



CONTACT INFORMATION

Skógræktarfélag Íslands

Elisabeth Bernard

elisabeth@skog.is

RELEASE DATE

November 9, 2022



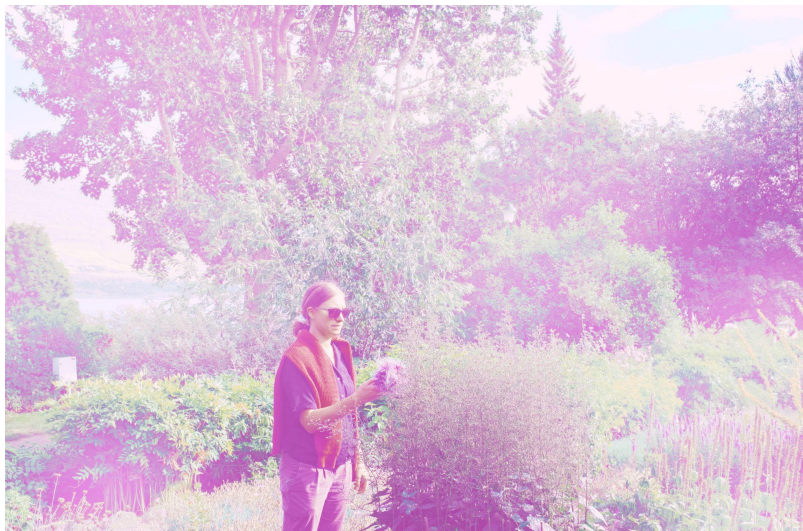
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: CHRISTALENA HUGHMANICK SOLO EXHIBITION

Album Release & Photograph Exhibit: *The Women Who Plant Trees*

Reykjavík Iceland, November 9, 2022 - Skógræktarfélag Íslands is pleased to announce the solo exhibition and release event for a digital album created by American artist Christalena Hughmanick. It will be held at the Alliance Française í Reykjavík, Tryggvagata 8, 101 Reykjavík Iceland from December 2 - 20, 2022. There will be an opening reception on Friday, December 2, 18:30 to 20:30. There will be a workshop on Saturday, December 3 from 11:00 to 15:00 and the artist will then be present between 15:00 and 18:00. This collaboration of a visual artist and these organizations aims to strengthen cultural ties between Iceland, France and the USA.

This project *The Women Who Plant Trees* links art and forestry, with the intent of bringing the practice to the general public through an artistic perspective. It gives visibility to the women who

have been (and still are) participating in the reforestation efforts led in Iceland since the 1930s, and to show how they engage daily with their forests. The digital publication features conversations Christalena had with women inside the forests of Eyjafjörður, Iceland's largest tree nursery in Akureyri and those working at Skógræktarfélag Íslands. Field recordings of nature sounds and printed photographs taken at the visited sites will be exhibited, providing an immersive listening experience for visitors. This event marks the release of both the feature length album to all major digital music platforms, where the content will remain permanently accessible. Photographs taken in the forests with a vintage film camera will be on view. The title of this exhibition references the French writer Jean Giono's *The Man Who Planted Trees*. It is a 1953 short story about one shepherd's long and successful single-handed effort to re-forest a desolate valley in France. This archival project highlights reforestation efforts led by women and activates forests as space for community building through creative acts that reconnect people to nature.



ARTIST BIO

[Christalena Hughmanick](#)'s practice engages with human relationships between craft and labor, and the scaled production systems that have generated these histories. She takes a theoretical approach related to cultural anthropological studies, which is enacted through fieldwork that captures vernacular knowledge production systems that may disappear. Recent work has been reviewed by Lori Waxman for the [Quarantine Times](#) and Hall W. Rockefeller for [Less Than Half](#). Her paper "*Freedom Quilt: Collective Patchwork in Post-Communist Hungary*" has been presented at The Textile Society of America's 17th Annual Symposium and will be published in the Bloomsbury Encyclopedia of World Textiles in 2023. She has exhibited internationally and been an artist in residence at the American Academy in Rome, SÍM Reykjavík, the Moholy-Nagy Művészeti Egyetem Budapest, Wedge Projects in Chicago. Her work has been supported by Fulbright Foundation, US State Department, the Lenore Tawney Foundation Scholarship among others. She holds an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.