



# Train

Dieter Roth

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## Dieter Roth

Dieter Roth was born in 1930 in Germany, where he spent the first years of his life. As an adult he was based in Germany, Switzerland, and Iceland. Although he initially studied graphic design, Roth's explorations of free-expression and creativity were made in a wide variety of media including music, poetry, and visual art. His entire artistic career was characterised by experimentation. While working in Copenhagen in the 1950's, Roth met Sigríður Björnsdóttir, an Icelandic woman with whom he moved to Iceland and had a family. Although the couple eventually separated, Roth's ties to Iceland remained strong throughout his life.

Dieter Roth is one of the most influential artists of his generation. In recent years, extensive retrospectives of his work have been exhibited on both sides of the Atlantic. The exhibition, *Train*, will partly focus on Roth's relationship with Iceland and investigate the influence this relationship had on his work. Underscoring Roth's significance, the exhibition is extensive and will be held in three different locations in Reykjavik: Reykjavik Art Museum -Hafnarhús, National Gallery of Iceland, and Gallery 100° in the headquarters of Reykjavik Energy.

The title of the retrospective, *Train*, is Roth's own reference to his work in exhibition; his pieces travelling extensively like a train, its passengers continuously changing as they embark and disembark along the way. Although its original conductor – the artist – may be gone, the train's journey continues. Björn Roth, Dieter's son, is the exhibition's curator. His aim is to depict the artist and his life's work through a diverse range of media including books, prints, paintings, and installations. In addition, the Dieter Roth Academy comprised of a number of Dieter Roth's friends and colleagues, along with students of the Academy will contribute to the exhibition in Reykjavik Art Museum's -Hafnarhús courtyard, and the Amsterdam-based Boekie Woekie bookshop will set up shop inside the exhibition.

### Public programs

During the exhibition period the museums will organize related lectures, classes, and workshops. The museums will also offer tours designed to stimulate discussion about the art of Dieter Roth, as well as family programs and curator's talks. Private guided tours are available upon request.

### **Reykjavik Art Museum – Hafnarhús**

Hafnarhús is located by the harbour and is one of Reykjavik Art Museum's three venues, the others being Kjarvalsstaðir and the Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum. Hafnarhús was inaugurated in April 2000 and has six exhibition halls on two floors. Temporary Icelandic and international art exhibitions are regularly on display as well as selections from the permanent collection and the Erró Collection.

[www.artmuseum.is](http://www.artmuseum.is)

### **Gallery 100°**

Gallery 100° is a cultural forum run by Reykjavik Energy at its new headquarters on the outskirts of Reykjavik. An informal council consisting of artist and scientists has created a dynamic exhibition policy, with exhibitions that range from natural biology to architecture and contemporary art.

[www.or.is/gallery100](http://www.or.is/gallery100)

### **National Gallery of Iceland**

The National Gallery's main focus is on 19th and 20th century Icelandic art. The Museum holds the country's most significant collection of works by Icelandic artists in this period as well as an impressive array of works by international artists. Temporary exhibitions from the National Gallery's collection, as well as individual and group exhibitions by Icelandic and international contemporary artists comprise the National Gallery's wide spectrum of programs.

[www.listasafn.is](http://www.listasafn.is)

