

# LISTASAFN ÍSLANDS NATIONAL GALLERY OF ICELAND

SAVE THE DATE

## RÚRÍ Retrospective March 3rd – May 6th 2012

For more than four decades the Icelandic artist Rúrí raises her voice through her art to remind us of the fragility of our environment, to question our behaviour in society and towards nature. She touches on issues that matter to all of us; she raises questions concerning life and coexistence, of cosmic coherence; she challenges the relativity of objects and phenomena and queries the coordinate system that man has established to structure his surroundings.

Rúrí's art cannot be classified and labelled, it appears in the most diverse forms: sometimes cool in design, then inconceivably poetic, it puts the viewer by turns in the role of a conventional onlooker or an active participant. Her works are conceptual, in the sense that they are linked to precise ideas and based on theory or perception, but they all have a tangible and sensory aspect. A list of all the forms of her artistic expression – such as performance, happening, drawing, sculpture, photography, video and so on – could lead us to expect a very heterogeneous oeuvre.



*Rainbow (1983)*



*Archive - Endangered Waters (2003)*

But a closer look reveals an impressive consistency and almost unerringly logical development in her work, revolving around vital philosophical issues, terms she uses herself to describe her motivation: identity, time, cosmos, relativity and environment.

Many of Rúrí's best known works figure in the retrospective, e.g. *Rainbow I*, 1983; *Forest (III)*, 1983; *Glassrain*, 1984; *Museum*, 1987; *Forty-Two Metres*, 1994; *Paradise? – When?*, 1998; and the ominous *Archive - Endangered Waters*, a masterpiece shown in the Icelandic Pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2003.

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Curator of the exhibition is Dr. Christian Schoen, an art historian who has curated various exhibitions throughout Germany and Iceland, where from 2005 to 2010, he was in charge of the Center for Icelandic Art in Reykjavik.