

Kristin Kjartansdóttir

THE MAYOR OF OSLO

Kristin Kjartansdóttir is a social historian, freelance writer and manager of the cultural spot Flora in North Iceland. She writes about the work *The Mayor of Oslo*.

Our contemporary everyday, governed by the over-dimensional flow of information and impressions transmitted through diverse media, is a new experience for mankind. What is new is not the information itself, but its accessibility. It is the ease of access that makes it overflow. Everything flows in our direction and we can immerse ourselves in it in a second. All the info.

The sea of information we live in.

Due to its newness, we do not have grandparents, or even parents to pass on the know-how, the knowledge, of how to deal with this flow, how to live in this kind of world. We must ask ourselves: what tools should we use? By what means can we stay afloat?

Hlynur Hallsson has chosen a series of seemingly random texts from the sea of information that floods our world. Sprayed-canned onto previously unused public spaces, they have been given a new meaning and at the same time have given these spaces a new use, defined them anew. The texts drawn from the sea of information flowing across the media world now stand for themselves. They seem to range over the vast sea of information, the great flow reminiscent of *The wanderer above the sea of fog* by 19th century German landscape painter Caspar David Friedrich.

As a wanderer on today's sea of information, it is necessary to find the right tools and methods. With their assistance one may ascend to a point that overlooks the morass of information. Instead of losing our way in the fog generated by the contemporary overdose of impressions and information, we must search for ways to deal with the situation, sort it out, choose what we need, take point, and rise above it.



