

UPDATED RELEASE

October 3, 2018

Media Contacts:

Hayley Barton, 202.387.2151 x235
hbarton@phillipscollection.org

Third Eye

Tyler Mahowald, 212.355.9099 x311
tyler@hellothirdeye.com

Online Press Room:

www.phillipscollection.org/press

THE PHILLIPS PRESENTS *NORDIC IMPRESSIONS*

**Art from Åland, Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden,
1821–2018**



WASHINGTON—A major survey of nearly 200 years of Nordic art, featuring many works never seen before in the U.S., will be presented by The Phillips Collection this fall. The exhibition, *Nordic Impressions: Art from Åland, Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden, 1821-2018*, includes works by 53 artists, spanning paintings to video installations. The exhibition will be on view October 13, 2018, through January 13, 2019.

Nordic Impressions pays tribute to the artistic excellence of 19th- and 20th-century Nordic painters, such as Edvard Munch, Akseli Gallen-Kallela, Vilhelm Hammershøi, Anders Zorn, and Jóhannes S. Kjarval. Celebrating the considerable artistic diversity in Nordic art, the broad spectrum of works feature both the expected (sublime landscapes and melancholic portraits) and the unexpected (abstract and conceptual art). Prominent contemporary artists include Katrín Sigurdardóttir, Ragnar Kjartansson, and Ólafur Elíasson from Iceland; Israeli-born Danish painter Tal R; Norwegian performance and video artist Tori Wrånes; Swedish painter Mamma Andersson; and Sámi artists Outi Pieski and Britta Marakatt-Labba.

“We are thrilled to showcase the art of the Nordic countries. It has been very satisfying to have worked over the past few years with the embassies that are our neighbors here in Washington, DC, and with our

many colleagues who have such rich expertise,” said **Dorothy Kosinski, Vradenburg Director and CEO of The Phillips Collection.**

The works are made by artists across generations, locations throughout the Nordic regions, sample a spectrum of media, and feature many women artists, such as Danish painters Anna Ancher and Franciska Clausen; Swedish painter Fanny Brate; Greenlandic painter, photographer, and writer Pia Arke; Finnish painters Helene Schjerfbeck and Greta Hällfors-Sipilä; Norwegian artists Oda Krohg and Tori Wrånes; and Hrafnhildur Arnardóttir / Shoplifter, who will be representing Iceland in the 2019 Venice Biennale.

Duncan Phillips believed in the continuity of art across time and the rich themes and practices apparent in these artworks, spanning nearly 200 years, would have fascinated him. “This show is a culmination of my impressions from the works I saw after traveling throughout the Nordic regions,” said **Klaus Ottmann, Chief Curator and Deputy Director for Academic Affairs** at the Phillips. “My selection of works and artists is personal—much like how Duncan Phillips acquired works for his collection. I was in awe that each of them have something so different to offer artistically, but that they are tied together by themes that have held a special place in Nordic culture for centuries: light and darkness, inwardness, the coalescence of nature and folklore, women’s rights and social liberalism. But these are now paired with more current subjects such as climate change, sustainability, and immigration.”

The Phillips Collection is the only museum where this exhibition will be on view. A contemporary-only version of the exhibition, *Northern Exposure: Contemporary Nordic Arts Revealed*, was on view at the Nordic Museum in Seattle from May 5 through September 16, 2018.

NORDIC CULTURAL INITIATIVE

The exhibition is the culmination of a multi-year Nordic Cultural Initiative, a collaboration between The Phillips Collection and the Washington, DC-based embassies of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden, launched in 2014 to promote the wealth of Nordic artistic talent.

EXHIBITION CREDITS

The exhibition is organized by
The Phillips Collection.

With generous support from the
Marion F. Goldin Charitable Fund,
Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation,
and the scan|design foundation

In-kind support is provided by
FARROW & BALL



IMAGE GALLERY

High-resolution press images for *Nordic Impressions* are available upon request. Please contact hbarton@phillipscollection.org or 202.387.2151 x235.

CATALOGUE

The exhibition will be accompanied by a major publication, with a lead essay by Dr. Ottmann and contributions from five scholars of Nordic art: Dorthe Aagesen, chief curator and senior researcher, SMK Copenhagen; Kasper Monrad, former chief curator and senior researcher, SMK Copenhagen; Riitta Ojanperä, director of collections management, Finnish National Gallery; Nils Ohlsen, director of old masters and modern art, The National Museum of Art, Architecture, and Design; and Carl-Johan Olsson, curator, 19th-century painting, Nationalmuseum, Stockholm.

ABOUT THE PHILLIPS COLLECTION

The Phillips Collection, America's first museum of Modern art, presents one of the world's most distinguished Impressionist and American Modern art collections. Including paintings by Renoir and Rothko, Bonnard and O'Keeffe, van Gogh, Diebenkorn, Daumier and Lawrence, among others, the museum continues to actively collect new acquisitions, many by contemporary artists such as Wolfgang Laib, Whitfield Lovell, and Leo Villareal. Its distinctive building combines extensive new galleries with the former home of its founder, Duncan Phillips. The Phillips's impact spreads nationally and internationally through its highly distinguished special exhibitions, programs, and events that catalyze dialogue surrounding continuity between art of the past and present. Among the Phillips's esteemed programs are its award-winning education programs for K-12 teachers, students, and adults, well established Phillips Music series and sell-out Phillips after 5 events. The museum contributes to the art conversation on a global scale with its events like Conversations with Artists and the International Forum. The Phillips Collection values its community partnerships with The University of Maryland and THEARC that act as the museum's nexus for academic work, scholarly exchange, and interdisciplinary collaborations. The Phillips Collection is a private, non-government museum, supported primarily by donations.

LEFT IMAGE: Outi Pieski, *Crossing Paths*, 2014, wood and threads, courtesy of the artist

RIGHT IMAGE: J.C. Dahl, *Norwegian Landscape with a Rainbow*, 1821, oil on canvas, 25 5/8 x 32 in., SMK Copenhagen

###