

Dalsland Art
Association



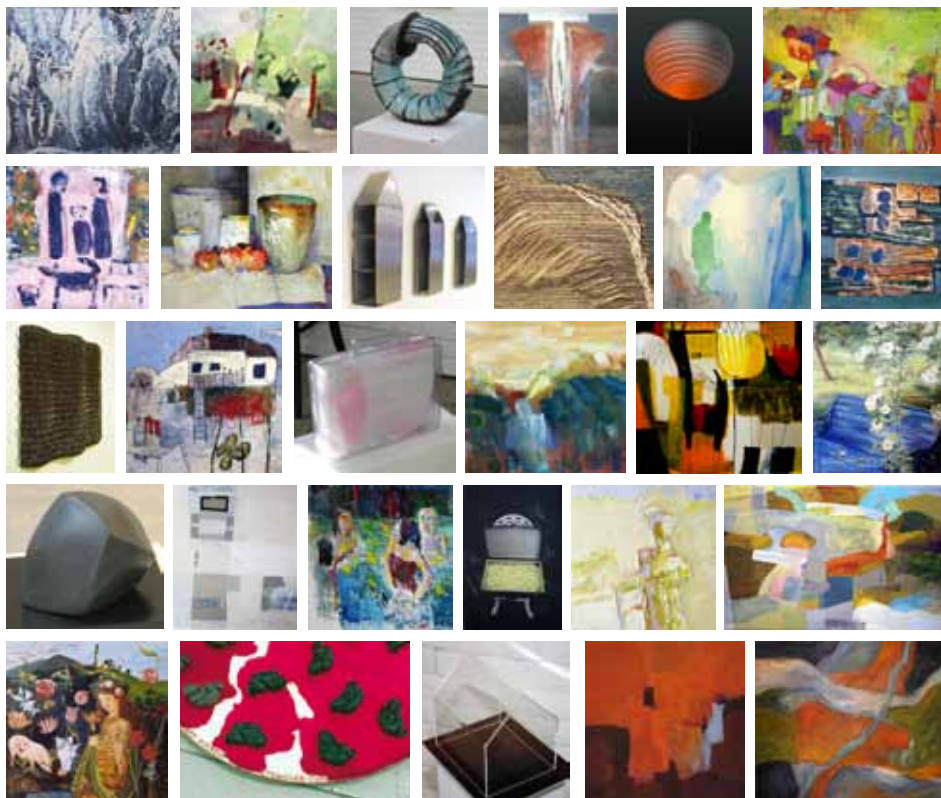
Society of Artists
in Dalsland

DALSAND GOES WEST

The Swedish American Museum

Chicago December 2, 2010 - January 30, 2011

The Dalsland Art Association celebrates its 75th Jubilee
presenting 29 members of the Society of Artists in Dalsland, Sweden



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DALSLAND GOES WEST - THE 75TH JUBILEE OF DALSLAND ART ASSOCIATION

Preparing for the 75th anniversary celebration we had an idea that turned into the project "Dalsland goes West". We looked for a possibility to exhibit in the Chicago area, Chicago being the third largest "Swedish" city at the beginning of the last century. More than half of the population in Dalsland emigrated to the U.S.

29 artists will participate. At this occasion each artist contributes with five small pieces to create an installation with a scent of Dalsland. A similar presentation was held at the Stockholm Art Fair 2005. Earlier jubilees have been held at the Liljevalchs Museum of Art in Stockholm (1975) and at the Gothenburg Museum of Art (1985).

Many of the artists have relatives in the U.S. and in this catalogue you will find an introduction of every artist together with an account of the emigrants in their families. For further information please turn to www.dkf.se where you will find more information about the artists under "Members-Medlemmar/Galleri".

Our purpose is to establish a contact and hopefully an opening for our artists. This is our first joint exhibit abroad and considering the frequently returning American relatives it could mean a possibility for them to visit the Swedish artists in their home studios after having seen the Chicago exhibition.

As one of our senior members, Georg Suttner, former prefect of the Royal Swedish Academy of Art, expressed: "Dalsland may be a small county, but its art has developed in peace and it has produced many fine artists".

We think these artists deserve to be seen and appreciated.

This is our moment!

Thank you Karin Moen Abercrombie of the Swedish American Museum for making this celebration possible! Our sincere gratitude goes likewise to all our sponsors.

Barbro Erlandsson Bratt Dalsland Art Association
Elisabeth Wennberg Society of Artists in Dalsland

Painting, drawing

Watercolor, ink and pencil

Christian Aarsrud

S.Blekan 1644
460 65 Brålanda, Sweden

+46(0)521-350 04

Born in Uddevalla, Sweden, 1938

Education

Autodidact

Exhibitions

About 60 solo and group exhibitions

Represented

In many county and municipal collections, as well as at the Dalsland Museum of Art.

Published

“Forged grave crosses - A study of popular forms”

“To discover a landscape - Dalsland through cultural history”

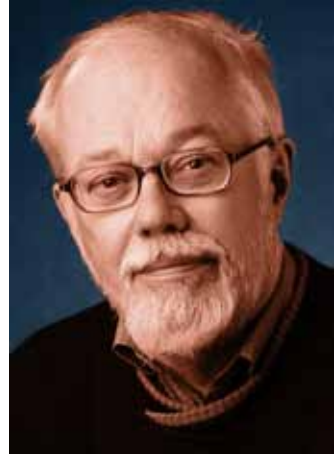
“The pioneers” A survey of artists in Dalsland during 70 years.

Awards

Dalsland Medal 2007

Statement

Nature is my great source of inspiration. In recent years I have found my motives mainly in the forests covered by snow. There I can study all the tones and shades of my favorite color: blue!



© Christian Aarsrud: "WINTER ISLAND"
watercolor, 10,6 x 13,4 inches



© Christian Aarsrud: "HEAVY SNOW"
watercolor, 9 x 10,6 inches

My relatives in the U.S.

My sister Bodil emigrated in 1965. An American schooner arrived in Uddevalla. A man on board was apparently irresistible!

Painting, objects, graphic art and textile

Acrylic, watercolor, etching

Marita Arvidsson

Hagvägen 13
660 10 Dals Långed, Sweden
mima3@spray.se
+46(0)531-408 84

Born in Dals Långed, Dalsland, Sweden 1959

Education

Kyrkerud College 1996
HDK / Steneby, Textile Art / Crafts 2001 - 2005
Many painting courses 1986 - 2010

Exhibitions

About 60 solo and group exhibitions

Represented

In many county and municipal collections, as well as
at the Dalsland Museum of Art.

Awards

Dalsland Art Association Award 1997

Statement

I am mainly a painter, but at times I like to experiment with objects. Color and shapes from the nature are often the starting point on my canvas. My paintings are often the result of a spontaneous feeling or reflection: A thought, a diary note. The color is very important and I work in layers to find the right expression.

My sources of inspirations are many: Beautiful things around me as well as moments of melancholy, an exciting journey, lingering words from a poem, but most of all the joy I experience during painting and my encounter with my world of colors: Inspiration!

Relatives in the U.S.

Many relatives from Flaterud, Ramdalen and Dalskog emigrated, but, as was the case in many families, we never knew what happened to them.



© Marita Arvidsson: "HEADED FOR A SHADE OF BLUE", acrylic, 19,7 x 19,7 inches

Sculpture

Raku clay

Cordula Bielenstein-Morich

Solhemsvägen 3
662 95 Fengersfors, Sweden
morich@notquite.se
+46(0)532-232 55

Born in Keinmachnow, Germany, 1954

Education

Master of Pottery.
Studies in Arts and Crafts at Burg Giebichenstein in Halle and in Heiligendamm.
Kyrkerud College Aesthetic Program, two years.

Exhibitions

About 40 solo and group exhibitions. Several countries throughout Europe as well as in Korea.

Represented

In many county and municipal collections

Statement

My work is inspired by the biological and inner structures of nature and the qualities of being. I focus on sculpture and mainly use the RAKU process to fire my work.



© Cordula Bielenstein-Morich: "NOT JUST ONE"
raku clay, 24,4 x 11,4 x 5 inches



© Cordula Bielenstein-Morich:
"CORAL", ø 7,5 height 6,7 inches

Painting, drawing

Acrylic, pencil

KG Bratt

Enesundsvägen 6
660 10 Dals Långed, Sweden
kgbratt@telia.com
+46(0)531-400 40

Born in Trollhättan, Sweden 1937

Education

School of Design and Crafts, Gothenburg 1957-1961
Valand-School of Fine Art, Gothenburg 1962-1966

Exhibitions

About 70 solo and group exhibitions

Represented

The National Museum, Stockholm, the Museum of Modern Art, Stockholm, the Borås Museum of Art and in many county and municipal collections

Awards

Trollhättan Cultural Award 1970, the Swedish Arts Grants Committee 1977. The Göta Älvdalens Art Association Award 1980. Älvsborg County Cultural Award 1983. Dalsland Art Association Award 1984.

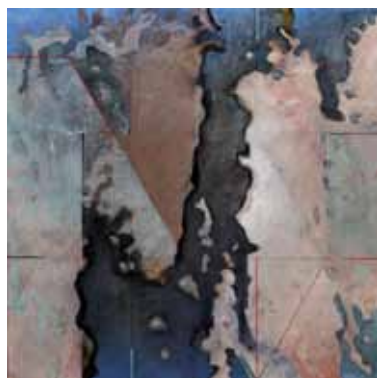
Statement

I started a school of art in Gothenburg, Gustavus Målarskola in 1968, where I worked as a teacher until the late seventies. Continued with my teaching at Steneby Foundation School for Arts and Crafts in Dalsland, where I have lived since 1975. I have always worked in my studio with my paintings parallel with my pedagogical work. My paintings always describe landscapes of all kinds for example the landscape of the human body. Nowadays I have begun to use my photos from the middle sixties showing the surface of man or his topographers from a macro perspective.

The Swedish westcoast has always fascinated and attracted me with its naked cliffs and unbroken horizon, ravines and cuttings also for its associations to the human body. Whatever the form of landscape I am constructing my pictures from geometric shapes – the triangle, the square, the circle – and from the Golden Section Proportions.

Relatives in the U.S.

Three of my grandmother's brothers and sisters emigrated to America about 1920. Elsa Lundahl married to Edwind Johnsson, also Swedish, settled down in Chicago and so did her brother Anders Lundahl who also got a daughter, Elsie Lundahl. The third one, Axel Lundahl, settled down in California. Elsa and her husband returned to Sweden as seniors. I particularly remembered the extraordinary gifts that we received in the late forties as big packages of coffee and Ball-points. I was the only pupil in my class having such a pen.



© KG Bratt: "PASSAGE", acrylic
11,8 x 11,8 inches

Painting, graphic art

Acrylic, etching, serigraphy, digital print and digital painting

Björn Carlén

Nolbygatan 5
662 33 Åmål, Sweden
carlen.bjorn@telia.com
www.bjorn-carlen.se

Born in Jönköping, Sweden 1935

Education

Artistic education at the College of Arts, Crafts and Design in Stockholm 1953-1959

Characteristics

Balance, rhythm, clarity, order, totality, absolute lucidity but still ambiguity. Symbolic pictures often with geometric shapes.

Exhibitions

118 solo and 233 group exhibitions

Represented

317 works divided between The National Public Art Council, counties, regions, municipalities and five museums of Art in Sweden and Poland.

Awards

Dalsland Art Association Award 1977 and 1993. The Älvsborg County Cultural Award 1979. Åmål Municipality Cultural Award 1981, Dalsland Medal 2002 (No. 79)

Short about the triptych below

The pictures (the triptych) deal with the borderland between life and death. The tunnel effect in three different stages. In the left picture the source of light is partly hidden which gives the picture a sense of anxiety while picture number two shows lightness and peace. You can see the whole source of light. The body rises and receives the light. In the third picture you leave your shell and the soul moves on in a spiral towards a new world. – The tunnel has twelve openings (twelve gates into heaven). At the front of the pictures there is a horizontal cross (a Tau cross). But here the cross is not only a cross but also a threshold, which in its turn is a symbol of the border between the profane and the spiritual.



© Björn Carlén: "SORTIE", triptych, acrylic, 23,6 x 23,6 inches (3 pieces)

Painting, textile

Oil paint, tapestry

Lisbeth Claesson

Tallvägen 6
464 40 Åsensbruk, Sweden
lisbeth.claesson@gmail.com
www.galleri.lcu.se

Born in Jörlanda, Bohuslän, Sweden 1946

Education

School of Design and Crafts (textile) Gothenburg 1966- -70
Many painting courses 1992 - 2000

Exhibitions

About 100 solo and group exhibitions

Represented

In many county and municipal collections, as well as at the Dalsland Museum of Art

Awards

Dalsland Art Association Award 1993

Published

"Flik av himmelsblå - Heavenly Blue" 2008
Poetry book with poems and pictures

Statement

I am a visual artist working with oil and textiles. In periods I paint or weave tapestry, often with vegetable dyed yarns. Previously, I also used watercolors. I have a studio in Åsensbruk where I can weave and paint.



© Lisbeth Claesson: "BLUE COW", oil, 9 x 7 inches



Relatives in the U.S.

Simon Bengtsson (born 1850) was my grandmother's uncle. His son, Sigurd (born 1891) emigrated in the early 1900 to the U.S. and settled in Chicago. Sigurd married Amanda and in 1957 they made a trip to Sweden to meet with relatives. Sigurd died of a heart attack in 1961.



Simon Bengtsson year 1919

Painting, graphic art

Acrylic, etching

Hjördis Clemens

Enetsvägen 28
660 10 Dals Långed, Sweden
+46(0)531-411 51
hjordisclemens@hotmail.com

Born in Dals Långed, Dalsland, Sweden 1951

Education

Steneby School 1.5 years. Kyrkerud College Aesthetic Proram 2 years. Courses in ceramics, photography, graphics

Exhibitions

About 60 solo and group exhibitions

Represented

In county and municipal collections

Awards

Dalsland Art Association Award 2008

Statement

To me painting means having fun, to amuse and surprise myself! I work totally out of my imagination using watercolor, acrylic, graphic techniques and sometimes I mix it all. I have learned to welcome mistakes, knowing that failures in the process of painting suddenly can turn into an unexpectedly fine result. To me it is essential to be in a balanced mental and physical condition. Yoga helps and so do daily walks in the forest nearby. I can stroll for hours with our dog without meeting anybody - maybe some deer or a moose (very shy). Nature gives me balance and harmony (even a sense of humour?) Therefore my pictures usually reflect that kind of mental state.



Relatives in the U.S.

My relatives in front of their house in Sweden 1916. The older couple, Emma-Sofia and Karl Andersson, are the parents of my grandmother Tekla born 1896 (missing in the photo). Emma-Sofia and Karl got eleven children. Between 1914 and 1930 six of them emigrated to the USA:

Three boys with caps are Adam, Erik and Ivar. The little boy in the striped dress is Göran and Olga is the little girl with a bow. Herman, the eldest, had already left Sweden. Ivar and Olga returned to Sweden. Erik and Adam had no children. Herman started the firm "Painting and decorating". He had a son, Donald, born around 1930. Göran had three daughters, Cynthia, Sandra and Shirly. Probably they have children as well.



© Hjördis Clemens:
"SONGBIRD", mixed media
8,3 x 7,7 inches



Painting

Watercolor

Gunilla Ekemark

Rösbacken 10
662 33 Åmål, Sweden
guneke@hotmail.com
+46(0)532-712 02

Born in Dals Ed, Dalsland, Sweden 1948

Education

Autodidact
Many painting courses

Exhibitions

About 40 solo and group exhibitions

Represented

In many county and municipal collections, as well as at the Dalsland Museum of Art

Awards

Dalsland Art Association Award 2009

Relatives in the U.S.

My grandmother Anna had eleven brothers and sisters. They were born between 1887-1906 . They lived in Frestersbyn, Järns parish in Dalsland. It was hard to earn one's living in Dalsland at those days so five of them emigrated to America to look for a better life. Frida, the oldest, emigrated in 1903 when she was 16 years old. Shortly after she had arrived she met a Swedish emigrant whom she married. They got two children, Gunnar and Ester and sadly she died waiting their third child. Frida's husband got married again soon after that. Nor he or his new wife wanted to take care of the children, so they moved away and left the children to fend for themselves.

In 2001, a daughter of Ester, Kay, and her husband who live in Minnesota, visited Dalsland. Perhaps she had hoped to find out some facts about her irresponsible grandfather but unfortunately we still don't know who he was. Probably he changed his name. Of course I have other relatives in different places in USA who have lived a much happier life, but this story about Frida came to my knowledge 2001 and affected me a lot.



© **Gunilla Ekemark:** "IN MAJESTIC SOLITUDE", watercolor, 11 x 9 inches



Sculpture, enamel painting

Enamel, stainless steel

monica eliasson

Hagtorpsvägen 8
663 42 Hammarö, Sweden
monicaeliasson@hotmail.com
+46(0)54-525 066

Born in Åmål, Sweden 1941

Education

Autodidact

Exhibitions

Has participated in many solo and group exhibitions both in Sweden and in many other countries around the world

Represented

In many county and municipal collections, as well as in three museums (Sweden, Denmark and Spain)

Awards

Dalsland Art Association Award 1999. Stockholm County Cultural Award with "DE 6" 1993. Hammarö Cultural Award 1994. The Award of Encouragement, 9th Cloissonne' Jewellery Exhibition, Tokyo, Japan 1996.

Statement

I am an enamel artist, constructing sculptures and pieces of art made of enamel and stainless steel. I work with geometrical shapes. The stainless steel in my constructions projects reflections like a kaleidoscope. The glossy metal surfaces also reflects the surrounding room. Even when I work with more traditional pictures in enamel, the impression is highly effected by variations of the surface texture. The sculpture on the left is 71 inches high.



Relatives in the U.S.

The photo shows my mother's aunt, Maria Johansson, and mom's cousin Per Adolf born in Kila, Varmland 1882. He emigrated to North America 1905. Adolf changed his last name to Miller, because his father worked as a miller in Sweden. Adolf sometimes visited Sweden. He appeared at Skansen in Stockholm, and was an accomplished fiddle player, wrote music and was also a real joker. Could put the violin on his back and play! Adolf married and had a son, Jerry, today just turned 90 years old and still an active musician. Jerry, also had a son named Jerry Jr. , and he is a very prominent music artist as well - among the 100 best guitar players of all times. (Rolling Stone Magazine list).

Four years ago my cousin Anne-Marie and I found Jerry Jr.'s only child, Colleen Masbruch, who lives in Seattle. Until then we had no knowledge of each other. Colleen's daughter Haley is a very talented violin player and it turned out that Haley had studied in Sweden for a year! Last summer they visited Sweden and we were able to visit Adolf's ancestors' graves and places where they had lived in Värmland. Music has been a theme running through the generations. Adolph Miller also had a sister, Anna, who emigrated to America in 1912. My mother's brother Albin emigrated in 1920. Presumably there are several descendants and I continue looking for them!



Textile, painting

Tapestry, watercolor

Mona Falk

Örsberg - Ör
464 92 Mellerud, Sweden
mfdesign@telia.com
+46(0)530-421 85

Born in Frändefors, Dalsland, Sweden 1951

Education

Courses at "Handarbetets Vänner" in 1977, 1985 Ulla Schumacher-Percy at Sätergläntan 1985

Exhibitions

About 40 solo and group exhibitions

Represented

National Public Art Council. In many county and municipal collections as well as decorations for many churches

Statement

My works are mostly on commission for churches and public buildings. I often weave in large looms, but sometimes I might interrupt with smaller watercolor paintings.

Awards

The Municipal of Karlstad Travel Grant 1985, 1986
Dalsland Art Association Award 2002

Relatives in the U.S.

My mother's aunts, Alma Setterdahl (married Markl) and Anna Setterdahl (married Clarton) were 20 years old as they emigrated in 1921 from Frändefors to Cleveland, Ohio.

In 1958 my uncle Lennart Setterdahl emigrated to East Moline with his family. During many years he worked for the Kinship Office in Växjö. In his work he came across and interviewed many Americans of Swedish descent in the U.S.

and in other parts of the world. Consequently the Swedish American Museum in Chicago should be familiar with his investigations. In 1990 he was appointed Honorary Doctor at the University of Gothenburg. Lennart Setterdahl passed away in 1995.



© Mona Falk: "HAPPINESS IS FINDING LINGONBERRIES"
tapestry, 49 x 30 inches

Painting, graphic art

Watercolor, acrylic, oil, enamel, etching

Lisbeth Fördell

Kolungen

464 92 Mellerud, Sweden

lisbeth.fyrdell@telia.com

+46(0)530-131 71

Born in Göteborg, Sweden 1961

Education

Course in Art and Design,
Ulster Polytechnic 1981-1982
Dömen Art School, painting line, 1982-88

Exhibitions

About 50 solo and group exhibitions

Represented

In county and municipal collections, as well as at the
Dalsland Museum of Art.
Adornment at the Odontology in Gothenburg

Awards

Mannheimer Award 1987

Statement

Always aiming for emotions.
Finding the way to express a special
feeling. Searching, letting the art guide
me. Sometimes down an old road.
Sometimes along the unknown.

Relatives in the U.S.

I have always felt a strong bond with the northern parts of the United States - the country where my ancestors searched for happiness and a better life at the turn of the last century. The place they went to was actually Chicago. Of seven brothers and sisters five of them left their home country which suffered badly from poverty and famine, and took their few belongings on a ship bound for the big country on the other side of the ocean. In Chicago they got a big welcome and settled in areas that reminded them of Sweden.



© Lisbeth Fördell: "GUIDED TOUR"
watercolor, 6,7 x 6,7 inches

Painting, sculpture

Oil, watercolor, stone, wood

Algot Galle

Ågatan 1 A
465 31 Nossebro, Sweden
algot.galle@yahoo.se
+46(0)512-508 64

Born in Hedalen, Ärtemark, Dalsland, Sweden 1922

Education

The Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen 1947 - 1950
Pupil of Fernand Léger, Paris 1951

Exhibitions

About 40 solo and group exhibitions

Represented

The National Public Art Council Council and in a number of municipal and county collections

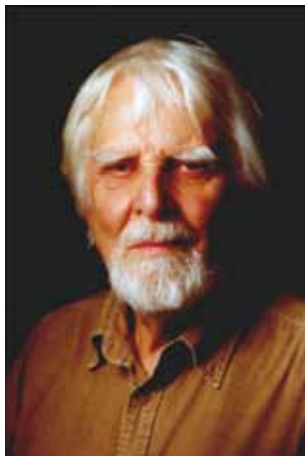
Awards

Dalsland Art Association Award 1965
Essunga Municipality Cultural Award 1990

Statement

*An image can create itself
just as the lingering waves
model horizons
of unknown landscapes
in the sand
illuminating the stones
awakening the seeker's
quest and fantasy ...*

*I reach
for a strong expression
I reach
for the visible
I reach
for the secrets of my dreams*



*En bild kan skapa sig själv
på samma sätt som
havets vågor sköljer
nya horisonter av
mjuka landskap i
strandens sand och
tänder stenars lyster
väcker sökarlust
och fantasi*

*Något syns mig
uttrycksfullt och
något syns mig verkligt
Annat syns mig
möjligt i min dröm*



© Algot Galle: "BIRD'S EYE VIEW", oil, 49,2 x 80 inches

Textile, straw-art

Tapestry, object

Anna-Lena Ingemansson

Åsen 30

660 10 Dals Långed, Sweden

annalenaingemansson@hotmail.com

www.strawart.com

Born in Frändefors, Dalsland, Sweden 1951

Education

Figure and Form, Gothenburg University, 1996 - 98

HDK, Stenebyskolan 1999-2004

Exhibitions

About 60 solo and group exhibitions

Represented

In many county and municipal collections

Awards

Formex Formidable Award, the jury's special prize in 2003. The Älvsborg County Cultural Award 2006



© Anna-Lena Ingemansson: ““STRAW RELIEF” colored woven straw, detail

Statement

I began my incredible journey with straw art during my studies at Steneby in the spring of 2003. By experimenting with color, shape and structure, I found a feeling and an excitement that led to a completely new form of artistic expression. In my endeavour to renew the straw handicraft I have experimented with different methods of weaving to arrive at one that allows the straw to glow with a slightly metallic lustre.

My works are nothing like traditional corn dollies. The abstract expression of the world around me and my straw sculpture reflects a maritime North Sea heritage coming from ryefields growing along the west coast of Sweden and Dalsland where I live and work today. Especially the landscape is channelled into this unique creative medium. I dye all the straw by hand as color is an important tool in creating the expression I am seeking. I create all my art pieces in a loom. No piece is identical due to the nature of the raw material. Even the largest piece is relatively light weight and remarkably strong. “The result is highly desirable and easy to live with”. “This is modern art at its most inspiring, taking the humble straw to new heights of design” are some of my reviews.

Textile, painting

Application, acrylic

Anna Jansson

Gamla Åmålsvägen 20
666 40 Skåpafors, Sweden
annajansson39@yahoo.se
+46(0)531-42305

Born in Skänninge, Sweden 1972

Education

KV-Art School, Gothenburg, 1994-97
Steneby School, Dals Långed, Textile, 1997-2003
Teacher Education, Karlstad University, 2009-2010

Exhibitions

15 solo and group exhibitions

Statement

I am a textile/visual artist also working as a teacher. My artistic guiding spirit shines through breathing, communicating, retreating, being generous and enlarging my senses.

My works are about the free spaces in life, being in the garden, reading poetry and philosophy; all turning into images of long tales ...



© Anna Jansson: "HOME" mixed media



© Anna Jansson: "BE", acrylic, 15,7 x 15,7 inches

Drawing, installation, object and performance art

Ebba Johansson

Fabriksvägen 13
660 10 Dals Långed, Sweden
ebbas@telia.com
+46(0)531-413 66

Born in Lidingö, Sweden 1972

Education

Nyckelvik School, crafts, Lidingö 1990-91
Steneby School, weaving / sewing/ textile crafts,
Dals Långed 1992-93.
National Handicraft and Industrial Art School, SHKS
in Oslo, Norway, clothes and costume program 1993-
98. Graduate Exam 1998

Scenography and Costume Design

I've made scenography design and / or costume design
for some 30 theater, dance and film productions mainly
in Norway.

Awards

Sleipnir Travel Award 1998, 1999, 2001. The Swedish-
Norwegian Cooperation Fund 1999. Debutant
exhibition award, Norwegian Arts Council in 1999, Estrid Ericsson Award 2001. Work
Award for young start-artists, three years from 2001 to 2004.

Statement

I have sat down with a pencil in my hand, put the pencil to paper and started. I have drawn
lines, many lines side by side, without any planning.



© Ebba Johansson: "AMOEBa", thermoplastic, 59 x 59 inches



I have tried to be present in every
line. Followed impulses, tried a
bit more, angled the pencil, ac-
celerated, slowed down, left the
pencil unsharpened, changed
the pencil, sharpened the pencil,
twisted it until the line quality
has changed. Above all I have
just been doing something all the
time.

Now where does this strong urge
to add lines to lines come from?
It is as if there are many lines
standing in a queue waiting to
end up on my paper. I will con-
tinue, repeat, revise and organize.

Painting, collage

Acrylic, oil, fungi pigments and paper

Liza Johansson

Sjövägen 8
662 95 Fengersfors, Sweden
lizajohansson@telia.com
+46(0)532-230 74

Born in Göteborg, Sweden 1948

Education

KV, Gothenburg 1976-1986. (2 days each week)
Many painting courses

Exhibitions

About 40 solo and group exhibitions

Represented

At the Dalsland Museum of Art

Awards

Dalsland Art Association Award 2005

Statement

I have always been very interested in landscapes, the people who live there and their dwellings. Beside being a painter I am an authorized fungi expert. My experimenting has made me extract pigments from mushrooms that I use in the same way as watercolor. I also make paper from mushrooms, all collected in the enchanting forests of Dalsland. After travelling to Australia for a fungi conference, as well as an inspirational trip for my painting, my images have become more abstract than earlier. Experimentation and playfulness are key ingredients and guidances in my creation.



© Liza Johansson: "MANY ROADS TOWARDS HOME"
acrylic, 11,8 x 11,8 inches

Relatives in the U.S.

My grandmother's mother's brother John Anders Andersson, born 1850, emigrated from Lilla Edet in 1874. He was a mason by profession. John Anders and his wife Beda Charlotta were said to have 10 children and lived in Iowa, later around Keokuk. The picture shows the couple with their children Leroy Robert and Carri Elma.



Painting

Acrylic

Marianne Johansson

Björkvägen 8
464 40 Åsensbruk, Sweden
marianne.leif@tele2.se
+46(0)530-307 25

Born in Håverud, Sweden 1945

Education

Autodidact

Many painting courses

Exhibitions

About 80 solo and group exhibitions

Represented

In many county and municipal collections, as well as at the Dalsland Museum of Art

Awards

Dalsland Art Association Award 1994

Paper Industry Association Cultural Award 1999.

Statement

My painting will progress intuitively. I never know how the result will be. The painting grows gradually.



© Marianne Johansson: "HYBRID"
acrylic, 33 x 35 inches



© Marianne Johansson: "AUTUMN"
acrylic, 19,3 x 19,2 inches

Painting

Oil

Gunilla S:son Kjellstedt

Kyrkogatan 12
662 31 Åmål, Sweden
gunilla.kjellstedt@edu.amal.se
+46(0)532-167 56

Born in Bengtsfors, Sweden 1945

Education

Artistic education at the College of Arts, Crafts and Design in Stockholm 1966-1970.

Exhibitions

About 50 solo and group exhibitions

Represented

In many county and municipal collections

Awards

Dalsland Art Association Award 1981 and 2008

Statement

I paint in order to make precious moments in life stay alive. The beauty in a delicate lace curtain in a window, an old piece of furniture in a beautiful garden or, right now, the fascination of a flower in full bloom.

Relatives in the U.S.

My Grandma Milda, born Göransdotter 1879, was the daughter of Sofia Andersson, married to Mr Olsson. Mr Olsson emigrated to America and left his family behind. He never came back.

My Grandpa August Oscar Lindgren was born in 1876. Grandpa's cousin Waldemar Skoglund emigrated to Chicago, but returned to Bengtsfors with his family and founded the local newspaper "Dalslänningen". Gordon Skoglund, Waldemar's son, born and raised in Chicago, followed in his father's footsteps and still lives in Bengtsfors. During the years Gordon has told me many interesting stories about his time in Chicago.

My first memories of distant relatives in the U.S. are the beautiful, glistening Christmas Cards addressed to Grandma and Grandpa.



© Gunilla S:son Kjellstedt: "HIMMELRIKE OCH JORDELIV", oil, 9,8 x 9,8 inches

Sculpture

Marble, diabase and stoneware

Elsie Larsson

Ryrsvägen 23
464 71 Köpmannebro, Sweden
larsson.ryr@hotmail.com
+46(0)530-340 05

Born in Mellerud, Sweden 1938

Education

Stenbearbetning i Gerlesborg 2000-01
För övrigt autodidakt

Exhibitions

About 50 solo and group exhibitions

Represented

In many county and municipal collections, as well as in Dalsland Museum of Art

Awards

Dalsland Art Association Award 1990 and 2001

Statement

I have two kinds of imagery. When I work in marble or diabase, I am working with abstract forms. In stoneware, I am usually figurative. Looking at the works, it looks like they were made by two different artists. For better or for worse, but this is me.

Relatives in the U.S.

My aunt Svea was born in 1898 in the little house where I live with my family today. She emigrated with her husband and 2 little daughters to New York Park City, where her husband started to work as a carpenter. Svea and her children returned to Sweden, by this times stricken by tuberculosis. 5 of her 8 brothers and sisters died. After 4 years she returned to the U.S. where it turned out that she too had been infected by the tuberculosis as well. She passed away in 1936. I often think of her courage – the incredible contrast between our little cottage and the big city of New York!



© Elsie Larsson: "MOVEMENT", marble
15,7 x 13,4 inches, height 10,6 inches



Aunt Svea writes letters
home to Sweden in 1927

Painting, sculpture

Acrylic, wood, objects, wasted things

Anne Lindblom

Björklidsvägen 4
464 40 Åsensbruk, Sweden
annelindb@gmail.com
+46(0)530-308 91

Born in Karlstad, Sweden 1967

Education

Autodidact

Exhibitions

About 30 solo and group exhibitions

Statement

I have always valued the broken and thrown away objects. Through them the world has opened up to me.

History has been present and important.

I feel like an archaeologist when I'm looking at waste with a story or something I can associate around, then take the objects found home and solve the mystery.....



© Anne Lindblom: "DR PILL"
mixed media , 6 x 6 inches

Relatives in the U.S.

My grandfather's uncle, Gustaf Robert Lindblom, emigrated to America in the early 1900s.

In 1910, he became an American citizen and settled in Chicago (address: 546 ea 3rd, St.Charles, ILL).

During the 1930s, he worked as a carpenter and was a tenant of Alfred Kohler (address: West North Ave Chicago). He died in 1941 in Cook County.

My grandfather (Ivar Lindblom) told my father (Kjell Lindblom) that after Gustaf's death they received an envelope with two pairs of gold cufflinks. Supposedly he had been assaulted, robbed of his car and murdered by the Al Capone gang.

Painting

acrylic

Allan Nilsson

Vänersborgsvägen 8 C
662 31 Åmål, Sweden

+46(0)532-154 81

Born in Säffle, Sweden 1933

Education

Autodidact

Exhibitions

About 70 solo and group exhibitions

Represented

In many county and municipal collections, as well as at the Dalsland Museum of Art

Awards

The Cultural Award of Älvsborg's County 1985

Åmål Municipality Cultural Award 1985

Dalsland Art Association Award 1980 and 1992



© Allan Nilsson: "PERSON CELEBRATING AN ANNIVERSARY", acrylic, 47 x 42 inches



© Allan Nilsson: "THE GREENHOUSE", acrylic
25,6 x 24,4 inches

Installation, photo, graphic art, video

pencil, copper graphics, digital photos

Anna-lill Nilsson

Bergvägen 22
660 10 Dals Långed, Sweden
annalill_n@hotmail.com
+46(0)531-412 57

Born in Dals Långed, Sweden, 1954

Education

Independent School of Painting Halmstad 1980-82
Gerlesborg School of Art- Graphic Art 1997-98
Valand-School of Fine Art. College degree 2002

Exhibitions

About 50 solo and group exhibitions

Represented

In a number of county councils, municipalities
and church collections

Awards

Dalsland Art Association Award 1988

Statement

I think that art has a mission, to reflect humanity and society. To me, my own art is a possibility to stand beside my self and become a viewer. If there is no Thou there is no Me. Artist and viewer can be Thou and Me in a never ending interacting process. To me, this is always a tool never a goal. It is a research process that opens my eyes for reality, both outside and inside myself. The experience can be provocative or confirming. To me drawing is a way to investigate the world and I have often used it. With time the use of a camera has had more and more impact on my processes. Drawing is the art of selection, the photography gives me the opportunity to keep the hole scenery and give me time to reflect.

My hope is that my artistic work should influence the viewer to reflect over his daily life. I think that to be surprised by the wonder of art is one of the most important experiences you can have.

Relatives in the U.S.

I don't have many close relatives in the U.S. There were some people on my grandfather's side that emigrated but I know nothing about them, not even their names. My only connection to them were some dollars I got from my grandpa as a birthday present when I was a child.



© Anna-lill Nilsson: "TEZCATLI-POCAS MIRROR", photography
53 x 35 cm

Painting, drawing

Oil, pencil and ink

Lars-Erik Ohlsson

Nya Örnäsgatan 29

662 31 Åmål, Sweden

ohlsson.larserik@gmail.com

www.svenskakonstnarer.se/galleri/larserikohlsson

Born in Åmål, Sweden, 1947

Education

Autodidact

Exhibitions

About 120 solo and group exhibitions in Sweden and abroad

Represented

In many county councils, municipalities and churches as well as collections of the Dalsland Museum of Art and the Laholm Drawing Museum

Awards

Dalsland Art Association Award 1978 and 1991

Relatives in the U.S.

Three brothers of my grandfather - on my mothers side - emigrated between 1903 and 1925. Known relatives in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. Among them my mothers cousin Betty Laurin, now living in Hanson Massachusetts



© Lars-Erik Ohlsson: "CHAIR ON A WHITE FLOOR", olja, 5,9 x 5,9 inches



© Lars-Erik Ohlsson: "DANCING TREE", olja, 11,8 x 11,8 inches

Painting

Tempera

Malin Palm

Stora Bodane 142
662 98 Tösse, Sweden
hm.palm@swipnet.se
www.malinpalm.com

Born in Åmål, Sweden, 1964

Education

Nyckelvik School Stockholm 1984-85
Civil degree in economics, University of Gothenburg 1990
Örebro Art College 1995-96

Exhibitions

About 50 solo and group exhibitions

Represented

In many county and municipalities
The Laholm Museum of Drawing

Awards

Dalsland Art Association Award 2001
Åmål Municipality Cultural Award 2002

Statement

I use tempera-techniques most of the time. My goal is to create a luminous expression through abstract solutions.

Relatives in the U.S.

My grandfather's mother's sister Berta, called "moster Berta" born in Tösse, left for America when she got pregnant. She came to Chicago, where she married Walter Freeman and had two children; a daughter Gloria and a son, who fought in the 2nd world war. Berta visited Sweden for a few months in 1958 then returned to New York where she died that same year.



© Malin Palm: "HOUSE"
tempera
7,9 x 11,8 inches



© Malin Palm:
"BREATHING",tempera
26 x 6 inches



© Malin Palm:"WHEN YOU
WERE ABSENT",tempera
23,6 x 23,6 inches

Painting, drawing, installation

Watercolor, oil, pencil

Annelie Pihlgren

Birger Jarlsgatan 16 A
414 69 Göteborg, Sweden
apihlgren@yahoo.se
+46(0)31-24 14 75

Born in Karlstad, Sweden, 1961

Education

The Academy of Fine Arts, Helsinki, Finland 1992-93
Valand-School of Fine Art 1994-1999
Valand-School of Fine Art (Art lab) 2004-2006

Exhibitions

Several exhibitions in museums in Sweden and abroad

Represented

The National Public Art Council and in a number of municipal and county collections

Awards

The Älvsborg's County Cultural Award 1997
Ester Lindahl Foundation Award 1997
Sten A Olssons Art Grant Award 1999.
Västsvenska kulturfonden 2000.
Stiftelsen Grez-sur-Loing, Göteborgs Culture Council 2000.
The Swedish Grants Committee 2004.
Dalsland Art Association Award 2006

Statement

Universal themes like desire, loss and memories are at the heart of my work. Random, chance and "impossible" configurations play existential roles in my watercolors and pencil drawings of large format.. The drawing on the wall might continue in a sculpture on the floor. Everything is marked by a deep desire to explore the timeless state of things, always conducted with a soulful curiosity. The pictures are characterized by both melancholy as well as a tender humor.



Frederick Pihlgren with his wife

Relatives in the U.S.

Several members of my family emigrated to the U.S. in the early 1900s. Some cousins of my father (born in Gothenburg) were: Viktoria Pihlgren (lived in Rawlins, Wyoming), her brother Fredrik Pihlgren, Håkan Pihlgren and Kerstin Holmgren (born Rystrand).



© Annelie Pihlgren: "STUDIO PICTURE"

Sculpture, project, installation

Wood, wax, bronze, etc

Marita Staf

Kromhout 24
3311 RH Dordrecht, Holland
m.staf@chello.nl
www.1.fotolog.com/maritastaf
www.youtube.com/mitamarita

Born in Steneby, Dalsland, Sweden, 1944

Education

Vrije Academie 1979-1984

Many courses

Exhibitions

About 30 solo and group exhibitions in Holland, Sweden and Austria

Represented

In many official and private collections in Holland

Awards

Three-year working grant Fonds Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam 2000-2002

Dalsland Art Association Award

2000

Published

Novel:

“Bigma’s kleinkind, The death row poet” 1996 (in dutch and translated into Swedish)

Short Story in “Vildsint”-”Wild at Heart”

Script: “Internetcasanova”

(work in progress)

Statement

In my art work, to the best of my knowledge, I strive to contribute to a context that has not been shown before.



© Marita Staf: “NOT GUILTY”
bronze, 1,18 x 3,54 x 2 inches

Installation

Video, photo, objects and sounds

Maria Sundström

Granlidsvägen 5
910 20 Hörnefors, Sweden
i.c.maria.sundstrom@spray.se
www.mariasundstrom.se

Born in Ödeborg, Dalsland, Sweden 1961

Education

The Academy of Fine Arts, Umeå University, Sweden, 1989–94
The Academy of Fine Arts, Umeå, "Installation", 1995
Linköpings University, "Exhibitionform" 2002–2003

Exhibitions

About 50 solo and group exhibitions in Sweden and abroad, including in some museums and Culture House in Stockholm.

Represented

In many county and municipal collections and at the Dalsland Museum of Art, Artmuseum Listasavn, Faroe Islands and the Frauen Museum Wiesbaden, Germany

Awards

Foundation Helge Ax:son Johnson (1992, 1994 and 2003);
Längmanska Kulturfond (1994); SLEIPNIR travelgrant, Nordiska Rådet (1994); The Swedish Arts' Grants Committee, grants (1959–97 and 2007); Academy of Arts residence-grant Cité, Internationale des Arts in Paris (2003); Foundation Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (2007, Dalsland Art Association Award 2004).

Statement

"Månda I dag vefver som vanligt. Tack och lof" ("Monday and, Praise the Lord, I am still weaving") – To me, the carpet represents a picture of a landscape. Like a map that tells a story of a human being, a family and their relatives. Fragments of the past appears in every stripe that could remind you of a cloth, a smell, a touch, an inner moving picture appears, not clear but still very direct: memories!

Relatives in the U.S.

I've found one relative who went to the U.S. Nils Herman Tillner, born 1864, died in California 1958. He was my grandmothers uncle on her fathers side.



© Maria Sundström: "MÅNDA I DAG VEFVER SOM VANLIGT. TACK OCH LOF", *photography, mounted with silicone on a diamond glass, 7,5 x 143,3 inches*

Painting

Oil, tempera

Inger Wallertz

Övertun 17
457 47 Hamburgsund, Sweden

Tfn +46(0)523-533 78

Born in Bäckefors, Dalsland, Sweden 1941

Education

The Gerlesborg School of Art - Bohuslän
The Hovedskou School of Art - Gothenburg

Exhibitions

A number of solo and group exhibitions, including some museums

Represented

The National Public Art Council and a number of municipal and county collections

Awards

The Swedish Arts Grants Committee
Dalsland Art Association Award 1996

Statement

Shimmering images travel
through my memory
through the dawn
through the dusk
turning outside to
inside and around



© Inger Wallertz: "SEPTEMBER"
tempera, 16 x 18 inches



© Inger Wallertz: "SEPTEMBER MEMORY"
tempera, 56,7 x 54,7 inches

Painting, collage, film

Oil, objects

Elisabeth Wennberg

Linheden 122, Edsleskog
662 91 Åmål, Sweden
pintura@swipnet.se
+46(0)532-510 60

Born in Stockholm, Sweden, 1942

Education

College of Arts, Crafts and Design, drawing course, 1972
TV and Film production - Swedish Television 1972
The Gerlesborg School of Art - Stockholm 1982 - 1985

Exhibitions

About 40 solo and group exhibitions

Films

Among others the trilogy "Memories of the Earth", capturing myths and rituals : "Yagua Blue" (Guarani Indians of southern Bolivia) "Shaman" (Nganasan of Taimyr, Siberia) "In Spite of Sorrow" (Kasena of Southern Burkina Faso)

Represented

Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala
Building Entrance, Farsta Strand, Stockholm and county collections

Awards

The Swedish Film Institute 1989 1994
The Swedish Arts Grants Committee 1997
Dalsland Art Association Award 2007

Statement

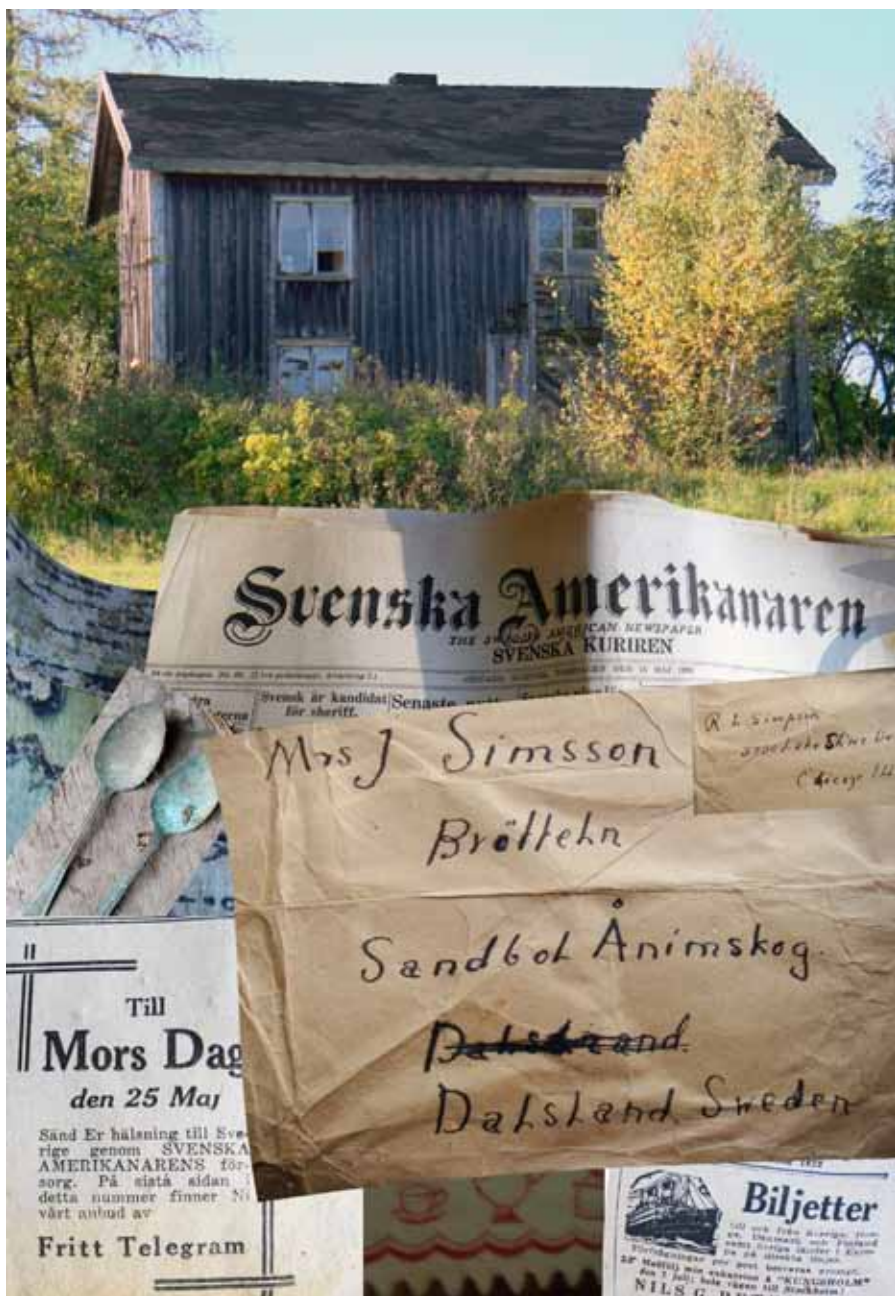
Painting has always been an important part of my professional work with film. Using collage techniques and mainly oil painting I search for an expression beyond the camera lens. My motives are found within the escaping lights of the magic forests, trying to make the invisible visible.



© Elisabeth Wennberg: "THE SOURCE", oil
39,8 x 47,2 inches

Relatives in the U.S.

Ernst Hubert Wilhelm, Son of Wilhelm August Wennberg and a distant cousin of my grandfather, emigrated and worked as a master mechanic at Wisconsin Central Rail. He took the new name Frank Earnest Wilson and September 8 1892 he married Emma Christina Kraetch from Barton, Wisconsin. They had two sons : William Leroy and Harold Charley. Frank Ernest died in Chicago 1902 and his widow remarried Frederick Noble Stimson and continued to live in Chicago with her new family.



Bröttelehn“ and a few items we found in the house. Photo: Liza Johansson. Photo montage: Björn Carlén

At “Brötteln”

The windowpane is long gone and a cool autumn breeze makes the remains of a curtain sway. The linoleum carpet is torn and a brown paper is slightly visible.

A parcel from Chicago for whom? Pieces of magazines on the floor to keep the cold out. Who lived here?

Viktor Simson (born 1871) and Johanna Simson (born 1874) turned out to be the answer. Here at “Brötteln” they raised 9 children, 5 of whom emigrated to the U.S. The parcel was sent from one of their daughters, Ruth, who lived in Chicago!

Mrs. Simson had the quality of beauty that no hardship can erase. This was appreciated by the famous Swedish painter Otto Hesselbom, who often returned to his native Dalsland for motives of people and landscapes.

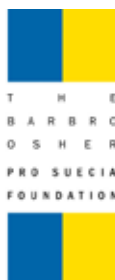


Otto Hesselbom: “JOHANNA SIMSON” 1893
pencil, 7,3 x 4,3 inches. Photo: Peter Lidman



Otto Hesselbom: “VÅRT LAND” (OUR COUNTRY), 1902-03, oil, replica 44 x 79 inches: Photo: Björn Carlén

SWEDISH AMERICAN MUSEUM



Charlotte Bonnier



STENEBY