

Step into the light

New art festival Fjord Oslo announces full programme of installations set to brighten the city

Harbour Promenade, Oslo
1–3 November 2019



Private Moon by Leonid Tishkov, photography by Leonid Tishkov.

From the swirling steel geometries of László Moholy-Nagy's 1923 sculpture Light-Space Modulator to Dan Flavin's neon interventions in Milan's Chiesa Rossa church, light has long been an exciting medium for boundary-pushing artists. For three days in November, the debut edition of Fjord Oslo will bring together some of the leading light artists practising today, fusing technology and creativity to create an array of spine-tingling experiences, open to all.

Fjord Oslo will transform the capital's Harbour Promenade into an expansive outdoor exhibition, where the people of Oslo can come together to enjoy contemporary art in an inclusive and welcoming environment.

Ranging from visual poetry about a love affair with the moon to an exploration of the four elements of nature, the artworks featured are astonishingly varied. The seven installations – two of which are world premieres – all explore ideas about nature and our environment, from the macro to the micro, including French light artist Joanie Lemercier touring the cosmos via a projection onto a fine spray of water and László Zsolt Bordos from Hungary reconsidering photosynthesis on the façade of Oslo City Hall.



Render of Ligh3ence by Silje Thorsager Østby for Signify, images courtesy of Signify.

Fjord Oslo will be packed with technical innovation and conceptual rigour, the aim is to encourage contemplation without demanding prior knowledge. The festival will bring the people of Oslo together – however engaged with the contemporary art scene they are – in a powerful collective experience, inspired by art and light.

Oslo has been named European Green Capital 2019, in recognition of the city's demonstrable dedication to the green agenda, including the ongoing conservation of its natural areas and the restoration of its waterway network. An official partner of

European Green Capital, Fjord Oslo's curatorial theme reflects this context: each work contemplates our responsibility for the environment, our relationship with nature and our place on the planet.

As well as contributing with the Norwegian premiere of one of her own works, the festival's artistic director Anastasia Isachsen has commissioned an international line-up of talent from countries including France, Belgium, Estonia, Russia, Hungary and Norway. The works include audiovisual technology, multimedia, interactive sculpture, electronic soundscapes and touchscreens.



Dawn by Anastasia Isachsen, photography by VitaPictura.

"Fjord Oslo was founded with a wish to create a positive, inclusive, social and open cultural event for everyone in the city of Oslo, inviting the public to what we hope will be an inspiring experience of wonder and reflection. By locating our festival in the Harbour Promenade, we hope to highlight Oslo's unique position as a modern city, and our lasting connection with nature, while promoting Oslo as a vibrant, welcoming and contemporary art capital."

– Anastasia Isachsen, founder and artistic director, Fjord Oslo

The artworks

Installed at different locations along Oslo's Harbour Promenade in the areas of Aker Brygge, Town Hall Square and Akershusstranda on 1–3 November 2019, the inaugural full programme, including two new commissions, will feature:

Premiere: Lysyntese by László Bordos (Hungary)
Oslo City Hall

A pioneer in architectural projection mapping, Hungarian artist and leading expert László Zsolt Bordos, presents his latest and most astonishing work to date, the premiere of Lysyntese ('light synthesis'). Developed specifically to adorn the expansive façade of Oslo's red-brick City Hall, the large-scale abstract production sets a mapping-video projection and light to a specially created music score by electronic artist Sarah Badr. The work explores the process of photosynthesis, encouraging viewers to consider whether light is as important to our spiritual survival as it is to our biological existence.

Premiere: Ligh3ence by Silje Thorsager Østby for Signify (Norway)
Kontraskjæret

Guiding the audience on a mysterious journey through light and fog on the hill of Kontraskjæret, Ligh3ence explores the optical phenomenon of the Brocken Spectre as seen on fog-enshrouded mountain tops or in the forest. Light3ence recreates the effect with a mysterious and engaging play of light, shadow and fog – an immersive display in shifting shades of white, that harmonize with the movement of the trees.

Le Bal des Luminéoles by Porté par le Vent (France)
City Hall Square/Akerhusstranda

Porté par le Vent ('Carried by the wind') is a company dedicated to creating animations and installations that explore the themes of wind and light. Founder Christophe Martine's first love was paragliding, which eventually paved the way to his creative kite workshops, before he formed Porté par le Vent. For Fjord Oslo he presents an airborne ballet of kites, conjuring an ethereal fairytale world from the interplay of wind, light and sound.

Constellations by Joanie Lemerrier and Paul Jebanasam (Belgium and UK)
Stranden/Aker Brygge

French light artist Joanie Lemerrier's practice has explored and expanded the possibilities of light as a medium for the past 10 years through video mapping, live shows and gallery installations. In *Constellations*, he turns a large spray of water particles into a canvas, painting in the air with projected light. Monochromatic 3D shapes emerge and flow like a journey through the cosmos, black holes and the edges of the universe, accompanied by an electronic soundscape created by Bristol-based producer Paul Jebanasam.

Dawn by Anastasia Isachsen (Norway)
Akershusstranda

Dawn uses sequences of movement and dance on a triptych of screens to explore humanity's ongoing search for meaning and its place in the world. Created by Fjord Oslo founder Anastasia Isachsen in collaboration with Latvian composer Peteris Vasks and Norwegian dance company Nagelhus Schia Production, this innovative work is dynamic meditation on the relationship between body/mind/soul, past/present/future and birth/life/death.

Elemento by CS4E (Estonia)
Bryggetorget/Aker Brygge

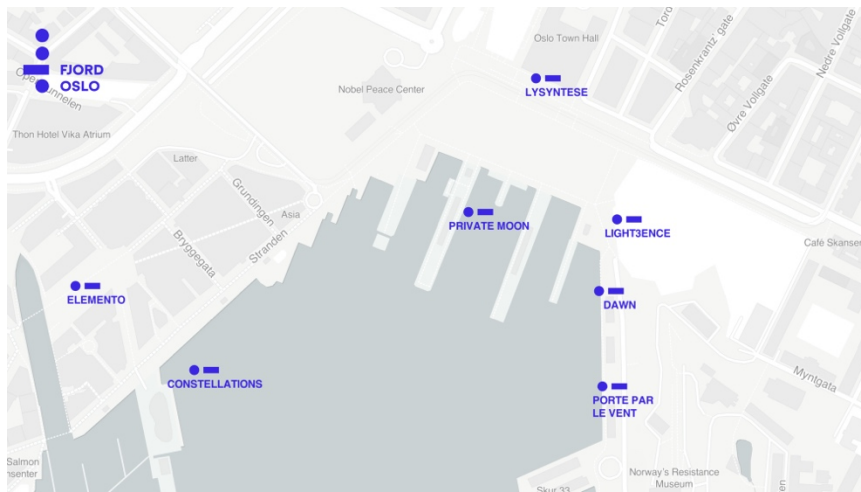
Estonian landscape photographer Caspar Lootsman specialises in shooting the natural world in a way that puts light at the centre of each image. He is part of light art group CS4E and is the director of annual Wandering Lights festival in Tallinn. For Fjord Oslo, CS4E has created an interactive installation which explores the four elements of nature – earth, fire, air and water – encouraging his audience to engage with them physically, by means of a touchscreen, and psychologically, by venturing out into nature more often.

Private Moon by Leonid Tishkov (Russia)
In Harbour Basin

Russian artist Leonid Tishkov started his career making cartoon-like works in the 1980s that focused on ironic, black humor and politics. Since the beginning of the 1990s his work has moved increasingly towards large-scale installations that aim to engage the viewer into absurdist situations with fictional cartoon characters,

theatrical action and reflections on his homeland, the Urals. During the festival Leonid brings his globetrotting mobile light project to Norway. Private Moon is a visual poem that tells the story of a man's lifelong relationship with our neighbouring satellite. Since 2003, Leonid has taken his moon on a never-ending journey around the world, from Japan to the US, New Zealand to the Arctic Circle – and now to the Oslo harbourside.

Full festival details as and when released can be found at fjordoslo.com.



Fjord Oslo map, 2019.

Notes to editors

For more information, images and interviews with Fjord Oslo's founder and artistic director Anastasia Isachsen, please contact Emma Collins at emma@zetteler.co.uk or on +44 (0)20 3735 5855.

About Fjord Oslo

Fjord Oslo is a free contemporary art festival that transforms the Norwegian capital's cultural quarter into a vast outdoor exhibition, open to all. Bringing together an international programme of renowned artists, this annual celebration offers a visually spectacular and conceptually wide-ranging exploration of light-based art. By taking art onto the streets for three nights, Fjord Oslo invites the entire city to come together and share a collective experience. The first edition takes place on 1–3 November 2019, along Harbour Promenade in Oslo.

fjordoslo.com

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Festival partners

Oslo Municipality

Oslo Municipality is supporting Fjord Oslo in order to create more cultural activity in the car-free areas of Oslo, and to promote Oslo as a cultural tourist destination.

Oslo European Green Capital 2019

Fjord Oslo is an official partner of Oslo European Green Capital 2019. Oslo has put substantial resources into the green transformation of the city. Oslo European Green Capital has therefore invited businesses and organisations as partners to participate in creating a programme to mobilise, inspire and make people aware of the green transition taking place and to ensure these efforts will continue.

Aker Brygge

Aker Brygge is an intimate and lively area in the city with a unique and diverse selection of high-quality shops, restaurants, cafés, bars and other services. 500 people live in Aker Brygge; 5,000 people work there; and it receives around 14 million visitors per year.

Signify

Signify is the world leader in lighting for professionals, consumers and the IoT (Internet of Things). The purpose of Signify is to unlock the extraordinary potential of light for brighter lives and a better world, and through this make people's lives safer and more comfortable.

Thon Hotels

Thon Hotels go the extra mile to make a good day even better for their guests. Thon Hotels partner with Fjord Oslo to provide memorable experiences for their guests and the people of Oslo – to light up and colour the city in the autumn darkness.