



ARTICA
SVALBARD

ANNUAL REPORT
2020

ARTICA



3 INTRODUCTION

**4 ABOUT ARTICA
SVALBARD**

**6 OUR ARTIST
RESIDENCY
PROGRAMME
IN 2020**

**11 OUR PROJECTS
AND EVENTS
IN 2020**

**19 WHAT ARE WE
DOING IN 2021?**

**21 ORGANISATION
AND KEY
PARTNERS**



INTRODUCTION

After a year marked by challenges and reflection, I feel incredibly humbled that I have been able to relocate to a place not untouched by the pandemic but still a 'safe zone' in terms of the infection. I moved to Svalbard in November after being in quarantine in Tromsø to begin my new role as Director of Artica Svalbard.

The planned programme for 2020 changed overnight with postponed international residents and quick thinking from our key partners to invite artists and writers based in Norway. We are incredibly grateful to those who joined us here in Longyearbyen at short notice. The programme was reactive, engaging and necessary, in a time when culture can provide sustenance, light and hope.

I would like to thank our founders, the Norwegian Ministry of Culture, Fritt Ord (the Freedom of Expression Foundation) and the Cultural Business Development Foundation of the bank SpareBank1 Nord-Norge. Our key partners, Norwegian PEN, the Office for Contemporary Art Norway (OCA) and Queen Sonja Print Award and our board.

As a collective we are hopeful for what 2021 will bring.

– Charlotte Hetherington, Director

ABOUT ARTICA SVALBARD



ABOUT ARTICA SVALBARD

The purpose of Artica Svalbard is to facilitate artistic and cultural production and activities on Svalbard, and to support the development of Norwegian art and culture by enabling artists in all genres to create and present their art.

The foundation shall have an Arctic and international focus and shall use public events to increase knowledge about the High North and to highlight how art helps us to interpret the Arctic, as well as contributing to fields such as culture, geopolitics, climate change, migration and minorities.

Artica Svalbard's vision: Art is present wherever important questions are being asked. Svalbard is such a place in our time.

Artica Svalbard was founded in 2016 by the Norwegian Ministry of Culture, Fritt Ord (the Freedom of Expression Foundation) and the Cultural Business Development Foundation of the bank SpareBank1 Nord-Norge. The work of the foundation has been made possible by their financial support.

OUR ARTIST RESIDENCY PROGRAMME IN 2020



THE ARTIST RESIDENCY PROGRAMME AND NOMINATED ARTISTS IN 2020

Artists and authors from all over the world are invited to the residency programme to work on a variety of projects related to the Arctic and the High North. We offer a well-equipped workshop, studio space and tailored research for artists and authors of different disciplines.

Our three Key Partners – Norwegian PEN, the Office for Contemporary Art Norway (OCA) and the Queen Sonja Print Award – are responsible for nominating artists and authors for our residency programme. Our partners help to give greater credibility to the residency programme. With the help of Artica's team, the artists who come here are all able to develop their projects and share them with the general public through our events programme.

Nominated artists-in-residence who spent time at Artica Svalbard in 2020:

Nominated by Norwegian PEN

- Harald Bøckmann
- Montaser Abdel Mawjood Hassan
- Rune Ottosen
- Ole Robert Sunde

Nominated by the Queen Sonja Print Award

- Julie Ebbing
- Patrik Berg
- Daniel Persson

Nominated by the Office for Contemporary Art Norway (OCA)

- Ignas Krunglevičius

**BIOGRAPHIES
OF ARTISTS IN
RESIDENCE IN 2020**

**QUEEN SONJA
PRINT AWARD**

Julie Ebbing

holds an MA in Art and Craft from Oslo National Academy of the Arts. According to Ebbing the printed picture holds a long history as a medium for social and political commentary. In today's society we are living in a constant feed of pictures which easily lose their meaning. Through her graphics she can repeat and highlight different issues and fill the pictures with meaning again. Art becomes a medium for reflection and dwelling so that we can become observers and producers again. Not only consumers.

Ebbing has received grants from Nord-Trøndelag fylkeskommune, kunstneres vederlagsfond og Norske Bildende kunstnere. She has also received the Kjell Nupen memorial grant, nominated by the Academy of Arts.



Julie Ebbing in front of Artica workshop

Daniel Persson

(born 1974) is a Swedish visual artist living and working in Bergen. He works primary on paper with printmaking and photography. He's interested in the landscape that surrounds us. In the things and gadgets we identify ourselves with and the marks that we leave behind. In photography and printmaking, often large-scale screen printing based on his photographs, he explores the boundary between abstraction and classic depiction of landscapes.

Persson holds a BA in printmaking from Bergen Academy of Art and Design. For a number of years he has been working with colleagues to run Trykkeriet - a leading center for contemporary printmaking in the nordic region.

**OFFICE FOR CONTEMPORARY
ART NORWAY (OCA)**

Ignas Krunglevičius

(born 1979, Kaunas, Lithuania) currently lives and works in Oslo. He received his MA in music composition from Norwegian Academy of Music in 2010. From 2011 is co-directing the artist-run exhibition space Podium Oslo. His installations, videos, and sculpture often combine sound, and text, where he explores the intermix between the agency of power, economy, nature and existential realities generated by global technological development.

Krunglevičius' works have been exhibited at the OCT Contemporary Art Terminal, Shanghai, China; Moscow International Biennale for Young Art, Russia; Kunsthall Oslo, Norway; Ultima, Oslo, Norway; Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, USA; Transmediale, HKW, Berlin, Germany; La Biennale di Venezia, Nordic pavilion, Italy and The 19th Sydney Biennial, Australia, amongst others.



Daniel Persson hosting a drypoint printing workshop for Longyearbyen's youth. Photo credit: Didrik Paulsen

NORWEGIAN
PEN

Rune Ottosen

(born 1950) is Professor emeritus in journalism at OsloMet – Oslo Metropolitan University. He has written extensively on press history and media coverage of war and conflicts. He is the co-editor (with Tormod Heier and Terje Tvedt) of the book *Libya. Krigenes uutholdelig letthet*. He is co-author with Stig Arne Nohrstedt of several books, the latest *New War, New Media and New War Journalism* (2014). In 2010 he was one of the editors and co-author of the four volume *Norwegian Press History, Norsk Presses historie (1767-2010)*.

Rune Ottosen was for many years president of the Norwegian Association of Press History (2009-2015) and was president of The Norwegian Non-fiction Writers and Translator Association 2001-2005. He is a vice president of Norwegian PEN 2018-2019 and is currently the head of the whistleblower commission in Norwegian PEN. Ottosen is a member of the Norwegian UNESCO-commission. He is currently writing about the new cold war and implications for Svalbard and Norway.

Patrik Berg

(born 1982, Härnosand, Sweden) is an Oslo-based artist who works mainly with drawing and printmaking. Berg is true to the medium of print and interested in its status as a complex artistic practice rather than a method of reproduction. He combines the traditions of Albrecht Dürer and Henry Darger while addressing questions about ecology, ornament, composition and language. Berg earned his BA from the Bergen Academy of Art and Design in 2012 and completed his MFA studies in Medium and Material-Based Art at the Oslo National academy of the Arts in 2015.



Montaser Abdel Mawjoood Hassan

Based in Trondheim, Hassan is an Egyptian poet and author. Hassan has published several poetry collections, among them *Thamat Ashiaa lan yogrebha* (2012) and *Huroob wa Haza'em* (2004).

His *Poems* have been published all over the world ranging from Dubai Cultural to *Mina Magazine*.

Hassan has participated in several literature festivals in Norway and abroad (Lillehammer literature festival, Grenada international poetry festival, *Voix vois in Sete*).

Harald Bøckmann

After working at the University of Oslo as a researcher on China at the Centre for Development and the Environment, Harald Bøckman (born 1945) has, until recently, been a senior guest researcher at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Bøckman has been studying and researching China for over fifty years, including at Peking University in 1976-77 and as a Fulbright scholar at Cornell University in 1983-85. He co-founded the Nordic Association for China Studies, and for two years in the 1990s he was General Secretary of the European Association for Chinese Studies. His main



research interests have revolved around topics such as China's past and present political culture, past and present ethnic relations in China and modern Chinese nationalism.

He has translated classical and modern China prose and poetry into Norwegian, some jointly with his late wife, the university lecturer Baisha Liu, as well as two novels by the first Chinese winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature, Gao Xingjian. In 2009, together with Baisha Liu and the Chinese poet Xi Chuan, he recreated a large collection of Olav H. Hauge's poetry in Chinese.

Born in 1952, he made his debut in 1982 with the poetry collection *Hakk i hæl*. Since his second book, *Fra dette punktet trekker jeg en omkrets* (1982), he has used a variety of genres – poetry, essays, prose and novels – to develop a remarkable, heterogeneous body of work. He has won the Aschehoug Prize and Gyldendal Prize for his writing. His novel *Krigen var min families historie* (2012) was nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize.

**EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORTS
WE'VE RECEIVED FROM THE
ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE**

My project is to write an essay about how Svalbard's population is affected by living on the front line of the tensions between NATO and Russia, with the radars being a constant bone of contention in relation to the Svalbard Treaty's prohibition against military activity. ... Over the course of my stay here, the focus of the project has been revised slightly. I have become less concerned with the extent to which the activities of Svalsat formally break the Svalbard Treaty and more concerned with the ethical and national security aspects of operating the radars compared with other ethical issues – above all climate change and the impact of mass tourism.

– Rune Ottosen
(Nominated by Norwegian PEN, 2020)

It was a great surprise and honour to be invited to Artica, and my stay, which has been incredibly important to my artistic output this year, will certainly inform my artistic practice in the future. ... In a slightly opaque or perhaps private way, I can see that the works produced during my residency focus more strongly on a kind of philosophical examination of deep geological time in relation to, or contrasted with, the ongoing climate catastrophe and the extinction of all other species on the planet.

– Patrik Berg
(Nominated by Norwegian PEN, 2020)

During my stay I have worked on several projects: ECHOPRAXIA – a noise opera, which will premiere at Kunsthall Oslo in April 2021, a music composition for Oslo Sinfonietta that will be performed at Henie Onstad Art Center in 2021. I also used the time to work on a series of large format photographs taken during the dark days in Longyearbyen.

Overall the residency provided me an opportunity to work on ideas and projects with more depth and concentration. The location and incredibly helpful Artica crew made the stay very rewarding.

– Ignas Krunglevičius
(Nominated by the Office for Contemporary Art Norway, OCA)

Ignas Krunglevičius' artist talk at Artica



Rune Ottosen lecturing at Longyearbyen Public Library

OUR PROJECTS AND EVENTS IN 2020



**CRISTINA LUCAS,
FLAGS OF SVALBARD CITIZENS,
2019**

In February we welcomed back artist Cristina Lucas who first joined us in 2019, nominated by the Office for Contemporary Art Norway (OCA). Lucas presented the final part of the Artica Listens 2019 project, *Flags of Svalbard Citizens*. This interactive artwork was created by deconstructing the flags of the 44 nations, from the 1920 Svalbard Treaty, into 3D sculptural elements for the current citizens of Svalbard to recreate their own flag design and identity.

This event generated new discussions amongst the community around sovereignty and for the children of Svalbard, they enjoyed creating their own unique flags, working together in groups or alone imposing their own thoughts and rules of a complex society.

Artica Listens 2019 was co-curated by Artica Svalbard and the Office for Contemporary Art Norway (OCA)





ARTICA LISTENS 2020

Together with our Key Partner Norwegian PEN, this year's edition of Artica Listens focused on some of the most urgent issues that Svalbard and its inhabitants are facing. We live in a time where mining is being phased out, tourism is growing, the proportions of Norwegians living on Svalbard is declining and climate change is affecting both nature and people. In light of the 100-year-old Svalbard Treaty we asked questions like; where will the road go from here? What will Svalbard become, and for whom?

Artica Listens 2020 was a digital event in four parts, which can be watched on our website. We published one episode hosted by Line Nagell Ylvisåker and Anne Grosvold, every Saturday during August. The event consisted of conversations mainly between locals from Svalbard and previous artists in residence but also other experts in their fields.

During August we saw record numbers of people visiting our website and an increase in followers on social media. The last episode was broadcasted live from Litteraturhuset in Oslo, where we also had a live 'in person' audience.

This year's Artica Listens successfully managed to focus on some of the key issues Svalbard is facing in the future, providing a platform for open dialogue without necessarily answering all the questions but offering a different perspective from a variety of fields.

Links to a live stream of the event:

Part 1: <https://vimeo.com/445785281>

Part 2: <https://vimeo.com/448050138>

Part 3: <https://vimeo.com/450439147>

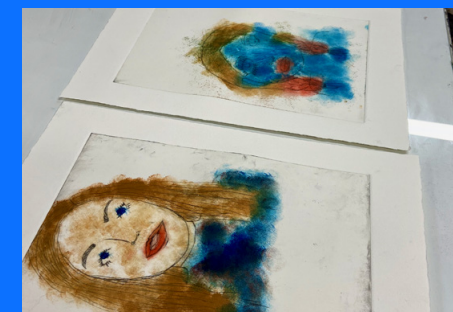
Part 4: <https://vimeo.com/452832124>



WORKSHOP WITH DANIEL PERSSON

In October 2020 Daniel Persson was an artist in residence nominated by our Key Partner Queen Sonja Print Award. During his stay the printmaker held a workshop in drypoint printing for some of Longyearbyen's youth. Using plexiglass as the printing plate the participants drew portraits of each other, before the plates were filled with ink and pressed onto paper.

The participants used several different colours and experimented as they printed several times, washing the plates in between each print. The workshop was well received and we aim to do more printing workshops in 2021.





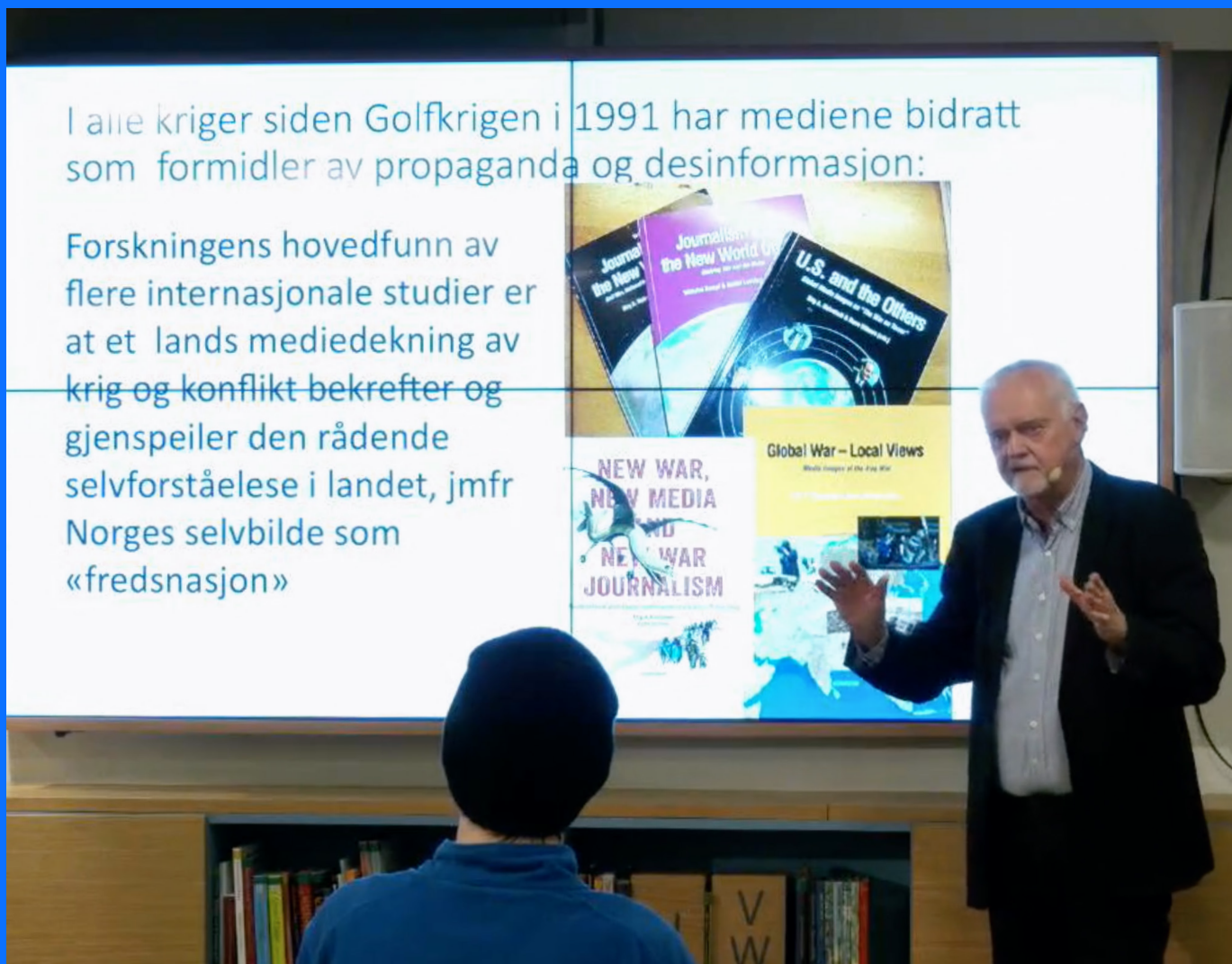
**SVALBARD EXPLORER,
PATRIK BERG**

Gallery Svalbard and Artica Svalbard collaborated for the first time this autumn on an exhibition with a residency artist. After spending the summer here in Longyearbyen, Patrik Berg created a new body of work inspired by his experiences and the surroundings of Svalbard, in a year of record breaking heat. The opening night of the exhibition was well attended by the local community and Patrik was able to return to Longyearbyen and enjoy the fruits of his labour.

During Patrik's stay a local photographer and filmmaker, Max Schweiger spent time in Artica's studio recording Patrik as he went about his work. The film was completed at the exhibition opening and shared online via the Svalbardposten.

We were very pleased with this collaboration and hope it is something that can continue in the future.





OTHER EVENTS

Julie Ebbing, artist talk

Local journalist Line Ylvisåker hosted a conversation with artist Julie Ebbing, discussing her stay on Svalbard and her art practice. Ebbing was in residence at Artica Svalbard nominated by our Key Partner Queen Sonja Print Award.

Link to a podcast of the artist talk (in Norwegian):

<https://soundcloud.com/user-335325196/kunstnersamtale-med-julie-ebbing>

Rune Ottosen, lecture

Norway's self-image is largely based on the authorities considering themselves a "humanitarian superpower" and a peace broker. In this lecture, Rune Ottosen questions whether this gives a correct picture. Rune Ottosen was in residence at Artica Svalbard nominated by our Key Partner Norwegian PEN.

Er Norge en krigs- eller fredsnasjon?

Link to a live stream of the event (in Norwegian):

<https://vimeo.com/464123236>

Montaser Hassan, artist talk

Kristin Mork in conversation with poet Montaser Hassan about his work, sharing a selection of poems both in Arabic and translated into English. Hassan was an Artist in Residence at Artica Svalbard nominated by Key Partner Norwegian PEN.

Link to a podcast of the artist talk (in English):

<https://soundcloud.com/user-335325196/20200826-artica>



OTHER EVENTS

Harald Bøckman, lectures

During his stay in Longyearbyen, Harald Bøckman gave three lectures at Longyearbyen Public Library about China, with a special focus on the High North. Harald Bøckman was in residence at Artica Svalbard nominated by our Key Partner Norwegian PEN.

Links to live stream of the events
(in Norwegian):

Drømmen om Kina – Forestillinger om Vesten:

<https://vimeo.com/393430125>

Kinas blikk på verden i dag:

<https://vimeo.com/393432487>

Kinas strategi i de polare områdene:

<https://vimeo.com/397017088>

Ignas Krunglevičius, artist talk

Ignas Krunglevičius joined Artica Svalbard for a month-long residency. In his final week we hosted an informal evening talk to hear more about his practice. Ignas was an artist in residence at Artica Svalbard, nominated by our Key Partner Office for Contemporary Art Norway (OCA).

Link to a live stream of the artist talk
(in English):

<https://vimeo.com/485475515>

Ole Robert Sunde

Ole Robert Sunde was artist in residence at Artica Svalbard in 2018 and 2020. During his second stay on Svalbard he shared his experiences in a conversation with Librarian Lars Holt. Sunde has been nominated for his stay at Artica Svalbard by our key partner Norwegian PEN.

Link to a podcast of the event (in Norwegian):
<https://soundcloud.com/user-335325196/forfatterkveld-med-ole-robert-sunde>



Ole Rober Sunde and Lars Holt in discussion at Longyearbyen Public Library. Photo credit: Charlotte Hetherington



ARTICA WRITINGS

Artica Writings is a curated series of disparate texts relating to the Arctic which is published throughout the year. The series aims to influence critical thinking as well as sharing knowledge on urgent issues.

The Artica Writings programme continued in 2020 with some engaging essays by a variety of contributors:

Randi Nygård, artist

<https://articasvalbard.no/post/randi-nygard-dei-viltlevande-marine-ressursane-ligg-til-fellesskapet/>

Leif Magne Helgesen, Priest and author

<https://articasvalbard.no/post/leif-magne-helgesen-kunsten-a-se-fremover/>

Ole Arve Misund, Director of the Norwegian Polar Institute

<https://articasvalbard.no/post/ole-arve-misund-svalbardforskning-ikke-i-traktaten-men-omfattende-allikevel/>

WHAT ARE WE DOING IN 2021?



FUTURE PROGRAMME

Artica Svalbard will continue working towards offering a world class residency programme. Working with our Key Partners we are developing new projects linked to our residency programme, independent projects and local events.

2020 has been a challenging year with postponed residencies and projects which we aim to move into 2021. Below is an outline of a selection of those we hope to achieve.

Nominated Residents in 2021

Queen Sonja Print Award

- Andreas Siqueland
- Ragna Grønstad
- Petter Buhagen
- Timothy Crisp

Office for Contemporary Art Norway (OCA)

- Jessica MacMillan

Norwegian PEN

Nominations to be announced pending applications

EVENTS / PROJECTS

Artica Listens 2021

A yearly event focussing on current issues

Artica Writings

A yearly commission which focuses on a chosen subject. This year we look to the ocean in line with the launch of the UN Decade for Ocean Science

Workshops for the community as part of the Sun Festival 2021

Artica will take part in this local festival and host a workshop for the Longyearbyen community

Literature Festival

We will continue our relationship with this key event in Longyearbyen

Longyearbyen Film Club

Artica Svalbard will continue its partnership with the film club which brings international films and filmmakers with an environmental focus to Longyearbyen.



ORGANISATION AND KEY PARTNERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The board is responsible for supervising that the foundation adheres to its purpose and manages its capital responsibly. The board members are nominated by the founders, while the Chair is chosen jointly by them.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020

Chair of the Board

Anne Berit Figenschau

Board Members

Anne Katrine Dolven

Marit Anne Hauan

Kjetil Trøedahl Thorsen

Jan Martin Berg

Moa Björnson (vara)

THE ARTICA TEAM

Director

Charlotte Hetherington

Coordinator

Didrik Paulsen

KEY PARTNERS

Norwegian PEN, which was founded in 1922, is the Norwegian division of PEN International, the world's largest organisation dedicated to promoting the rights of writers and freedom of expression. Norwegian PEN focuses on activities related to freedom of expression, and it strives to increase public awareness of the value of free debate and free expression, nationally and internationally. The organisation helps writers, journalists and publishers in countries where freedom of speech and freedom of information is under pressure, where colleagues are harassed, persecuted, monitored and imprisoned because they exercise their right to express their opinion. Norwegian PEN administers the Norwegian part of the international cities of refuge for persecuted writers. The network is run by ICORN (International Cities of Refuge Network). Today, there are 17 Norwegian cities of refuge; more than 80 persecuted writers have come to Norway as ICORN guest writers since 1995.

Office for Contemporary Art Norway (OCA) is a non-profit foundation created in 2001 by the Norwegian Ministries of Culture and of Foreign Affairs. Its principle aim is to foster dialogue between art practitioners in Norway and the international arts scene, and to support artists and cultural practitioners based in Norway in their activities around the world. To this end, OCA's discursive, exhibition, publication, residency (in Oslo and internationally) and visitor research programmes focus on bringing to Norway the plurality of practices and histories at the forefront of international artistic debates; they are very involved with actively participating in such debates nationally and internationally. OCA has been responsible for Norway's contribution to the visual arts section of La Biennale di Venezia since 2001.

The Queen Sonja Print Award (QSPA) was founded in 2011 by HM Queen Sonja of Norway and the renowned Norwegian artists Kjell Nupen and Ørnulf Opdahl, together with master printer Ole Larsen (of Helsingborg, Sweden). The QSPA Foundation's objective is to generate interest in and elevate contemporary graphic art, especially among emerging artists. The Foundation wishes to encourage the art of printmaking and inspire ambitious artists to establish themselves on the international art scene. QSPA bestows what is currently the world's largest international print award on an emerging artist working within printmaking. In addition to this award, the Kjell Nupen Memorial Grant is awarded to a young and promising graphic artist from a Nordic country, an artist still in education or one who has just finished his/her art training. The QSPA Foundation collaborates with prominent museums, artists, curators and fine art print publishers from around the world in order to support and stimulate this important artistic field.



←
Artica team – Charlotte Hetherington and Didrik Paulsen.
Photo credit: Anne Berit Figenschau