

Hreinn
Fridfinnsson

To Catch a Fish
with a Song
1964–Today

29/5-25/8/2019

Opening
28/5/2019

Curated by
Andrea Bellini



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The Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève is proud to present the first ever institutional solo exhibition in Switzerland of Icelandic artist Hreinn Friðfinnsson.

Hreinn Friðfinnsson is one of Iceland's leading conceptual artists. His work is celebrated for its lyricism and stark poetry that transcends the often-commonplace subjects and materials that the artist uses to create his pieces.

The Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève and the KW Institute for Contemporary Art join forces to celebrate his career with a comprehensive retrospective, accompanied by an academic publication. Through more than 70 works, *To Catch a Fish with a Song 1964-Today* looks back at more than 50 years of the artist's inventive practice.

Although there is a consistency of theme and a common emotional thread to Hreinn Friðfinnsson's art, the media that he employs are remarkably varied in scale and substance, from photography, drawings and tracings to presentations and installations of sound, texts and ready-mades. Throughout all the media he uses and the subjects he addresses, Friðfinnsson practice maintains a unique character where economy of means goes hand in hand with a poetic, elusive, at times humorous language. His work is often a subtle gesture that undulates to encapsulate and claim great expanses of space, including the space of the imagination, creating pieces that investigate ideas of the self and of time.

The artist's first comprehensive monograph accompanies the exhibition. This richly illustrated volume, published by Koenig and edited by Andrea Bellini and Krist Gruijthuisen, includes an interview conducted by the editors, new essays by Ivana Bago, Luca Cerizza and Cassandra Edlefsen Lasch as well as a complete chronology and bibliography compiled by Sara De Chiara.

Born in 1943 in Baer Dölum, Iceland, Hreinn Friðfinnsson has been living in Amsterdam since 1971. He has had solo exhibitions at Kunstverein Graz (2014), Bergen Kunstmuseum and Malmö Konsthall (2008), Reykjavik Art Museum and Serpentine Gallery, London (2007). In 1993 he exhibited at the National Gallery of Iceland, Reykjavik and represented Iceland in the Venice Biennale. In 2012 he participated in the Sao Paulo Biennial.

This exhibition is organized in partnership with KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin.

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