



**A greeting
from
the President of Iceland**

When Icelanders emigrated and settled in Canada, the culture and history of their mother country proved to be an unbreakable bond with their ancestral home. It soon came to light that creative literary talent had also accompanied them, and the poetry and prose they sent back became part of the Icelandic national consciousness.

In recent years our eyes have been opened to a new creative flourishing among our relatives in the New World, who have been establishing good reputations for themselves in literature, film making, music and the visual arts. We have become aware of new perspectives by seeing these works from across the Atlantic in the context of the creative currents in Iceland.

Louise Jonasson's exhibition gives us the opportunity to enjoy the work of a superb painter sprung from the settler stock of the prairies of Manitoba who combines a range of influences to create works with integrity and appeal. The exhibition is also a challenge to us to deepen our understanding of the culture of our relatives in the New World, so making the cultivation of our common heritage a fertile and creative experience.