inspired by the nineteenth-century Romantic artists' tradition of painting "en plein air," the Ragnar Kjartansson often paints outdoors, surrounded by the natural landscape. His "Eldhraun" paintings, a series the artist continuously painted over one icy winter, depict scenes of a snow covered, rocky, lava-stricken landscape that was the result of a powerful eruption in the Laki volcanic fissure in Iceland.

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Exhibitions

2019

Ragnar Kjartansson. Scheize – Liebe – Sehnsucht, Kunstmuseum Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Germany



Image 2/2

RAGNAR KJARTANSSON
Omnipresent Salty Death, 2015



Watercolor on paper
Framed: 24 5/8 x 32 1/2 inches
62.5 x 82.5 cm
(C33723)

\$ 8,000.00

Image 1/2

Description

Painted "en plein air," Ragnar Kjartansson's series of watercolors, "Omnipresent Salty Death," capture the vastness, romance, and drama of the sea. Kjartansson says about the works, "The sea was an obvious choice. It is the ultimate romantic motif from Gustave Courbet to Gerhard Richter. It is omnipresent here in Iceland."

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Exhibitions

2015-16

Ragnar Kjartansson: Seul celui qui connaît le désir, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France



Image 2/2

RAGNAR KJARTANSSON
Omnipresent Salty Death, 2015



Watercolor on paper
58 x 76 cm
(C33724)

\$ 8,000.00

Image 1/2

Description

Painted "en plein air," Ragnar Kjartansson's series of watercolors, "Omnipresent Salty Death," capture the vastness, romance, and drama of the sea. Kjartansson says about the works, "The sea was an obvious choice. It is the ultimate romantic motif from Gustave Courbet to Gerhard Richter. It is omnipresent here in Iceland."

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Exhibitions

2015-16

Ragnar Kjartansson: Seul celui qui connaît le désir, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France



Image 2/2

RAGNAR KJARTANSSON
Guilt Trip, 2007



Single-channel video with sound
Duration: 10 minutes 24 seconds
Edition of 7 plus 1 artist's proof

\$ 25,000.00

Image 1/6

Description

Ragnar Kjartansson's video works incorporate painterly notions, the artist often referring to his videos as "cinematic paintings." These non-narrative works, like his durational performances, evoke a sense of expanded time, unfolding with simultaneous qualities of banality and drama. In "Guilt Trip," a figure (the Icelandic comedian Laddi) traverses a snowy wilderness with a rifle and a bag of bullets. Occasionally he fires his weapon aimlessly into the bare white landscape that surrounds him, before heading on and shooting again.

Please contact Julia Speed: julia@luhringaugustine.com for any inquiries.

Exhibitions

2016

Ragnar Kjartansson, Barbican Centre, London, England



Image 2/6



Image 3/6



Image 4/6



Image 5/6



Image 6/6

RAGNAR KJARTANSSON

Figures in Landscape (Sunday), 2018



Single-channel video

Duration: 24 hours

Edition of 6 plus 2 artist's proofs

\$ 35,000.00

Image 1/3

Description

Ragnar Kjartansson's "Figures in Landscape" is a series of seven distinct, 24-hour, silent videos filmed on hand-painted sets that depict archetypal landscapes, such as a forest, snow-covered mountains, or a meadow. During the course of the videos, a handful of figures dressed in lab coats walk in and around the scenery, sometimes stopping for conversation, or examining the paper flowers or fake snow. Describing the series, Kjartansson says, "'Figures in Landscape' has no narrative, nothing happens, simply the movement of a small number of people in white lab coats walking around in the landscape. 'Figures in Landscape' is a nod to heroic murals of science and prosperity, with a modern, mundane twist." Kjartansson adopts the artistic stance that nature is a symbol of the sublime, and a stage for storytelling. It is in these Romantic landscapes that his figures roam and wait, as if with continued conviction that nature is still the source of every great deed.

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Exhibitions

2019

Figures in Landscape, i8 Gallery, Reykjavik, Iceland



Image 2/3



Image 3/3

RAGNAR KJARTANSSON

Figures in Landscape (Saturday), 2018



Single-channel video

Duration: 24 hours

Edition of 6 plus 2 artist's proofs

\$ 35,000.00

Image 1/3

Description

Ragnar Kjartansson's "Figures in Landscape" is a series of seven distinct, 24-hour, silent videos filmed on hand-painted sets that depict archetypal landscapes, such as a forest, snow-covered mountains, or a meadow. During the course of the videos, a handful of figures dressed in lab coats walk in and around the scenery, sometimes stopping for conversation, or examining the paper flowers or fake snow. Describing the series, Kjartansson says, "'Figures in Landscape' has no narrative, nothing happens, simply the movement of a small number of people in white lab coats walking around in the landscape. 'Figures in Landscape' is a nod to heroic murals of science and prosperity, with a modern, mundane twist." Kjartansson adopts the artistic stance that nature is a symbol of the sublime, and a stage for storytelling. It is in these Romantic landscapes that his figures roam and wait, as if with continued conviction that nature is still the source of every great deed.

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Exhibitions

2019

Figures in Landscape, i8 Gallery, Reykjavik, Iceland



Image 2/3



Image 3/3

RAGNAR KJARTANSSON

Scenes from Western Culture, Rich German Children (Ingibjörg Sigurjónsdóttir), 2015



Single-channel video with sound
Duration: 52 minutes 46 seconds
Edition of 6 and 2 artist's proofs

\$ 50,000.00

Image 1/4

Description

"Scenes from Western Culture, Rich German Children (Ingibjörg Sigurjónsdóttir)" is from Kjartansson's series of videos that presents vignettes of idyllic representations of Western life. Inspired by the rococo paintings by Jean-Antoine Watteau of bucolic amusements, the example in Luhring Augustine's viewing room presents a group of well-dressed children idly playing in a picturesque garden in Germany.

Please contact Julia Speed: julia@luhringaugustine.com for any inquiries.

Exhibitions

2019-2020

Ragnar Kjartansson: Scenes from Western Culture, Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME

2019

Ragnar Kjartansson. Scheize – Liebe – Sehnsucht, Kunstmuseum Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Germany

2018

Ragnar Kjartansson: Scenes from Western Culture, McEvoy Foundation for the Arts, San Francisco, CA

Ragnar Kjartansson: The Visitors and Scenes from Western Culture, Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, OH

2017

Ragnar Kjartansson: God, I Feel So Bad, Reykjavik Art Museum, Reykjavik, Iceland
2016

Ragnar Kjartansson, Barbican Centre, London, England



Image 2/4



Image 3/4



Image 4/4

Formally trained as a painter at the Icelandic Academy of the Arts, Kjartansson's practice is rooted in the medium. Inspired by the nineteenth-century Romantic artists' tradition of painting *en plein air*, the artist often paints outdoors, surrounded by the natural landscape. His *Eldhraun* paintings, a series the artist continuously painted over one icy winter, depict scenes of a snow covered, rocky, lava-stricken landscape that was the result of a powerful eruption in the Laki volcanic fissure in Iceland. His series of watercolors, *Omnipresent Salty Death*, capture the vastness, romance, and drama of the sea. Kjartansson says about the works, "The sea was an obvious choice. It is the ultimate romantic motif from Gustave Courbet to Gerhard Richter. It is omnipresent here in Iceland."

Kjartansson approaches his painting practice as performance, often creating a series of works repetitively over a period of time. As with his *plein air* landscapes, the artist has painted portraits of friends in connection with durational performances. *Bjarni Bömmur Listens to Roy Orbison's "Crying,"* is one of a number of paintings Kjartansson has made of his friend Bjarni in which the artist and subject listen to specific songs on repeat. In the picture, Bjarni casually reclines, his slippered feet propped up on a tree stump, next to him lies a large rock on top of a fine art shipping crate. This surreal combination of elements creates a dreamlike composition of man, art, and nature.

Kjartansson's video works also incorporate painterly notions, the artist often referring to his videos as "cinematic paintings." These non-narrative works, like his durational performances, evoke a sense of expanded time, unfolding with simultaneous qualities of banality and drama. In *Guilt Trip*, a figure (the Icelandic comedian Laddi) traverses a snowy wilderness with a rifle and a bag of bullets. Occasionally he fires his weapon aimlessly into the bare white landscape that surrounds him, before heading on and shooting again. *Scenes from Western Culture, Rich German Children (Ingibjörg Sigurjónsdóttir)* is from a series of videos that presents vignettes of idyllic representations of Western life. Inspired by the rococo paintings by Jean-Antoine Watteau of bucolic amusements, the example in Luhring Augustine's viewing room presents a group of well-dressed children idly playing in a picturesque garden in Germany.

Figures in Landscape is a series of seven distinct, 24-hour, silent videos filmed on hand-painted sets that depict archetypal landscapes, such as a forest, snow-covered mountains, or a meadow. During the course of the videos, a handful of figures dressed in lab coats walk in and around the scenery, sometimes stopping for conversation, or examining the paper flowers or fake snow. Describing the series, Kjartansson says, "*Figures in Landscape* has no narrative, nothing happens, simply the movement of a small number of people in white lab coats walking around in the landscape. *Figures in Landscape* is a nod to heroic murals of science and prosperity, with a modern, mundane twist." Kjartansson adopts the artistic stance that nature is a symbol of the sublime, and a stage for storytelling. It is in these Romantic landscapes that his figures roam and wait, as if with continued conviction that nature is still the source of every great deed.

Kjartansson (b. 1976) lives and works in Reykjavík. Major solo shows include exhibitions at the

Kunstmuseum Stuttgart; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Reykjavík Art Museum; the Barbican Centre, London; the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Park, Washington D.C.; the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal; the Palais de Tokyo, Paris; the New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York; the Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zurich; the Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin; the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; and the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh; among others. Kjartansson participated in *The Encyclopedic Palace* at the Venice Biennale in 2013, Manifesta 10 in St. Petersburg, Russia in 2014, and he represented Iceland at the 2009 Venice Biennale. The artist received the 2019 Ars Fennica Award, and was the recipient of the 2015 Artes Mundi's Derek Williams Trust Purchase Award, and Performa's 2011 Malcolm McLaren Award. Next winter 2020/21, the artist will present the inaugural solo show at the new arts institution GES-2 in Moscow, Russia. Please contact Julia Speed: julia@luhringaugustine.com for any inquiries.