

## **Eiríkur Örn Norðdahl**

### **ICELAND / WRITER IN RESIDENCE / JUNE**

The author, translator and columnist is regarded as one of the most promising young talents in the Icelandic literature. His work comprises not only six books of poetry but also five novels and two collections of essays; moreover, in 2001 he founded the publication house Nýhil and hosts an annual poetry festival in Reykjavík.

In 2012 Eiríkur Örn Norðdahl was awarded with the Icelandic Literary Prize for his novel *Illska*. He was also honoured with different prizes for his work as a translator (f.i. the Icelandic Translation Award). By experimenting with sound, performance and visual poetry he breaks with the boundaries of different genres.

He lives in Ísafjörður, Iceland, a rock in the middle of the ocean.

### **Reading**

Eiríkur Örn Norðdahl reads on June 12th (19.00h) at the library of the Literaturhaus NÖ (free entrance). The German translation of *Illska* (*Evil*) will be read by Sylvia Treudl (Literaturhaus NÖ).

### **About Illska (Evil)**

„The momentum of world history: Agnes Lukauskas and Omar Arnarson meet early one piercing-cold Sunday morning in the taxi queue in the centre of Reykjavik. Three years later Omar burns their house to the ground, drives to Keflavik and abandons the country by plane. The story actually begins long before then, in the summer of 1941, when half of the residents of the small Lithuanian town of Jurbarkas are slaughtered in the surrounding forest. Two of Agnes' greatgrandfathers were in the massacre – one shot the other – and three generations later Agnes has made the holocaust the centre point of her own life. Her obsession leads her to Arnor, a literate Neo-Nazi.

Evil is about the holocaust and about love, about Iceland and Lithuania, about Agnes who becomes lost in herself while Jon Baldvin Hannibalsson, Icelandic ambassador in Lithuania, acknowledges the independence of the Baltic countries and Lithuanian criminals begin operating from Reykjavik, about Agnes who doesn't know whether she is a fan of the B-Ranking World Champions in Handball or of Bogdan Kowalczyk, about Agnes who loves Omar who loves Agnes who loves Arnor.“ (norddahl.org)