

## ASF ANNOUNCES 2019 TRANSLATION COMPETITION WINNERS AND 2020 COMPETITION OPENING

**New York, NY**—The American-Scandinavian Foundation has announced the opening of its 40th annual Translation Competition for outstanding translations of poetry, fiction, drama, or literary prose written by a Nordic author born after 1900. Three prizes will be awarded this year: the **Nadia Christensen Prize**, which includes a \$2,500 award; the **Leif and Inger Sjöberg Prize**, which recognizes distinguished effort by an individual whose literary translations from a Nordic language have not previously been published, and includes a \$2,000 award; and the **Wigeland Prize**, an award given for the best translation by a resident of Norway, which includes a \$2,000 award. All three prizes also include publication of an excerpt in *Scandinavian Review* (ASF's illustrated journal) and a commemorative bronze medallion.



— LIBRARY COLLECTION AT SCANDINAVIA HOUSE

The winners in the 2019 competition were **Larissa Kyzer** (Brooklyn, New York), **Mie Mortensen** (New York City, New York), and **Olivia Lasky** (Oslo, Norway). Ms. Kyzer received the Nadia Christensen Prize for her translation of an excerpt from *Elin, ýmislegt* (*A Fist or a Heart*) by Icelandic author Kristín Eiríksdóttir (b. 1981). Ms. Mortensen received the Leif and Inger Sjöberg Prize for her translation of *En pige og en dreng* (*A Girl and a Boy*) by Danish author Morten Brask (b. 1970). This year, a third translation award, the Wigeland Prize, was granted to Olivia Lasky for her superb translation of the Norwegian author Sigbjørn Skåden's (b. 1976) *Våke over dem som sover* (*Watch Over Those Who Sleep*).

The ASF Translation Prize Jury praised this year's award recipients for translating "a unique array of emotionally gripping and important works that should be available in English." Regarding Ms. Kyzer's translation, the Jury noted how it uniquely "captures the tactile, vigorous prose of the original in English." Ms. Kyzer has a degree in Translation Studies from the University of Iceland, and she is a freelance translator with translations appearing in *Iceland Review*, *Forlagið*, *Café Review*, and *Words Without Borders*. Regarding Ms. Mortensen's translation, the Jury said that it convincingly "conveys the emotional force of this heart-wrenching novel about a married couple and a difficult pregnancy." Ms. Mortensen is currently working toward a Ph.D. in Russian Literature at Columbia University. Regarding Ms. Lasky's translation, the Jury noted the superb rendering of "a subtle, sometimes earthy account of change and cultural conflicts." Lasky is an Oslo-based translator who studied Scandinavian Studies at UC Berkeley and University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her most recent translation is Lene Wold's *Inside an Honor Killing*, which was published by Greystone Books in 2019.

The 2020 Translation Prize is open through **Monday, June 15, 2020**. [To read guidelines and submit an application, please click here](#). The American-Scandinavian Foundation is a publicly-supported American nonprofit organization that promotes firsthand intellectual and creative exchange between the United States and the five Nordic countries.

### CONTACT

For further information, please contact Monica Hidalgo, Program Associate, at [grants@amscan.org](mailto:grants@amscan.org). For information on the 2020 Translation Prize competition, please see our website at [amscan.org](http://amscan.org).

**THE AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN FOUNDATION**

The American-Scandinavian Foundation (ASF) promotes firsthand exchange of intellectual and creative influence between the United States and the Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. A publicly supported American nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, ASF has an extensive program of fellowships, grants, intern/trainee sponsorship, publishing, and cultural activities. Headquartered in New York City, ASF has members throughout the United States, and alumni and donors worldwide.