

# CULTURE FORGES LINKS



*Ski jump in Fjelkenbakken by Gustav Wentzel: Norway presents its traditions in Atlanta.*

The Cultural Olympiad has taken its first steps in Atlanta: through an encounter with Norwegian culture. Especially apt after the recent unexpected snowstorms, a festival of “Olympic Winter Land”.

It all started with an inaugural concert at the Woodruff Arts Centre Symphony Hall on 11th February with the Atlanta symphony orchestra playing American and Norwegian pieces. Queen Sonja of Norway was the guest of honour, accompanied by representatives of the Organizing Committees of the Games in

the two cities of Atlanta and Lillehammer, who had come to the conclusion that the best way of getting to know each other was to share traditions. This impressive evening marked the start of a series of events which continues through spring. The Fernbank Scientific Centre’s planetarium has been offer-

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OLYMPIAD :  
LILLEHAMMER-  
ATLANTA**

*Official inauguration of the cultural programme in the presence of Queen Sonja of Norway, accompanied here by Mr Billy Payne.*



ing a forty-minute presentation of the land of the Vikings, its mythology, its explorers and its warriors, who named the constellations after their legends and mythical figures and who already knew how to ski. The exhibition "Norwegian Visions of Winter" at the Natural History Museum is particularly brilliant. A committee of experts chaired by Queen Sonja, Honorary President of the Cultural Olympiad of the Games in Lillehammer, has put together a collection of works by Norwegian artists representing winter landscapes. This exhibition is a retrospective covering over two hundred years and a wide range of styles, with over eighty paintings, tapestries and three creations commissioned for the occasion. This same museum has also created a special place for children, in which works by schoolchildren from all over Norway are on display. These drawings are the result of an idea of the Lillehammer Organizing Committee, which invited little Norwegians to send in works on the theme of the environment. The entries exceeded all expectations: over one hundred thousand replies reflecting children's concerns and providing a unique insight into the younger generations' vision of the world.

## THEATRE, JAZZ AND CLASSICAL MUSIC

After the fine arts, theatre also joined the festival with "Three Hundred Years in the Skies". The theatre of the Alliance studio and its director Frode Rasmussen, one of the glories of the Norwegian stage and screen, takes the audience on a magical mystery tour through the rich traditions of their country's folklore, accompanied by a fiddler, a saxophonist and a percussionist. Another eminent member of the Norwegian cultural scene, the pianist, composer and arranger Jon Balke, has made the trip with his contemporary jazz orchestra. With ten musicians, he has brought to Atlanta his vision of the legacy of Gil Evans and George Russel. In classical mode, the Grieg Trio, violin, cello and piano, plays at the Spivey hall with a repertoire of Norwegian and American works. Such a profusion of encounters should vouchsafe the Atlantans more than just a glimpse of what Norway has to offer in the realm of culture. And perhaps soon we will be seeing Atlanta and the deep South of the United States in Lillehammer.

