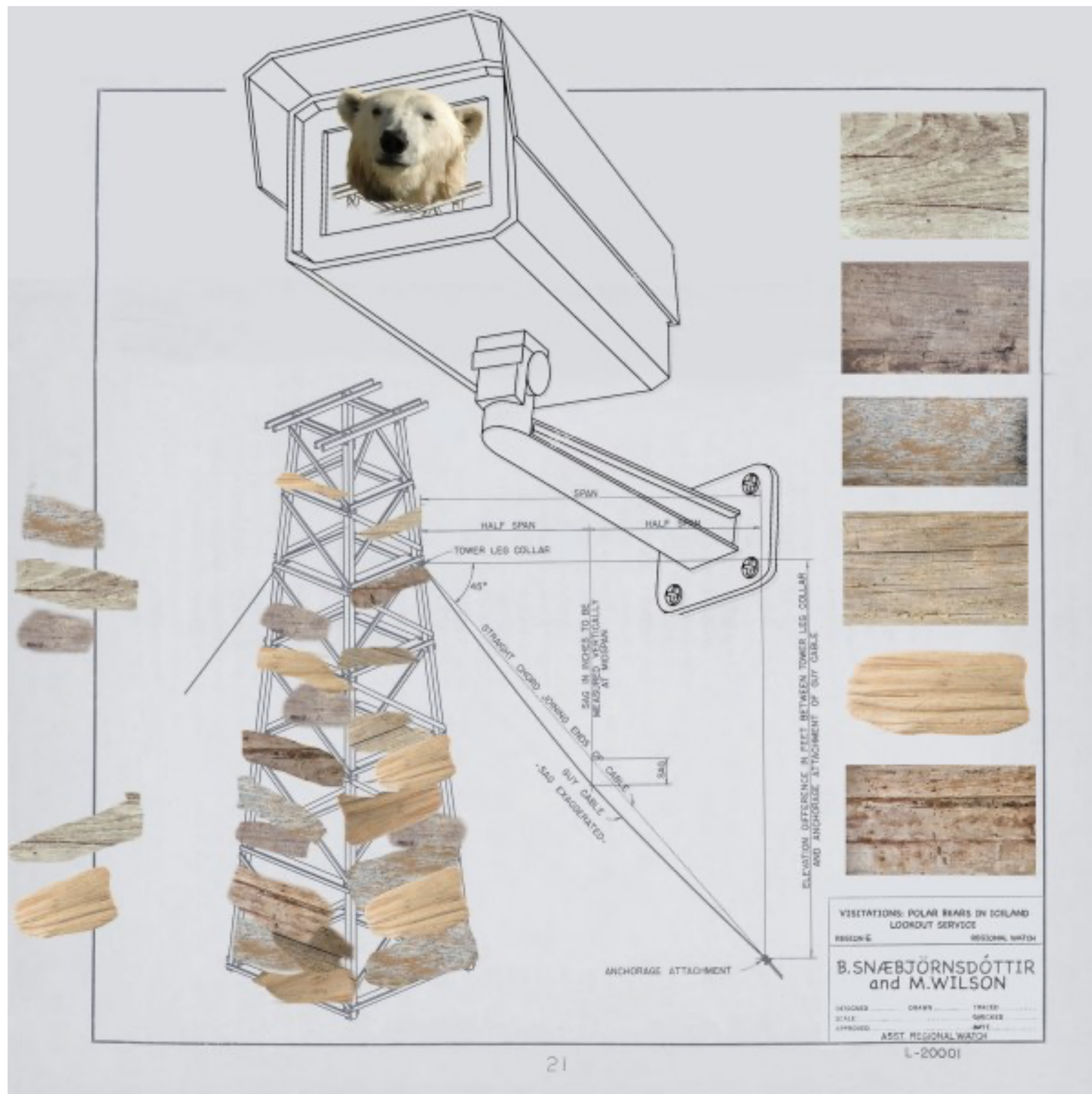
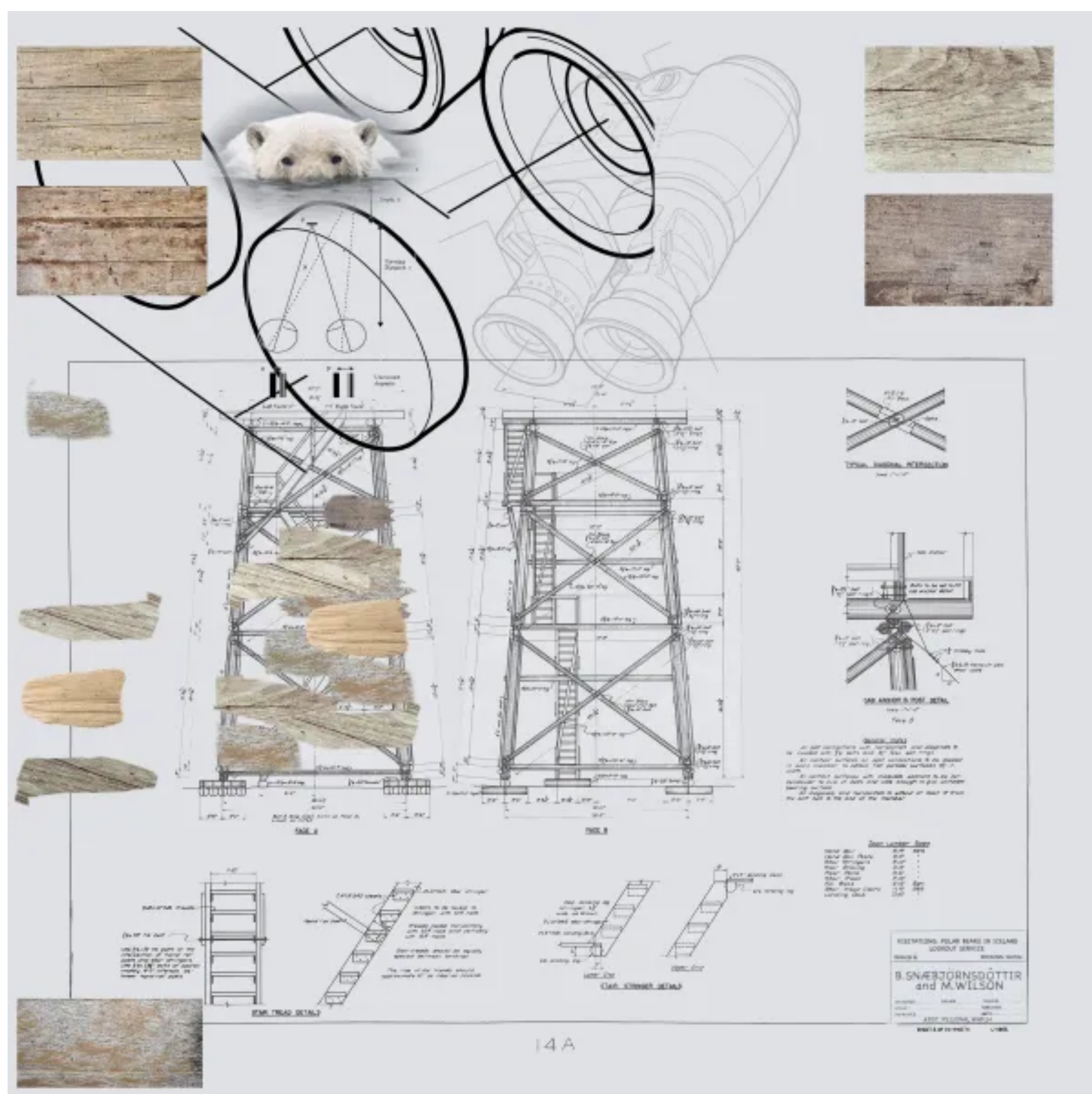


# Bryndís Snæbjörnsdóttir & Mark Wilson



Watchtower #1: Digital print (size variable)



Watchtower #2 Digital print (size variable)



Watchtower: Video/Audio – duration 4:48m (Link to video on conference Vimeo site)

*Watchtower* is a new work from **Bryndís Snæbjörnsdóttir** and **Mark Wilson's** award-winning art project *Vísitation* (2019-22). It examined polar bear landings around the coast of Iceland over the last 150 years. *Included*: Although it is clear such bears were present in Iceland for tens of millennia before humans first settled there during the late 9<sup>th</sup> Century, historically and to this day, when they do arrive (and are noticed), they are pursued as unwelcome migrants and shot.

The *Vísitation* project imagined less anthropocentrically self-serving consideration of and response to the animals who, having swum at least 300km from Greenland before making landfall, are often exhausted and injured. It weighed the individuality of each bear – acknowledging its specific history and experience, some of which was possible to discern through the application of forensic science on extant animal remains – against the undignified, sensationalist media-circus events surrounding its fatal human encounter.

As rapidly increasing ice-melt and rising sea-levels signify our actions coming back to haunt us, the consequences will slowly be better understood and anticipated, and our responses will necessarily be recalibrated.

## Biography

**Mark Wilson** and **Bryndís Snæbjörnsdóttir** are a collaborative art partnership. Their 22-year interdisciplinary art practice explores and tests human and more-than-human relational behaviours within specific locations, within a context of environmental change.

Working very often in close consultation in the field, with experts including professionals and amateurs, they use their work to test cultural constructs and tropes, and human behaviour in respect of ecologies, extinction, conservation, and the environment. Their artwork is installation-based using a variety of media, including photography, video, text, drawing, objects and sound.

**Bryndís Snæbjörnsdóttir** is Professor of Fine Art at the Iceland University of the Arts and **Mark Wilson** is Emeritus Professor at the Institute of the Arts, University of Cumbria, UK

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