

Report

ERASMUS+ project LeMOON Team meeting Iceland, Reykjavik 5th-9th of June 2023

„Cultural mediation through arts & sciences as a method for sustainable development-oriented environmental education under the motto: Þetta Reddast!¹”

Composed by Tatjana Christelbauer ACD-Agency for Cultural Diplomacy Austria

A brief introductory guide

The report consists of brief insights on visited places and activities, illustrated with photos, and extended with additional weblinks and video recordings during the E+ project LeMOON team meeting in Iceland. The agenda was fulfilled with guided tours and cultural activities as forms of intercultural learning and exchange of good practices connected with responsible use of natural resources, new technologies and tourism. Beside of the regular meetings, the members of all project teams have agreed upon to invest privately into guiding tours organized by our host, project partner Ms. Ludmila and her team and therefore extend the regular meeting-frame with visits of Icelandic remarkable destinations which are also known for their powerful impact on human health and wellbeing.

Aiming to provide an evidence-based brief overview on human-nature relational effects, in particular, on wellbeing, the insights in this report has been grounded in the concept of the Cultural Ecosystem Services, that enables to shed light on the non-material benefits that people obtain from ecosystems through recreation, tourism, intellectual development, spiritual enrichment, and reflection through creative and aesthetic experiences.

Following the topic of the Module 2 in the project, Austrian team members have prepared joint activities and presentation on Circadian Rhythm and its effects on mental health and resilience, with inclusive approach, while taking into consideration how all the natural phenomena are affecting blind and visually impaired students and teachers. Art-based joint activities connected with health care and wellbeing have additionally contributed to the project meeting insights and have enriched daily activities at visiting places.

The island's position on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the boundary between the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates that slow spreading pushes scorching magma and gas to the earth's outer crust, are fueling Iceland's hot springs and volcanoes.

Inspiring good practices from now & then in science, technologies, engineering, gardening, arts, and architectures are nest guidance for our further development of the skills-oriented explorative learning tools and lessons!

Rich cultural program have enabled balance among working/learning/resting times, the engagement and the commitment of all teams and team members to the project insights have brought fruitful results in planning further activities, the youth representatives from the Turkey have contributed to the evaluation of the Modules 1&2 with their presentation by the project team meeting, that included recommendations for teachers and proposals for the optimization of the assessment tools for the lessons created by project teams.

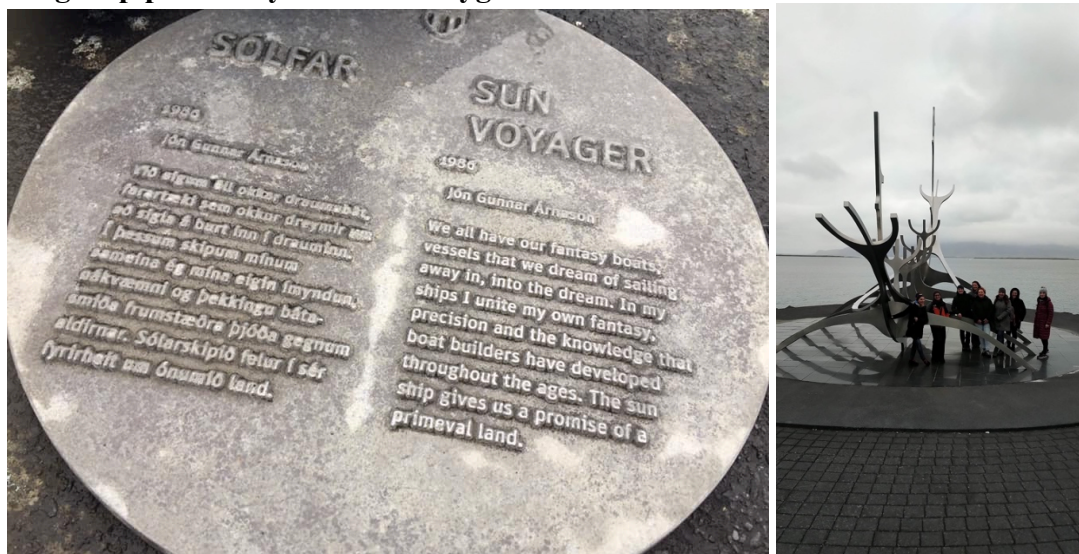
¹ Meaning, Source. The Icelandic phrase “þetta reddast” is so frequently used, it has been described as the country's motto. “Þetta reddast” can be translated to “it will all work out okay”.



First impressions in Reykjavik by ACD- Austrian team: dandelions, stones, water, light ...

Day 1.
5th of June

1st group picture by the “Sun Voyager”



Excursion to whale watching with “Andrea” boat; Engaging: supporting local initiatives, engaging in: Petition initiated by Petra Garay (CZ), signed by team’s members, documented Extending: further integration of the topic into presentation of the Austrian team with Hundertwasser art activism ecological posters. Some of us got a “seasick” 😞 but we had luck, as some of the *minke whales* jumped up, for a greet 😊



DARE TO DREAM TOGETHER

change.org/istend-whaling-in-iceland-stöðva-hvalveiðar-á-íslandi

End Whaling in Iceland / Stöðva hvalveiðar á Íslandi



Started June 25, 2022
Petition to Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture Svandís Svavarsdóttir

Why this petition matters

Started by [Jonathan Rempel](#)

ÍSLENSKA AD NEDAN / ICELANDIC BELOW

8,232 have signed. Let's get to 10,000!

[sonya serna](#) signed 4 hours ago
[Sandra Pölz](#) signed 4 hours ago

Sign this petition

First name
Last name
Email

☐ Yes! Tell me if this petition wins, and how I can help other relevant petitions.
☐ No, I don't want to hear about this petition's progress or other relevant petitions.

[Sign this petition](#)

If one person dreams alone... It is only a dream. When many people dream together... It is the beginning of a new reality"

Yoko Ono, John Lennon
^ (Friedensreich Hundertwasser)

Weblink petition:

<https://www.change.org/p/end-whaling-in-iceland-istend-whaling-in-iceland-stodva-hvalvei%C3%B0ar-%C3%B0ar-%C3%A1-%C3%ADslandi>

Inspiring environmental poster, art activism by Austrian born artist Hundertwasser

Save the Whales was founded in 1977 when Maris Sidenstecker was 14 years old, and focuses on educating the public, especially children, about marine mammals and the fragile ocean environment.



Friedensreich
Hundertwasser
777C Rettet die Wahlen
Save the Whales



777D Rettet die Meere
1982

Sources: <https://savethewhales.org/stw-resources/>
: <https://hundertwasser.com/en/ecology/777-cl-apa153-save-the-seas-1768>

The environmental campaign was initiated by Fred Banks, Harcourts Gallery, San Francisco, on the occasion of a Hundertwasser exhibition in 1981. The poster *Save the Whales* was painted and donated by Hundertwasser to Greenpeace Pacific Southwest, the poster *Save the Seas* was donated and handed over to the Jacques Cousteau Society (Cousteau Society, Norfolk) on December 11, 1982, in the West Plaza at Ghirardelli Square in the presence of Leonard Post, president of the board of directors of Greenpeace Pacific Southwest, and Jean-Michel Cousteau, executive vice president of the Cousteau Society. All proceeds went to the respective environmental organisations. On the occasion of the donation, the HUNDERTWASSER WEEK was proclaimed for San Francisco from December 5 to 11, 1982, by Dianne Feinstein, Mayor of San Francisco.

8.30 pm team meeting

in hotel lobby

Welcoming words by the host, followed by exchange of first impressions, further planning of activities during the stay by daylight night. Challenging circadian rhythm ...



Day 2

6th of June: Manufactures from now & then, to the Golden Circle, geysers ...

Thingvellir historic site and National Park

in Iceland, east of Reykjavík Þingvellir (Thingvellir), known for the Alþingi (Althing), the site of Iceland's parliament from the 10th to 18th centuries. The Park sits in a rift valley caused by the separation of 2 tectonic plates, with rocky cliffs and fissures like the huge Almannagjá fault. Þingvellir is the only UNESCO World Heritage Site on Iceland's mainland and the birthplace of the country's parliament.

<https://guidetoiceland.is/connect-with-locals/jorunnsg/ingvellir-national-park>



Geothermal bread baking guide, tasting the hot bread traditionally known as hverabrauð, served with Icelandic butter and pieces of smoked trout from the lake

Visiting Laugarvatn, Fontana, a geothermal spa with pools, saunas and a restaurant on the edge of Lake Laugarvatn which laps onto a black volcanic shoreline and has three geothermal springs. The springs provide energy for the entire village and the spring at Fontana is used for cooking the Thunder Bread.

The bread is baked dough underground in the heat of local geothermal springs for 24 hours at a depth of about one foot (30 centimeters), where the bubbling water typically reaches a temperature of 203 degrees Fahrenheit (95 degrees Celsius).

In Laugarvatn, the community has been harnessing this geothermal energy to cook and heat their homes for at least a century. Sigurður “Siggi” Rafn Hilmarsson learned how to make hot-springs bread from his grandmother. He also believes that the slow-cooking process allows the sugar and rye to combine in just the right way.

A girl from Italy provided our team with a guide and demonstrated the baking process.

Afterwards, we could also taste the slices with a excellent Icelandic butter & smoked trout (caught next to in the lake). Great energy-rich late breakfast: Calories **246** ; Total Fat 2g ; Saturated Fat 1g ; Trans Fat 0g ; Unsaturated Fat 1g. *Well _acts: listen, watch, smell, taste ..*

<https://www.fontana.is/en/rye-bread-experience>



The Golden Circle

The travel guide continued to the magic '**Golden Falls' Gullfos**, one of the most beautiful and powerful waterfalls in Iceland, which is plummeting 105 feet (32 meters) in two tiers into the river Hvita.

Gullfoss was almost lost in the early 20th century when British developers sought to harness its incredible force for hydroelectric power. With help of the Sigríður Tomasdóttir, the daughter of the landowner of the farm adjacent to the waterfall, the British developers withdrew their plans. This makes her Iceland's first environmentalist and helped establish a mindset within the country to protect the natural beauty of Iceland.

<https://guidetoiceland.is/travel-iceland/drive/gullfoss>



Well_acts: listen, watch, memorize, ...

The next magical place we have visited is located about 40 minutes from the Golden waterfall: the Geysir geothermal area with hot springs in Haukadalur valley.

The active geyser Strokkur bursts a column of boiling water to heights that reach over 40 meters every 5-10 minutes. The two smaller geysers, Smidur and Litli-Strokkur together with the Strokkur are deriving from the famous Great Geysir.

Geysir was elaborated as one of the unusual natural phenomena and initially found its name in the literature from the 18th century. It was due to earthquakes that woke Geysir up, nearly after 40 years of hibernation period; this restarted the Geysir's eruption activity.

<https://guidetoiceland.is/travel-iceland/drive/haukadalur>

Well_acts: Breathing meditation, movement meditation, walk around, active listening, patience, while waiting for the “jump” of the Strokkur





Challenge: how to describe our impressions from the visit of geysers and Golden Waterfall to our blind students?

Here is a trial with assistance of the Chat GDP open AI:

The Geysir Geothermal Area is a unique natural wonder located in southwestern Iceland. It is famous for its geysers, hot springs, and bubbling mud pools. The area is named after the Great Geysir, which is one of the oldest known geysers in the world. While the Great Geysir is currently less active, its neighboring geyser, Strokkur, steals the show with frequent eruptions that shoot hot water high into the air.

For the blind, the experience of visiting the Geysir Geothermal Area can be described through other senses. The air carries a distinct sulfuric scent, giving a hint of the geothermal activity taking place. As you approach the geysers, you can feel the warmth radiating from the ground and hear the bubbling sounds of the hot springs and mud pots. The anticipation builds as you wait for the powerful eruptions of Strokkur, signaled by a rush of water and the whooshing sound as it shoots into the sky.

Golden Waterfall (Gullfoss): The Golden Waterfall, also known as Gullfoss, is a magnificent waterfall situated in the canyon of the Hvítá River in southwestern Iceland. It is one of Iceland's most iconic natural attractions. The waterfall consists of two cascades that drop into a narrow gorge, creating a breathtaking spectacle. The name "Golden Waterfall" comes from the golden hue that the cascading water takes on in the sunlight.

To describe Gullfoss to the blind, it is important to focus on the sensory elements. As you approach the waterfall, you can feel the mist on your face and hear the roaring sound of the water as it crashes down into the gorge. The power and force of the waterfall can be felt

through the vibrations in the ground. The surrounding landscape is rugged and captivating, with rocky cliffs and vibrant green vegetation adding to the beauty of the scene. These descriptions aim to capture the essence of the Geysir Geothermal Area and Golden Waterfall in Iceland for the blind, emphasizing the sensory experiences that make these natural wonders so awe-inspiring.

Sound Golden Waterfall on Spotify <https://open.spotify.com/intl-de/track/2gFXqQt1Wf7uwD4soz6S1Y>

Team meeting in the evening at 8pm in the hotel lobby,
invitation to dinner by our host, Icelandic project partner, Ms. Ludmila Boichuk



7th of June, 2023

Visiting the Friðheimar tomato farm, tasting the tomato soup, visiting Icelandic horses, learning about the bumble bee

By using state of the art technology, and harnessing sustainable energy to provide warmth and light, the farm produces around 370 tons of the juicy red fruits each year. Three different varieties of tomatoes are grown year-round, using lighting powered by green electricity, fresh pure water for irrigation, and geothermal energy – the farm has abundant supplies of geothermal water – for heating.

Organic and biological pest control methods are used, rather than chemical pesticides. And 600 bumblebees, imported from Holland, work hard to pollinate the crop. Tomato vines and tomato ice cream, slices of homemade bread are on the menu, we have tasted the delicious tomato soup served with home-baked caraway seed rolls and have visited the Icelandic horses in the garden next to the tomato farm.



Well_acts: taste, smell, listen, see, memorize

Green Energy Workshop: Orka Natturunnar

Starting the daily visit with science & technology at the **Hellisheiði Power Station**, the eighth-largest geothermal power station in the world and largest in Iceland.

The Hellisheidi geothermal power plant was developed in an area of 13,000m² (139,930.8ft²) near Mount Hengill in the Hengill geothermal area, one of the largest high-temperature geothermal fields in Iceland, which covers an area of 110km². Power is generated using a combination of six high-pressure and one low-pressure steam turbines.

We have watched the video presentations with insights on the ***Orca carbon capture plant*** which was developed and is operated by Climeworks, a direct air CO₂ capture technology company based in Switzerland.

Icelandic company Carbfix is responsible for mixing the air-captured CO₂ with water and pumping it deep underground for natural mineralisation and permanent storage in the form of rocks. The Orca CCS facility, located adjacent to the Hellisheidi geothermal power plant, captures carbon dioxide (CO₂) directly from the air and stores it permanently as rocks in the earth's crust.

The carbon capture plant uses a modular system and is made up of eight stackable CO₂ collector units, each of which can capture 500t of CO₂ a year.

The guide on Iceland's renewable energy sources, hydropower and geothermal power has been concluded with the tasty coffee in Icelandic designed cups made from .

Sources: <https://www.power-technology.com/projects/hellisheidi-geothermal-power-plant/>



Iceland stands as a shining example of harnessing innovative technologies for sustainable energy use, demonstrating how a small nation can make a significant impact on the global stage. Through its forward-thinking approach, Iceland has harnessed its abundant renewable resources to power its communities, drive economic growth, and protect the environment. The relationship among innovative technologies for sustainable energy use in Iceland, including power plants and the utilization of thermal water for heating, exemplifies the country's commitment to a greener future. By harnessing geothermal energy and thermal resources responsibly, Iceland minimizes its environmental footprint, reduces dependence on fossil fuels, and sets an example for sustainable energy practices. Through protective measures and a focus on global collaboration, Iceland not only benefits its local population but also contributes to the broader goal of a more sustainable and resilient planet.

Travelling on Christianity lava street road

Memories of the largest lava flood in the history of Iceland, recorded in the apocalyptic medieval poem “Völuspá”, dating back to 961, were used to drive the island's end of the island's pagan pantheon and the conversion to Christianity at the turn of the millennium.

The Eldgjá lava flow, the largest eruption on the island in the past 2,000 years—according to [a new report published in the journal *Climatic Change*](#).

The earliest settlers of Iceland, a combination of Vikings and Celts around 874, were exposed to this massive eruption just two or three generations after inhabiting the island. This led to a massive cultural, health, and economic impact on the settlers during the early years.

The eruption was chronicled across Europe with accounts of a weakened blood-red Sun, cool summer, bitterly cold winter, drought, famine, and locust infestations. By the 940s there was widespread starvation and death from northern Europe to northern China.

The iconic Voluspá poem both depicts the apocalyptic eruption and marks the end of the old gods.

Sources, webpage with the Voluspá poem:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/trevornace/2018/03/19/deadly-volcanic-eruption-linked-to-icelands-conversion-to-christianity/?sh=460ef3b91dc0>

<https://phys.org/news/2018-03-volcanic-eruption-iceland-conversion-christianity.html>



*Ariving to the **Kerið***

Kerið is one of the oldest approximately three thousand years old volcanic crater **lake** in the Grímsnes area of South Iceland. This is the major reason as to why Kerið's slopes are red in colour, rather than a volcanic black. Kerið is approximately 55 metres (180 feet) deep, 170 metres (558 feet) wide and 270 meters (886 feet) in circumference. Our team took walk to the crater's edge, some of us have fully encircled the crater lake and took some blue, red, purple, lila, rosa, ... stones with, for our daydreaming practices

Icelandic well-known singer **Björk** held a concert on the floating stage:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0rc73qcdz5E>





Source: <https://guidetoiceland.is/travel-iceland/drive/kerid>

8th of June

Starting the day with presentation of our youth project team representatives from the Turkey



Team meeting in the hotel lobby

evaluation of the Module1, information on Module 2 and work schedule for Module 3; preparatory guide for the Hackathon in Paris (October 2023) in talk with organising partner from the France

Furhter attempts to arts&science: visiting Perlan museum

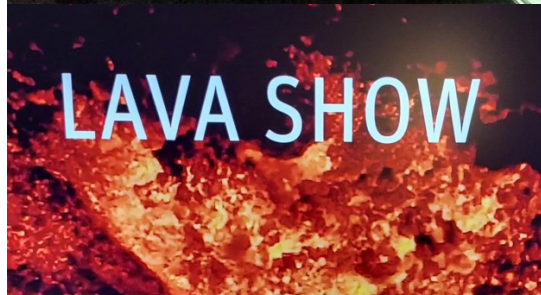
located in the heart of Reykjavík on the Öskuhlíð Hill which boasts over 176,000 planted trees.

Perlan was designed by architect Ingimundur Sveinsson and was inaugurated on June 21, 1991. The building consists of a huge glass dome that rests on top of six district heating tanks, each of which can hold about 4 million liters of geothermal water. Perlan (en. The Pearl) is a unique glass dome structure with a steel frame that serves as Perlan's furnace system. The renowned Icelandic painter Jóhannes Kjarval had the first ideas for building a beautiful building on Öskjuhlíð hill in 1930. Regarding the building, Kjarval said: “*The temple sides were to be covered with mirror slabs so that the northern lights could approach the feet of men - the roof was to be decorated with crystals in at every color, and a floodlight was to be at the top of the ridge that illuminated all the tanks. The house itself was supposed to correspond to the light of day and the symbols of the night.*”

<https://perlan.is/about-perlan>

Multisensorial experiences with insights on the most actual global climate -relate challenges, mythology, history, new technologies, arts & design

We have attended the Lava-show, watched the 3-D movie with the magical polar light Aurora Borealis in the Planetarium, visited the Ice cave on -10 °C, learned about glaciers in Iceland, have danced together in the front of the Perlan as a well_act while improvising with statues and creating music-dance performance...



School visit: by partner of the *Móðurmál* – the Association on Bilingualism our Icelandic host partner (while currently on leave)
Lunch, healthy refreshments, presentation of the Austrian team:
“Circadian Rhythm, wellbeing & resilience”, traditional song sang by a guest artist





Visiting the Hot Spring -Blue Lagoon in southwestern Iceland

Wellness, spa, relaxing, ... care&wellbeing

Exploring the human-adapted natural environment for health and wellbeing from the nearby geothermal power plant Syrtisengi where superheated water is vented from the ground near a lava flow and used to run turbines that generate electricity.

The spa is located in a lava field near Grindavík and in front of Mount Þorbjörn on Reykjanes Peninsula.

The water's milky blue shade is due to its high silica content that forms the soft white mud on the bottom of the lake which bathers rub on themselves. The water is also rich in salts and algae. The water temperature in the bathing and swimming area of the lagoon averages 37–39 °C (99–102 °F). Guests are required to shower bare naked prior to using the geothermal spa. The communal showers are split up by gender.¹

Because of its mineral concentration, water cannot be recycled and must be disposed of in the nearby landscape, a permeable lava field that varies in thickness from 50 cm (20 in) to 1 m (3.3 ft). After the minerals have formed a deposit, the water reinfilters the ground, but the deposits render the ground impermeable over time, so the plant needs to continuously dig new ponds in the nearby lava field.

We have highly enjoyed the hot spring, mineral face mask, free drink, and some movement session, cheering our colleague Petra for her birthday!!!

Weblink: <https://www.bluelagoon.com/>





9th of June

Day 5 Museums in Reykjavik, art&science

Dance impro sessions at the *Harpa* Concert Hall and Confrence Centre while visiting the innovative **CIRCULEIGHT** installation that features designs, and real-time interactive visuals inspired by eight elements: lava, basalt, glacier, water, flora, algae, microorganism and volcanic gas.

Throughout the installation, audiences are fully immersed into this world through a powerful score of original music by renowned Icelandic composer, singer and songwriter Högni Eglisson. Eglisson's music, when combined with the boundary-pushing technology that defines **ARTECHOUSE**, enables audiences to experience this unique story in a completely unforgettable way.

<https://www.harpa.is/en/hringatta-circuleight>



The Museum of Design and Applied Art

The founding charter of the Museum of Design and Applied Art states that the Museum is to collect and preserve the part of Icelandic cultural history encompassing design, especially from the beginning of the 20th century to the present day. Current exhibition:

<https://www.honnunarsafn.is/en/exhibition>

„The power of images“ by Erró

draws inspiration from our globalized world and its continuous flow of images and information. As the forefather of painted collage (that is, the practice of painting based on preparatory montages of ready-made images), he has developed an exuberant saga of consumer society and world politics, often with critical or satirical intent. Freely mixing and opposing images from different print sources and places, he has produced a dense, complex

and often disturbing oeuvre, which breaks open cultural stereotypes and hierarchies and mingles past and present, fiction and reality.

Source: <https://listasafnreykjavikur.is/en/exhibitions/erro-power-images>



From The House of Collections

A Dialogue Between Arts and Science

"Resistance is an interdisciplinary exhibition for children of all ages, that bridges the gap between visual arts and science. The works in the exhibition are all in the collection of the National Gallery of Iceland. The word resistance refers to opposition in general, but it may also be read in the context of physics: the measure of a conductive material's opposition to current flow. Resistance also signifies opposition to consumption, which we must all learn to take onboard. And resistance references essential action which must be taken by the inhabitants of this planet, against climate change."

Web sources: <https://www.listasafn.is/heimsaekja/safnahusid/>



National gallery

Glassrain is an installation from 1984, one of the first of Rúrí's many works that address the theme of time and menace.

The exhibition *Into the Valley in Late Autumn* is made up of large watercolours painted in the past two years; artist Sigtryggur Bjarni Baldvinsson focusses on the natural environment in Héðisfjörður, north Iceland, in late autumn. Over the past 17 years, Sigtryggur's art has increasingly been inspired by Héðinsfjörður, an uninhabited fjord between Ólafsfjörður and Siglufjörður, where the artist has been documenting nature through the act of painting.

The flora of the fjord reflects the equilibrium that subsists in largely untouched terrain; the area documented by the artist has been uninhabited for more than a century. Since he started to work in the region he has observed fluctuations in weather, flora and fauna in Héðinsfjörður. Fish migration has become unpredictable, and repeated heavy rainstorms in midsummer have led to flooding, with landslides. The swelling of rivers erodes verdant land and rivers change their course, while fish migrating up rivers to spawn are swept back out to sea.

<https://www listasafn.is/en/>



Challenge: find the way across the installation, move across and under the glass strokes, imagine the rain, describe the sound, describe the feeling while staying among the glass strokes ...

Art on the Airpoart Keflavik

DIRECTIONS (ÁTTIR)

Directions (“Áttir”) is a sculptural installation by Steinunn Þórarinsdóttir (born in 1955). It features four human-like figures all cast in aluminium from the same mould. Standing on Icelandic basalt columns, each figure faces one of the four cardinal directions. The sculpture is about three metres high and stands within a three-metre diameter circle. If the circle is envisioned within a square, this gives the piece the dimensions 3m x 3m x 3m. Directions was unveiled at the inauguration of the Leifur Eiríksson Air Terminal in April 2007 following extensive renovations. It originally stood in the terminal’s commercial area, but was relocated outside the arrivals hall in consultation with the artist in June 2017.

The sculptor has said of the work: “Of course, the piece strongly suggests travel by pointing in the four cardinal directions. It also refers to the fact that we can all lose direction in life, at which point it becomes necessary to find the right way.”

<https://www.isavia.is/en/keflavik-airport/about-kef/art-at-the-airport>



Challenge: what helps you find your directions in life? How blind people are orienting in the space?

SILVER SABLER

This work by Icelandic postmodern artist Erró (born in 1932) is a mural of hand-painted ceramic tiles. It is a replica of a painting of the same name dating from 1999, here enlarged to a ceramic version of 11 x 4.5 metres. The piece partly deals with the legends of the skies, the rootlessness of modern life and the air terminal as a place of adventurous possibilities.

It was installed in 2017 in the terminal's commercial area.

The artist Erró, born Guðmundur Guðmundsson in 1932 in Ólafsvík, West Iceland, was among the most prominent figures of the European avant-garde of the 1960s. In the history of art of that period, his name is associated not only with the renewal of pictorial figuration, due to his invention of narrative collage-paintings, but also with the Happenings movement and experimental cinema



Challenge: how many faces you see? In what direction Describe the artwork for the blind

THE JET NEST (ÞOTUHREIÐUR)

The Jet Nest (“Þotuhreiður”) is by Icelandic artist Magnús Tómasson (born in 1943). The sculpture shows a large egg from which a “new-born” jet aircraft is hatching like a bird’s young. The steel egg is perched on a nest of rocks. The artist, Magnús Tómasson, says the idea for the piece was born many years ago: “I was working on a series on the history of birds, which included a small hen’s egg with a beak poking out. I developed this idea further and the result is The Jet Nest, my largest piece.” The sculpture stands at a total height of about 9 metres in the centre of a lit-up pond at the terminal’s north side. The stainless-steel egg is 5.6 metres tall, 4.2 metres wide and weighs more than five tonnes. The nest of rocks on which the egg is positioned is 14 metres in diameter and the pond covers an area of 1,800 square metres.



Challenge: What birds you have discovered in Iceland? How this artwork inspires you to reflect on now born life?

BRAIN

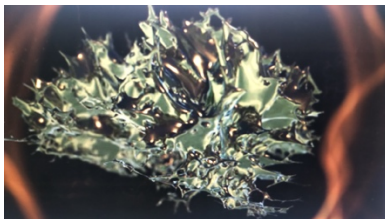
Brain (2014-2067) by Haraldur Karlson

The power of the electronic image as a surface of mediation is shown in these works. As a surface, the screen mediates the inner and outer, both of which are a certain projection from one's own consciousness that regulates how we perceive and differentiate between internal and external stimuli. The screen becomes a place of transference, a glimpse of expansion from which to interpret the miasma of senses collecting information from your surroundings.

However, the surface is also where connection and empathy takes place - where we touch, and are touched in turn by experience.

The way in which we experience images can help us find ways in which to read the world. The non-place of the airport is a multi-local site in which many events occur - taking journeys from one place to another, arriving, departing, flying and landing, accumulating sensations and experiences and being open for new ones. With the multitude of screens vying for our attention as we process our experiences, the image of a thing is presented to us as a surface tension of reality. The screen is presented to us as an entity itself, although one whose surface is projective, an omnipotent presence that can be refashioned like a cloth showing the surface tensions of the cultural impressions it absorbs. The screen is also a historically mnemonic place of encounter where recollections and reimaginings all take place within the same frame. As in Walter Benjamin's unfinished Arcades Project, begun in 1927, to chart the sometimes overwhelming visual cues in public, commercial spaces characterizes the history of modernity and its obsession with visual surfaces. The play of surface, in fact, is the history of modern visibility, ornamentation, and the very aesthetic roots from which we project the screen's surface.

Text by Erin Honeycutt. Source: <https://www.isavia.is/en/keflavik-airport/about-kef/art-at-the-airport>



Challenge: reflect on your impressions while watching digital images, how such surface affects your perception and imagination

Well, it was a very intensive and lifelong learning experience in Iceland, grateful for the opportunity to visit the magical country with the ERASMUS+ project team, as such a frame enables a multifold experience, collaborative work connected with creative engagement in activities and mediations on and visiting places, exchange of perceptions, interactive reflection, intercultural dialogue. Enriching and nourishing explorative learning that will last and will be included into our project activities, disseminated, and adapted to previous experiences. On the way to the airport, Taras (the driver) brought us to the nearby place where the Euro-Asian tectonic plates are meeting. We also saw the sun (at 11pm) and the rainbow! With that final act, we can best describe our magical experiences in Iceland, connected with kindness, love&light of the people & nature!

Cordial thanks to our host project partner and her team, cordial thanks to all the team members and to kind Icelandic people for their friendly hospitality!

Þakka þér fyrir!

Tatjana Christlebauer, ACD-Agency for Cultural diplomacy Austria
Vienna 16th of June 2023

