



In my backyard: Iceland

By **Jamie K. White, CNN**

🕒 Updated 0138 GMT (0838 HKT) May 11, 2015



London, United Kingdom ☀️ 17°



8 photos

Agnieszka Sosnowska cuts her hair in this self-portrait taken in eastern Iceland. She moved

1 of 8



Story highlights

Agnieszka Sosnowska has taken a series of self-portraits in Iceland, her home since 2005

She says the images show how she has acclimated to the country and the culture

(CNN)—A string of dead geese around her body, and a rifle on her shoulders. [Agnieszka Sosnowska](#) calls this scene -- photo No. 7 in the gallery above -- "closest to her spirit."

Standing barefoot in the dirt in a paisley night, the image might conjure up thoughts of "Little House on the Prairie" meets "Survivorman."

Sosnowska began experimenting with self-portraiture in 1989 as a student at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design.

As a younger artist, she said, her portraiture was beautiful yet static -- devoid of the substance she craved. With experience came maturity, and she eventually began to capture herself as "more of a woman -- sure of herself."

In the early 2000s, Sosnowska met her husband while snowmobiling on top of a glacier in Iceland. It was expensive and dangerous, an excursion she was hesitant to take. But she kept in touch with her tour guide, and in 2005 she married him and moved from the United States to a farm in eastern Iceland.



Photographer Agnieszka Sosnowska

Her move put a wealth of "substance" at her feet. Now her work shows us a story of a woman growing into her surroundings, acclimating to a strange culture -- a series that radiates strength.

"Icelandic women are very mentally strong," she said.

Her life in Iceland looks, well, brutal. But she allows her audience glimpses of her feminine and playful side, too.

In one photo, she stands holding a snowball in between walls of ice and snow -- in the fjord of Mjoi fjordur, her favorite place in Iceland. Although very beautiful to the eye, life there is

extreme. The region is home to about 30 people who are snowed in for several months of the year.

She teaches "down the road" at a small school of 38 students. Her class attendance is no more than 10 at a time. She involves her classes with her photography, and she says the students love the camera.

Social media

Follow [@CNNPhotos on Twitter](#) to join the conversation about photography.

She develops her photos in a darkroom her husband built for her inside their barn.

When she's not tending to her garden or lugging sheep across a meadow, she enjoys the warmth of her "snorkel hot pot" -- a hot tub she had shipped from Washington state as a honeymoon present. It makes rural Iceland

look more like a resort in Aspen.

Despite Iceland's surreal backdrop, Sosnowska says her pictures are simply her "growing in front of the camera."

Agnieszka Sosnowska is a photographer based in Egilsstadir, Iceland. You can follow her on [Twitter](#).

Promoted Stories



Welcome To The Everything Bubble: The Overvalued (TalkMarkets)



When the Nazis Courted the KKK (OZY)



Six Watches from Baselworld that Eschew... (Robb Report)



And So It Begins... Minimum Wages Raised To \$15 In (Penny Stock Observer)

More From CNN



No, American Christianity is not dead



Linda Thompson on her relationships with Bruce Jenner



5-year-old shares compassion with homeless man



Look at me! 24 selfies of the week

Recommended by

Sponsored links

Day tours in Iceland

Guided bus tours from Reykjavík and Akureyri. Personal service
www.fabtravel.is

Date Of Birth Horoscopes

Enter your Birth Date to Reveal Your Future. First Reading is Free!
sky-request.com

Whale Watching Reykjavík

Whale Watching all year around. With Elding from Reykjavik, Iceland
www.whalewatching.is

Advertisement

Advertisement

CNN Photos



Happy when it rains: On the road with Britain's caravan crowd



Beachgoers soak in 'radioactive life'



Seeing humanity in farm animals



Mother, son both fighting cancer

In my backyard: Iceland



Ataturk: Turkey's love-affair with its founder



Advertisement

More from Living

'WTF' in the dictionary?! That's 'clickbait'



Child neglect charges ruled out for Maryland 'free-range' parents



All you need to know about the Charlie Charlie Challenge



Sponsored links
 Classic timepieces
 Designed and assembled by hand in Iceland
www.jswatch.com
 Free Stock Photos
 Create a Free Account and Download High
 Resolution Images for Free.
dreamstime.com
 Awesome Snowmobile Tours
 Golden circle & Snowmobile Your next
 adventure in Iceland !
www.snowmobile.is

Advertisement

Advertisement

London, United Kingdom  17°

Search CNN



NEWS

REGIONS

VIDEO

TV

FEATURES

OPINIONS

MORE...

© 2015 Cable News Network. Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

[Terms of service](#) | [Privacy guidelines](#) | [AdChoices](#) | [Advertise with us](#) | [About us](#) | [Contact us](#) |
[Work for us](#) | [Help](#) | [Transcripts](#) | [License Footage](#) | [CNN Newsource](#)