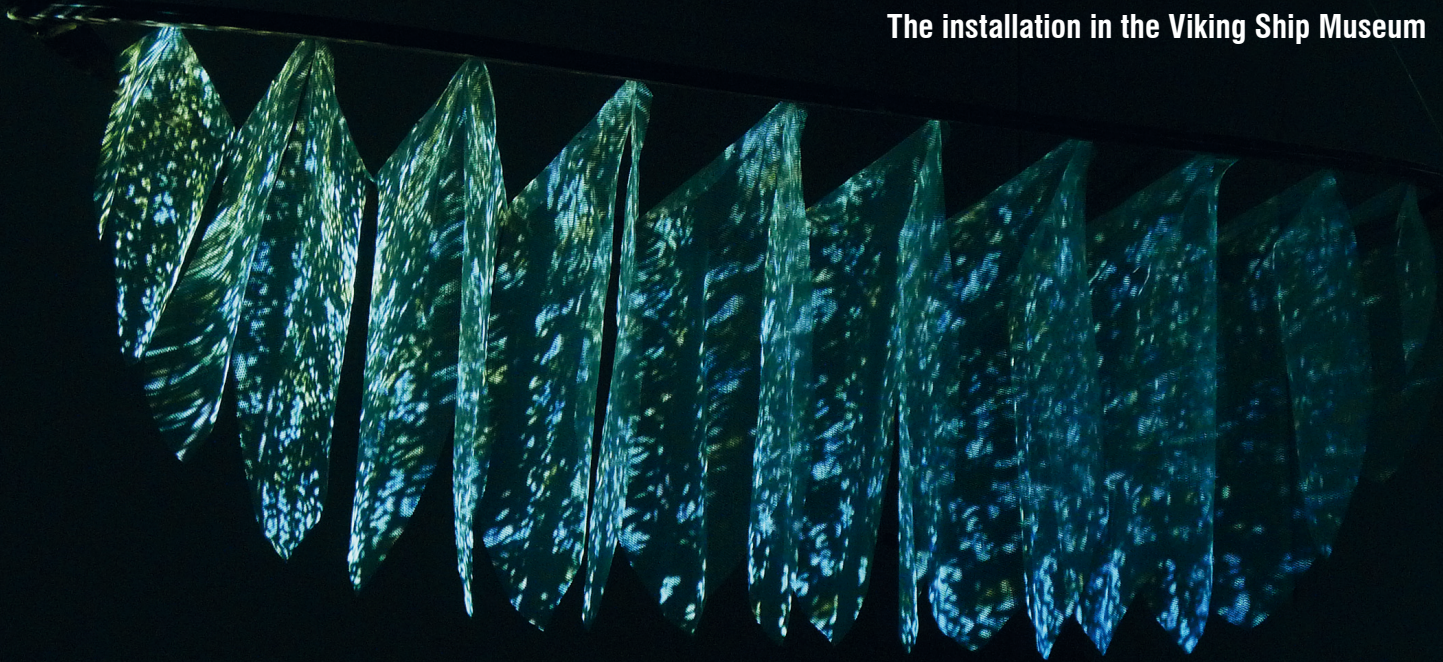



1st of February to 25th of March 2012

Skibladnir

The installation in the Viking Ship Museum



UiO  Museum of Cultural History



Skibladnir

The installation in the Viking Ship Museum

Mike Adams

1st of February to 25th of March 2012

- **The sculptural installation *Skibladnir*** is inspired by and named for the folding ship of the Norse gods. It represents a “portable” idea, like the ideas we carry around in our heads. They take up virtually no space, but when we need them, we unfold them, and spread them out. They can become huge, and change the world. We take our ideas, our values, and our hopes with us when we journey to new places, just as the Vikings did. The ships in the museum are beautiful, but it is important to remember that they were also tombs. They were intended to be the final resting place for human remains.

The artist, Mike Adams, and his installation *Skibladnir*:

- **Art is not mere decoration**; it reaches down into the core of our being and puts us in touch with what is most meaningful in our lives. *Skibladnir* is not meant to be a replica of the Viking ships in the museum, although the shape was inspired by them. *Skibladnir* is a meeting-point, a place where the artist and the viewer come together to create meaningful experiences.

- **I want *Skibladnir* to be simultaneously an object and an idea.** That is why it is translucent, with video images acting as shadowy memories, making the vessel change and seemingly to appear and disappear. In the same way I would like museum visitors to think of the Viking ships as both objects and ideas. They are real things, but they also represent intangible aspects of Viking culture and human striving.

- **In the summer of 2010 I traveled to Oslo** to study the Norwegian language and culture. My plan was to investigate the Viking ship and Norse myth, and to use this exploration to inspire the creation of new sculpture. My intended focus on objects – the ships – became instead a convergence of experiences and building of personal relationships. Objects act as a spigot to let experiences flow. An object itself is not an experience; it is an invitation to experience.

- Mike Adams, born in Seattle, Washington, USA, 1964
- Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting, the San Francisco Art Institute, 1986
- Boat builder in the Seattle area for several years
- Master of Fine Arts in Sculpture, Idaho State University, 2011
- Fulbright Creative Arts Grant in Oslo, 2011-12

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The Viking Ship Museum Museum of Cultural History, University of Oslo

Huk Aveny 35, 0287 OSLO

Opening Hours:

1 May - 30 September: 0900 - 1800

1 October - 30 April: 1000 - 1600

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