



Galleria CARLA SOZZANI

press release

book presentation – return to the Faroe Islands

## **ISOLA**

**by Siri Ranva Hjelm Jacobsen**

**Reading by Federica Fracassi**

**Talk with Gianfranco Contri**

Wednesday March 21<sup>st</sup> 2018. On the occasion of the release of the book **ISOLA** by **Siri Ranva Hjelm Jacobsen**, published by **Iperborea**, a talk with Gianfranco Contri, an expert on the Faroese culture, will speak on the nature, history and myths of the Faroe islands, with dramatic readings by **Federica Fracassi** at the **Galleria Carla Sozzani** bookstore at 7.00 pm.

*Despite the development of tourism, it is usually the Faroese people who constitute the majority of passengers on the flight that leads from Denmark to the Faroe Islands. This small Atlantic archipelago seems like a piece of fluff on the globe lying between Scotland, Iceland and Norway. There, living on eighteen wind-beaten rocky islands, are fifty thousand people and seventy thousand sheep. And, scattered on four islands, my mother's family.*

With these words **Siri Ranva Hjelm**, Danish author of the novel *Isola*, introduces the Faroe Islands, in Denmark. **Gianfranco Contri**, one of the leading Italian experts on the Scandinavian world, talks about his experience on the Faroe Islands while **Federica Fracassi** reads some extracts from the novel.

*Isola* is a love song to the Faroes and a story about the intimate repercussions of emigration; on the need for roots or at least for an *Ithaka* of the soul, a place that can be called home.

Inspired by the Faroe Islands, the evening will be accompanied by special cocktails prepared with a beverage dedicated to Danish women: **Mama Vodka**, a vodka of rye and pure spring water, distilled five times. (Mamavodka.com)

**Gianfranco Contri** (Riolunato, 1952) calls himself "a North lover". Like many sailors, adventurers, and solitaires, Contri looked for his *Ultima Thule* and found it in the Faroe Islands. He loved the "sheep islands" so much - the meaning of the Faroe name - that he stayed for ten years, learning the language and writing the first Italian-Faroese dictionary.

**Federica Fracassi** (Cornaredo, 1971) trained at the Paolo Grassi School of Dramatic Art and has worked with theater director Valerio Binasco, Valter Malosti, Antonio Latella and Luca Micheletti, among others. She founded the Teatro Aperto company with Renzo Martinelli in 1993, now Teatro i. Among numerous awards, she has received the Ubu Prize, Ristori Prize, the Teatro Olimpico Prize, the Critics Prize, the Franco Enriquez Prize, the Honorable Mention and the Eleonora Duse Prize.

**Isola**, by **Siri Ranva Hjelm Jacobsen**

Translation from Danish by Maria Valeria D'Avino

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FONDAZIONE SOZZANI  
**Galleria Carla Sozzani**

Corso Como 10 – 20154 Milano, Italia  
Tel +39 02 653531 fax +39 02 29004080  
press@galleriacarlasozzani.org  
www.galleriacarlasozzani.org