

Sigurjón Ólafsson's Pillars

Exhibition in Sigurjón Ólafsson's Museum

February 11th – August 28th 2011

“The pillar in various forms is one of the leitmotifs of the work of sculptor Sigurjón Ólafsson from his first independent work in Copenhagen in the 1930s to his final works of 1982.

The pillar is an ancient unit of construction, as well as a symbol, which has played an important role in every culture. The pillar rises, perpendicular, pointing both up to the sky and down into the earth. It symbolizes both the base and the burden; it is the axis of the earth, axis mundi, the Tree of Life, and it supports the roof of the world, the heavens of mythology. According to ancient eschatology, the end of the world will come when the pillars of the earth turn.

The upright pillar is also a reference to man himself, and to his gods in his own image.“

Auður Ólafsdóttir: Pillar to Emblem of Iceland (in English), LSÓ catalogue 1994

The best known of Ólafsson's pillars, are without little doubt the monuments, e.g. *Emblem of Iceland* (LSÓ 1278) at Hagatorg and *Throne Pillars* (LSÓ 1269) at Höfði summit house, both in Reykjavík. This exhibition, however, focuses on a selection of wood-pillars and columns from the artist's last decade.

Entrance:

Storm Petrel	1975	LSÓ 1300
Cow's Head	1955	LSÓ 022
Infant	1955	LSÓ 1137
Creation	1988 (1976)	LSÓ 072

1st Floor:

Children at Play	1938	LSÓ 206
My Mother ¹⁾	1938	LSÓ 007
The Widow	1946	LSÓ 198
Who are You?	1979	LSÓ 114
Queen of the Mountains	1947	LSÓ 010
A Girl	1945	LSÓ 1081
Trinity	1970	LSÓ 054
Resurrection	1975	LSÓ 069
Soft forms	1981	LSÓ 129
Expressions	1977	LSÓ 087

2nd Floor

1	Driftwood	1980	LSÓ 134
2	Expressions ²⁾	1978	LSÓ 088
3	Woman	1981	LSÓ 131
4	Sculpture	1980	LSÓ 124
5	A Cairn	1976	LSÓ 075
6	Pillar	1981	LSÓ 130
7	Tenderness	1977	LSÓ 083
8	Troll	1977	LSÓ 163
9	Blossom	1987 (1978)	LSÓ 251
10	Dragon	1978	LSÓ 094

1) Special exhibition 'Icelander'

2) For repairs during the exhibition