



## **Introduction**

After a successful series of experimental concerts on Iceland's east coast, artists Elvar Már Kjartansson, Helgi Örn Pétursson and Konrad Korabiewski, joined forces to develop the vision and idea of establishing a centre for sound art and experimental music in Seydisfjörður, Iceland.

The centre and art collective was founded in September 2011 and given the name 'Skálar' in the honour of the Icelandic pioneer of electronic music, Magnús Blöndal Jóhannsson.

## **Focus**

Like other genres of contemporary art, sound art is interdisciplinary in nature and easily takes on new and hybrid forms. Seeking to support artistic depth and quality, the aim of Skálar is to provide a platform for experimentation, collaborations, presentations, studies and inspiration to professional artists and students in good working facilities. It hopes to work with related institutions in the field to create opportunities for international exchange and networking.

## **Experimental music studio / Sound-lab and Residency**

The centre aims to provide studio and sound laboratory facilities for composers and artists experimenting with sound-art, experimental music and sound installation, regardless of their geographic origin or creative goals. Applicants to the centre will be chosen based on their qualifications related to a project proposal and through samples of their work. Additionally, an artist in residence program will be offered at the centre which will provide accommodation for the artists. Artists may also come via the recommendation of partnered institutions and organizations.



## **Workshops / lectures / seminars / master-classes**

The centre will highlight the dissemination of studies through workshops, seminars and lectures.

It will also provide working and study facilities for more practical matters such as (re)-building and recycling old instruments and electronic devices.

Master-classes will be led by international artists, composers and performers. Using lectures on the history of the medium as well as direct guidance in the methods of working with sound.

These will aim to encourage innovation and challenge in art and experimental music.

## **Sound Art Festival and Skálar FM - Radio-Art**

In October 2012, Skálar Centre For Sound-Art And Experimental Music is establishing an annual international Sound Art Festival, in order to present a wide range of original artistic expression of experimental music and sound-art found within other media platforms. The Skálar Centre will operate a radio station called Skálar FM, which will focus on all aspects of sound and radio-art in the form of broadcast transmissions and podcasts produced by the centre's artists in residency, and connected collaborators.

The Skálar Centre hopes the radio station will be an integral component to its operations, and that it will play an important role towards establishing an international network of independent radio stations.

## Why Seyðisfjörður?

In spite of its size, Seyðisfjörður has a rich cultural history and a vibrant artistic community which has been part of the international art scene for years. Many artists, both Icelandic and international, make it their residence for the summer months or for some, the whole year round. The renowned artist Dieter Roth lived there for much of his later years. The Skaftell Center of Visual Art runs an exhibition space and three artist residencies. The town also has various smaller exhibition places, and the only cinema of the East Fjords. The sound sculpture Tvisöngur by Lukas Kühne in Seyðisfjörður is of great value for the Skálar centre and a huge point of interest in general.

It is also historically and geographically significant. It is home to the first telegraph station in Iceland and was the location of the first submarine telegraph cable from mainland Europe to Iceland in 1906. The Technical Museum of East Iceland which stands there today is an active museum with important ties to the artistic community of Seyðisfjörður. The Skálar centre has an exceptional opportunity to collaborate with the Technical Museum of East Iceland in advancing knowledge of historical technology as well as applying this knowledge practically to develop new activities and experiments.

Today, the town is the arrival point for the only passenger ferry to-and-from Europe, which makes a notable connection between the strong local culture, tourism and the international art scene.

These connections are not only important to preserve, but also to develop and foster to their full potential. We think the future of Seyðisfjörður lies in bringing its cultural and artistic contributions to a highly recognized, international standard. The groundwork is already in place.

## Seyðisfjörður's unique surroundings and beautiful nature

The natural setting of the town provides many interesting and inspiring locations making it highly suitable for sound recordings and studies. These circumstances are quite extraordinary and offer an environment completely unlike what is offered in larger urban locations.

We have no doubt that Skálar - Centre for Sound Art and Experimental Music will have the ability to gather high profiled artists from all over the world to meet in Seyðisfjörður in order to work with their art and communicate their knowledge.



## Current and possible collaborations

Technical Museum of East-Iceland, SNYK - Danish genre organization for contemporary music and sound art. DIEM - Denmark's National Center of Electronic Music under the auspices of the Royal Academy of Music in Aarhus. DKF - Danish Composers Society, nomadenetappe - Kunst & Theorie art collective, Hai Art - International Platform for Contemporary Art in Finland, ZKM - Center for Art and Media (Institute for Music & Acoustics), Goethe-Institut, Deutschlandradio Kultur, Audio Artists Network - Berlin, Moks - Estonia.

## Initiators

Elvar Már Kjartansson (founder & director)

Konrad Korabiewski (founder & project manager)

Helgi Örn Pétursson (founder & member)