



INTERNATIONAL FORUM OSLO

NEWSLETTER

February 2023
Issue No. 482

In this Issue:



FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING, February 6, p. 7
Tove Wang on Save the Children



ART COMMITTEE, February 16, p. 8
Flytårnet, Kulturgaten and the Cultural Centre at Fornebu



SPECIAL EVENTS, February 28, p. 9
Jan Herman Linge, resistance fighter and naval engineer



MARCH MONTHLY MEETING, March 6, p 10
Dr Ingebjørg Toppe on Children and Multiculturalism





INTERNATIONAL FORUM

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If you wish to become a member of International Forum, please contact us by email.



IN THIS NEWSLETTER

FEATURES/EVENTS	DATE	TIME	PAGE
PRESIDENT'S PAGE			4
FROM THE BOARD			
Grethe Frydenlund Award			5
COMING EVENTS			
February Monthly Meeting			
Tove Wang on Save the Children	Feb 6	18:45	7
Art Committee			
Fornebu Cultural Centre	Feb 16	11:45	8
Special Events			
Jan H. Linge Centenary Exhibition	Feb 28	10:45	9
March Monthly Meeting			
Children and Multilingualism	March 6	18:45	10
Special Events			
Lecture on the Northern Lights	March 21	11:45	11
ACTIVITIES			12
REPORTS			
January Monthly Meeting			12
Art Committee , Niki Saint Phalle			15
NOMINATION COMMITTEE			19
AROUND OSLO			
Lillehammer Art Museum			
Konrad Mägi, Estonia's Great Painter			21

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES

For the **March Newsletter** is **February 16**. Please send your contribution to Elizabeth S. Rasmussen, and to int.forum@online.no. The Editor and the Editorial Team reserve the right to edit *all* material.



From the President

Dear Members,

Losing parents at any age makes you an orphan – goes an old saying. As you get older, with financial independence and worldly understanding, you don't face the vulnerabilities of an orphan as depicted in literature or films. Yet, if you have experienced parental love, then you *feel* orphaned. With a sigh you realize a foundational part of your life has ended.

But, maybe not. At my mother's funeral recently, the priest gave a truly healing sermon. My mother was known for her wit, her spirit of fun and joyful laughter. The priest's advice to the grieving assembly was 'Don't just remember Nancy, but *live* the quality that characterized her best: 'Fun'. She lives on in your laughter, your zest for life. Honour her with joy and gratitude, instead of sinking into sadness.'

Tears express conflicting emotions – happiness, sadness, gratitude. When we present the Grethe Frydenlund Award to deserving members for their lifetime contribution to International Forum, the winners are deeply moved, often in tears remembering with gratitude how much the Forum has meant to their lives. I was reminded of this on reading an Indian Freedom Fighter's quote 'Every movement needs poets and writers just as much as it needs warriors and activists.'

Forum has a beautiful blend of doers and dreamers – sometimes in the same person. This is what makes the Forum special, sustainable and unique. We have leaders who create programmes and we have members who participate in and enjoy them. No event is good without an appreciative audience and no audience is good without interesting events. This is the happy sound of two hands clapping, of living in appreciation and gratitude.

Looking forward very much to seeing you soon!

Best regards

Anita Pratap

President

FROM THE BOARD
GRETHE FRYDENLUND AWARD



NOMINATION FORM
International Forum's Grethe Frydenlund Award

a) I propose: _____ as Member of the Year 2022

Please list the nominee's activities related to IF, including positions held:

Please state as fully as possible your reasons for proposing this nominee:

Proposing member:

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Memb. no.: _____ Mob.: _____

Email: _____

IF member since: _____

**Please email your nomination to The Board, C/O The President,
int.forum@online.no**



Nomination Guidelines for International Forum's Grethe Frudenlund Award

Introduction:

The purpose of the International Forum's Grethe Frydenlund Award is to honour a member who, over a number of years, has given outstanding service to the running of the organisation, in accordance with its aims.

- § 1 The Grethe Frydenlund Award** may be given to a full member in appreciation of commendable service to International Forum.
This may be for
- a) having made significant contribution to the running and/or advancement of International Forum
 - b) long, exceptional and dedicated service that has benefited the organisation.
- § 2 Who is eligible for nomination**
- a) Members who have held one or several positions in International Forum,
 - b) Current Board and Deputy Board Members are **not** eligible.
- § 3 Nomination procedure**
- Any member may propose a nominee. The Board will evaluate the nominations. A majority decision will prevail. The Board's decision is final.
- a) All proposals should be submitted to the Board using the Nomination Form or by emailing the corresponding information as requested in the form.
 - b) The reasons for proposing the nominee should be fully described.
 - c) The completed form should be sent to **The Board, c/o The President**, not later than April 15.
- § 4 The Award**
- The recipient will be presented with a gold plated IF brooch at the AGM in June. An article about the recipient will be published in the *Newsletter*.

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING

February 6



Tove Romsaas Wang, former Director General of Save the Children Norway and a registered nurse, has been a long-time NGO worker. She has a Master in International Health from Johns Hopkins University in 1982. After a short career at Rikshospitalet and a mission for the UN and WHO in Yemen in the 1970s, she became involved in Save the Children Norway as a programme coordinator and later as director of SCN's International Services. Ms Wang became the organisation's on-site representative in Zimbabwe in 1991, then Deputy Secretary General of the International Save the Children before being appointed Secretary General in 2018. She was awarded the King's Medal of Merit in 2019.

She will talk about her work in the service of Save the Children.

DATE/TIME: Monday, **February 6** at 18:45 (for 19:00)

SIGN UP: To **Anita Solheim**, by email: no later than Wednesday, **February 1**.

The event is open only to members. Members: Please sign up as indicated in the Newsletter

Non Members: if you would like to become a member, please email int.forum@online.no for an application form. *Please note membership is not automatic. Applications are processed and decided by the Board.*

PRICE: NOK 105.- **Please sign up and pay.** Please make your payment **preferably by bank transfer** to the Forum account: 1600 40 36631 or by VIPPS 591747. No cash will be handled at the venue. Please **state the event and your name** in the transaction (in the KID-number box for bank payments and in the dialogue box for VIPPS).

TRANSPORT: T-Bane 1 to Vinderen. Pay parking in the adjoining area until 20:00.

Guests are welcome.

No-shows will be charged. For last minute cancellations, please call Anita Solheim on mob.: 404 80 944

ART COMMITTEE

Flytårnet, Kulturgaten and the Cultural Centre at Fornebu

February 16



Flytårnet Kultursenter is in the old workshops around the control tower of what was Oslo's airport, Fornebu. There are almost 100 studios and workshops for artists, wood carvers, ceramicists, sculpturers, glassworkers, frame makers and interior designers in addition to four galleries: Volart, Galleri DC-3, Galleri

Odonata and Bærum Kunsthall. The buildings also count three museums: Kultur på Hjul (cars), Vespermuseet and Fornebu Historical Museum.

Flytårnet Fornebu and Flytårnet Kultursenter invite us to a light lunch at 12:00 with a presentation of the centre and plans for future development. Afterwards, we will take a tour around some of the studios.

DATE/TIME: Thursday, **16 February**, 11:45 for 12:00

SIGN UP: By email to Jane Steenbuch, as soon as possible. Deadline **13 February**.

The event is open only to members. Members: Please sign up as indicated in the Newsletter

Non Members: if you would like to become a member, please email int.forum@online.no for an application form. *Please note membership is not automatic. Applications are processed and decided by the Board.*

PLACE: Flytårnet Kultursenter, Forneburingen 11-43, 1360 Fornebu.

PRICE: The visit is free of charge. We ask you to contribute with **NOK 25.- for a gift**. Please make your payment **preferably** by **bank transfer** to the Forum account: 1600 40 36631 or by VIPPS 591747. No cash will be handled at the venue. Please **state the event and your name** in the transaction (in the KID-number box for bank payments and in the dialogue box for VIPPS).

TRANSPORT: By car: Drive out to Fornebu via Snarøyaveien. Turn right onto Bernt Balkens vei (Odd Nansensvei is partially closed due to road work), and right again onto Forneburingen. Then right onto Odd Nansens vei and then left and into the parking place. Pay parking.

Public transport: Bus 31 to Snarøya. Get off at Telenor Fornebu. From there, it is a 10-minute walk.

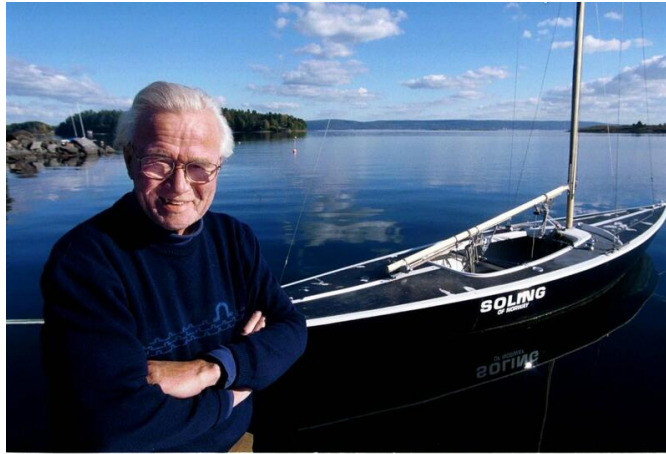
Maximum 25 participants. Guests are welcome if space is available.

For last-minute cancellations, please call Jane on mob: 992 24 582.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Jan Herman Linge Centenary Exhibition The Norwegian Maritime Museum

February 28



The Special Events Committee has pleasure in inviting you to an interesting exhibition about engineer and boat designer Jan Herman Linge at the Norwegian Maritime Museum at Bygdøy. This exhibition features the thrilling life of Jan Herman Linge.

Born in 1922, the son of First World War hero Martin Linge, Jan Herman joined the resistance movement in 1940 at the age of 18. At the same time, he built his first boat named 'Vi to' (the two of us).

After the war, he studied ship design and naval construction in England and the USA. Through his sailing career and work as a boat constructor, he came in close contact with the active sailors of the Royal Family. He also took part in and worked on constructing a new motor torpedo boat. A sociable man, he always treated everyone as peers, connecting easily with both 'high and low'. He truly enjoyed his work and never really retired – he kept producing ideas, sketches, and drawings of new boat models into retirement age. He passed away in 2007, but his constructions and designs, his ideas and humanistic project live on.

The exhibition features many of Jan Herman Linge's sailing and motor boats, as well as information about them, and allow us to get a good impression of his long and active life.

Refreshments are available for those who would like to visit the museum's café.

DATE/TIME: Tuesday **February 28** at 10:45 (for 11:00)

SIGN UP: To Pernille Stavseth, email no later than **February 17**.

Sign up, but pay only **after** you have received confirmation.

The event is open only to members. Members: Please sign up as indicated in the Newsletter
Non Members: if you would like to become a member, please email int.forum@online.no for an application form. *Please note membership is not automatic. Applications are processed and decided by the Board.*

PLACE: Maritime Museum at Bygdøyenes, Bygdøyenesveien 37, 0286 Oslo

PRICE: NOK 155,- which includes entrance fee and guided tour.
Please make your payment **preferably** by **bank transfer** to the Forum account: 1600 40 36631 or by VIPPS 591747.
No cash will be handled at the venue. Please **state the event and your name** in the transaction (in the KID-number box for bank payments and in the dialogue box for VIPPS).

TRANSPORT: Public transport: Bus 30 to Bygdøyenes (Maritime Museum).

Car: Follow the signs for the Museum. There is parking nearby on your right, just before you arrive at the museum square.

Maximum number of participants is 20.

Guests are allowed if space available.

Cancellations after the deadline and no-shows will be charged.

For last-minute cancellations and questions, please Pernille Stavseth by email: pernille.stavseth@gmail.com or by mob.: 913 25 658

MARCH MONTHLY MEETING

March 6

Dr Ingebjørg Tonne on Children and Multilingualism



Dr Ingebjørg Tonne, Centre for Multilingualism at the University of Oslo, will speak about children and multilingualism. Her doctoral thesis (2001) is a contrastive linguistic analysis of specific features of Norwegian, Spanish and English.

Dr Tonne teaches second language acquisition, in particular pupils' text development, multilingual aspects of language development, sociolinguistics and contrastive grammar. Her research has taken her into new literacy studies in order to examine if extensive access to quality literature may enhance reading and writing skill in children. There is probably a correspondence between young pupils' reading and writing competencies.

She has also published articles and columns on a variety of language topics for a wider public. Her work focuses on contrastive grammar and second-language acquisition, and the relevance of grammar as a tool to better reading and writing skills.

DATE/TIME: Monday, **March 6** at 18:45 (for 19:00)

SIGN UP: To Anita Solheim, by email no later than Wednesday, **March 1.**

The event is open only to members. Members: Please sign up as indicated in the Newsletter
Non Members: if you would like to become a member, please email int.forum@online.no for an application form. *Please note membership is not automatic. Applications are processed and decided by the Board.*

PRICE: NOK 105.- **Please sign up and pay.** Please make your payment **preferably** by **bank transfer** to the Forum account: 1600 40 36631 or by VIPPS 591747. No cash will be handled at the venue. Please **state the event and your name** in the transaction (in the KID-number box for bank payments and in the dialogue box for VIPPS).

TRANSPORT: T-Bane 1 to Vinderen. Pay parking in the adjoining area until 20:00.

Guests are welcome.

No-shows will be charged. For last minute cancellations or questions, please call Anita Solheim on mob.: 404 80 944

SPECIAL EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE!

Lecture on the Northern Lights – Aurora Borealis

March 21 at 11:45



The Special Events Committee is pleased to invite you to a lecture, with slides, on the Northern Lights, Aurora Borealis at the Norwegian Space Agency (Norsk Romsenter) in Oslo where Space Scientist Pål Brekke will explain some of the forces behind these mystical, celestial lights in the night sky.

The Norwegian Space Agency is located in Skøyen, Drammensveien 165, 0277 Oslo. More details will come in the March *Newsletter*.

ACTIVITY GROUPS AND COURSES

SPRING 2023

No payment is required for participation. The activities are open to all members, depending on availability. Are you interested?

Please then contact the chosen activity's leader. NOTE! New members are not automatically contacted. See the January *Newsletter* for the list of groups.

If you are interested in an activity that is fully booked, we suggest that you sign up anyway, as there may be cancellations. If you have problems joining an activity because it is full, please contact Gunnel Anita Solheim, as we might consider forming a new group. For more questions, please contact the activities coordinator.

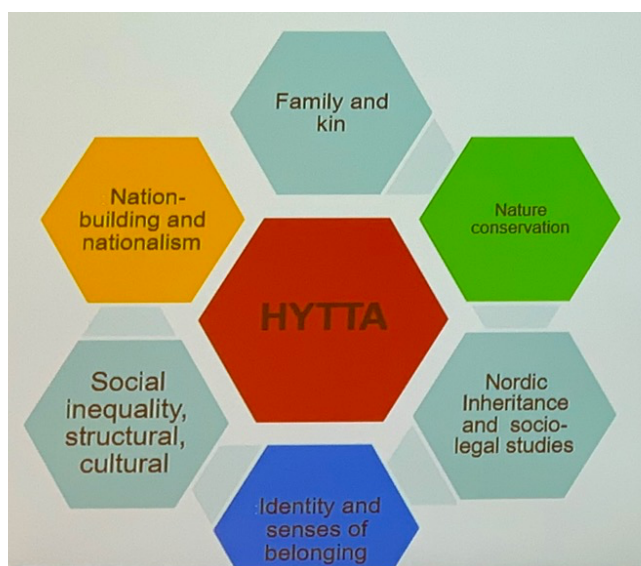
Coordinator: Gunnel Anita Solheim.

R E P O R T S

JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING

Our relationship with the Norwegian *hytte*

The speaker, Dr Marianne Lien, was greeted by Signe Howell, who was on the advisory committee for Dr Lien's project. She emphasised the fact that our speaker is one of very few in the Department of Social Anthropology to focus on Norwegian sociological phenomena. Her previous project was on the marketing of Grandiosa pizza.



The hytte can be seen as a prism for the study of Norwegian culture and social life.

Norwegian *hytter* (cabins) come in many shapes and forms. Almost half of the Norwegian population has access to one, many have access to more than one. The escape into the countryside started towards the end of the 19th century, when many of the urban elites were attracted to a rural

environment, inspired by the ideals of national romanticism, wanting a rural retreat while maintaining class distinctions. Members of the British upper classes had by then started to come to the Norwegian fjords and mountains for fishing and mountaineering. The fairly elementary *hytte* was associated with rural aesthetics. Having time off was a privilege of the urban elites.

After World War II, the number of *hytter* grew as the working classes obtained shorter work weeks and industrial jobs meant better salaries. Improved public transport such as trains and bus services allowed people without cars to travel out of the cities.

The average size of a *hytte* back then was 40 – 50 m², often far from roads, electricity, and plumbing. Some were built of recycled materials on land that belonged to family and friends. Even on one of the municipal islands in the Oslo fjord, people in the city built cardboard cabins for the summer!

After the war, many housewives in working-class households came from smaller farms. They now lived in small apartments without any greenery or access to nature. They yearned for a return, albeit seasonal, to a rural environment and access to untouched nature. A nature in which one could fish in the streams and pick berries and mushrooms.



People tend to be very attached to their *hytte*. Some even give their cabin Christmas gifts and keep records of what they do when they are at the cabin. The cabin creates kinship bonds between the people who have access to it. Many feel that their deceased parents are present...

'Grandma, when you die, will I still come?'

With time, the size of cabins has grown from an average area of 62 m² in 1983 to 96 m² in 2019. Regionally, prices vary from region to region. In Finnmark, you can purchase a cabin for NOK 250 000, whereas in Vestfold-Telemark and Viken, the average price is NOK 3,250,000.

A *hytte* is a place where families can spend quality time together, where they can be together across generations. You go for hikes, you play cards, you do repair work and house chores together. Especially children seem to appreciate the shared time. Signe has coined the term *kinning*; i.e. a process that starts when you are a child. From the start, kinship is promoted through intergenerational activities. You are *kinned* into a *hytte* and share both collective and individual memories, some passed down from previous generations, some

created by you. Many feel a sense of ownership to the shared space that constitutes a *hytte*.

This sense of belonging explains why inheritance and the passing of ownership can become such sensitive issues. People tend to look at cabins in a different way than they do regular succession items. Those who do not inherit the cabin lose access to something that they feel part of. Many experience a feeling of loss, grief and exclusion. In modern times, when families are reconstituted following divorce, some members who have had access throughout their childhood may find themselves without access. The exclusion may become complicated to handle.

When a *hytte* passes to the next generation, some individuals need to be *de-kinned* after a long process of *kinning* and a sense of belonging. Nevertheless, we somehow take for granted that people bequeath to their blood line, and not to associated or step relations. Dr Lien, who owns a *hytte* under the legal matrimonial regime of separation as to property ('*særeie*'), acknowledges the difficulties involved and the emotional pain that her decision may cause, yet she is determined that her bloodline will inherit the cabin and not her step-children.



After the lecture, Signe presented Dr Lien with a beautiful ceramic bowl made by IF member Victoria Berge.

This means that her step-children may no longer have access to the cabin after her death, even though they have been *kinned* into it.

So, 'cabin conflicts' tend to be complicated, and most people fight about the emotional aspects of the *hytte*, some about its monetary value. Behind it all lurks a feeling of unfair treatment. As a blood-line child you cannot be excluded

from a will, whereas step-children can and usually are. Even among siblings, there is a sense that there should equal treatment.

There was a lot of food for thought in this lecture, and there were many questions at the end. Very enlightening.

Elizabeth Rasmussen

ART COMMITTEE

Niki Saint Phalle

Henie Onstad Centre

November 2022



Eaten by Children



Bride

The Henie Onstad Centre opened in 1968 and was one of the first art centres, together with Louisiana and Moderna Museum, to make space for performance art.

Her rebellious work did not fit seamlessly into art history and her art and it is, therefore, strange that this is the first exhibition of Niki Saint Phalle in Norway. She was a pioneer of performance art, and one of the first to make public art. In 1955, on a visit to Antoni Gaudi's Park in Barcelona she said, 'that day my destiny was clear. One day, I too, in my own way, will create a fantastic garden.' persona were probably conceived as a threat to the predominantly male art world. For her, the sheer impossibility of being taken seriously as an artist as a wife and mother made her move out of her marital home in 1960. She left two

children behind. No one knew at this point that she was a secretly wounded woman.

In 1955, she had been to a psychiatric clinic with depression. It was here that she discovered art and its therapeutic qualities. Her anger would explode onto the art scene.

On a visit to an artist couple in 1959, the comment was made that she ‘was one of those writer’s wives that paint.’ This was a watershed moment.

In 1961, she literally shot her way into the art world. Befriended by Jackson Pollock, Robert Rauschenberg, and others, she also made the act of painting become part of the expression. Collage with all kinds of domestic ready-mades filled her canvases and she stood and shot balloons of paint at these sculptured works. Blue and red ‘blood’ oozed randomly. The performances were video-recorded and shown on television. She became famous and infamous overnight.



Husband's Shirt



Shooting

For six years, she worked also as a model and was on the front of *Life Magazine*, and appeared in magazines like *Vogue* and *Harper's Bazaar*. There was something unnerving about this beautiful, well-connected woman, who was so rebellious. She gave an alarming description of what was going on.

‘WHO was the painting? Daddy? All men? Small men? Tall men? Big Men? Fat Men? Men? My brother JOHN? Or was the painting ME? Did I shoot at myself during a RITUAL, which enabled me to die by my own hand and be reborn? I was immortal!’



The Nannas

It was now common knowledge that she had been abused by her father from a young age.

Her rebirth was signalled by her famous *Nannas*. A call to joy, a call to feminine iconography, mothers, whores, Madonnas and brides. She had been abused by her father and now demanded an equal right to be dangerous, destructive, and free. The *Nannas* were made huge to make men seem small. In 1966, Moderna Museum in Stockholm showed her *She – a Cathedral*. A monumental colourful *Nanna* with the entrance to the exhibition through her vulva. You cannot be more explicit than that. Her husband's shirt and tie topped by a dart board head said the rest.



In 1973, she created the *Nannas of Hannover – Caroline, Charlotte and Sophie*, a celebration of three powerful female figures. Derided at first, they are now much-loved sculptures.

These exuberant *Nannas* are mothers and grandmothers at the top of their game, but constantly counterpointed by the battle of marriage and motherhood. They are literally eaten up by their children or eat them first.

The Tarot Garden

Portraying such colourful joy and deep pain in this magnitude, drives her

message home to the viewer. She achieved her dream of making her sculpture parks. The most famous is in Umbria called *The Tarot Garden*. She marketed her own perfume to finance this public art.

Public art works are impossible to sell, and often difficult to understand. As we learn more about Niki Saint Phalle, we have every reason to enjoy her explosive freedom. I hope Henie Onstad Centre buys a *Nanna* for us all.

Our thanks to Josie Kamsvåg and Rosi Løvdal for organising this event, and our thanks to Gustav, our young and enthusiastic guide. He was a little unsure about an artist who seemed to want to shoot all men. Chuckle, chuckle amongst our group.

Jane Steenbuch



FROM THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE

The Nomination Committee is now starting its work

We are looking for members, who would like to take an active part in the running of the International Forum over a period of time. Please feel free to suggest yourself or submit the name of another member whom you think would be able to contribute in some way.

It doesn't necessarily take a lot of time to be a member of a committee, and it can be very rewarding. It is also a good way to learn more about the International Forum and to become better acquainted with other members.

The Nomination Committee prepares a list of nominees, which is submitted to the Board. Six weeks before the AGM the list of all nominees will be published in the Newsletter. Members may then send the Board further proposals, which can be put on the final list for election at the AGM. There is no vote by proxy at the AGM. The candidate receiving the most votes will be elected.

Included in this Newsletter is a form for your proposals which we hope that you will fill out. Please return **as soon as possible (by email or post) and by March 10 at the latest** to the Leader of the Nomination Committee: Ellen Vollebæk, or by post to President Harbitz gt.14, 0259 Oslo

Do remember that your suggestions will form the basis of the Committee's proposals when members are nominated for election at the Annual General Meeting in 2023.

We cannot emphasize how much we look forward to receiving the names of as many nominees as possible.

Thank you!

For the Nomination Committee:
Ellen Vollebæk (Leader)



Proposals for nomination

Proposals:

I (name) Tel:

Propose *myself and/or*:

..... Tel.:

for the position of *:

and

propose: Tel.:

for the position of *:

**President, Board Member, Committee leader, Committee member*

To be sent to:

Ellen Vollebæk, evollebaek@gmail.com or by post to President Harbitz gt. 14,
0259 Oslo

A R O U N D O S L O
LILLEHAMMER KUNSTMUSEUM

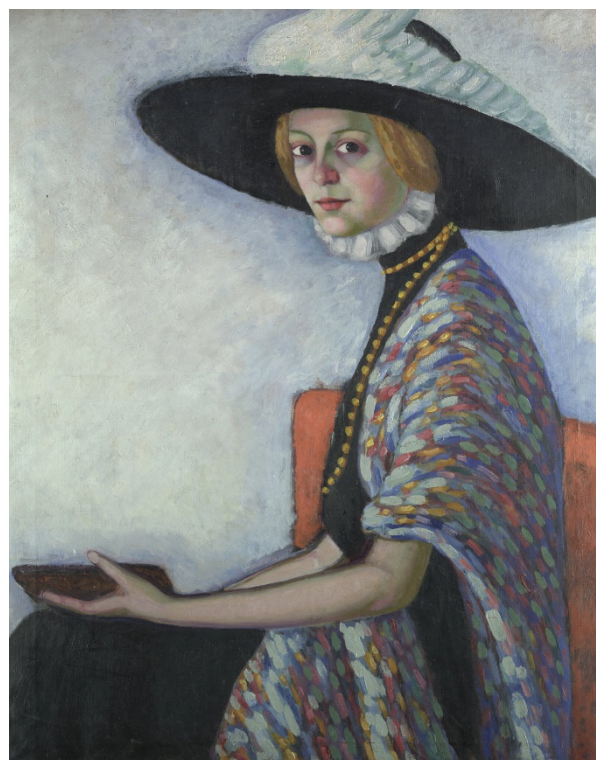
Konrad Mägi

Estonia's Great Painter

On show until April 2, 2023



The artist



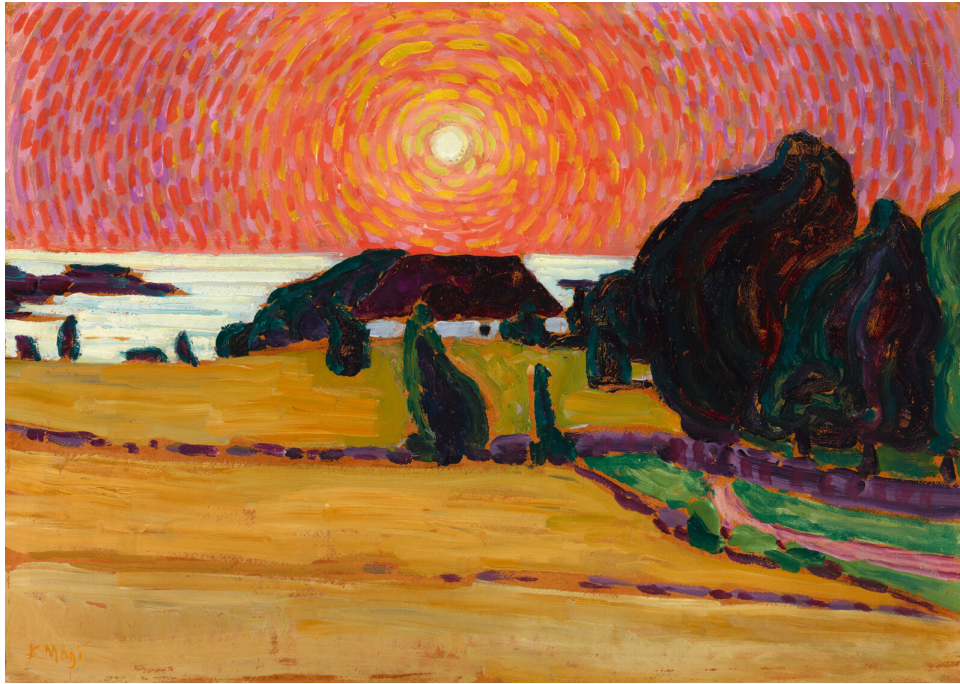
Portrait of a Woman

Konrad Mägi (1878 – 1925) is undoubtedly Estonia's greatest artist. In his home country, he has the same esteem as Edvard Munch has in Norway. Mägi is marked by colourful, audacious, and modern paintings with themes from Estonia, Italy, France and not least Norway.

The exhibition shows over 100 paintings from various periods. His works are all of outstanding quality, and his motives range from landscapes to individual portraits to still life.

Konrad Mägi's paintings are surprisingly independent, while showing connections to leading international artistic developments in the second decade of the 20th century. Some of the techniques used are pointillism, neo-impressionism, expressionism and cubism. This richness makes him very fresh and thrilling.

In Norway, Mägi is especially interesting, as he lived here from 1908 to 1910. He painted many Norwegian motives and had his artistic breakthrough during his stay in Norway.



Landscape from Saaremaa, Estonia



Norwegian Landscape



Norwegian Girl

For more information, please click on:

[Konrad Mägi – Estonia's great painter \(lillehammerkunstmuseum.no\)](http://lillehammerkunstmuseum.no)



INTERNATIONAL FORUM

Org.no: 994 566 806

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Editorial Team:	Elspeth Walseth and Josephine Kamsvåg
Dispatch Team:	Kerstin Petersen, Mona Reinboth, Mette Svadberg, Wenche Undrum, Elspeth Walseth and Patricia Blackwell

The Editor and the Editorial Team reserve the right to edit **all** material.

Date: February 1, 2023