



INTERNATIONAL FORUM OSLO

NEWSLETTER

August 2023
Issue No. 487

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DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES

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



From the President

We have just experienced the ‘power of vacation’. After a hectic spring came the bliss of holidays. The blur of activity ends. Fatigue leaves the limbs. You sleep late without morning alarms. Body and mind relax. Even your breath slows down. Days go by without having to tackle problems or find solutions. This is a dream. It’s called vacation.

Rest is not idleness. Gazing at elegant swans gliding on the fjord or watching the clouds change into shapes resembling people you know is definitely not a waste of time. In that state of restfulness, so many new ideas and insights come to mind, some useless but some rather useful. By definition, vacation is short and comes with an expiry date. But that is just as well. If holidays are unlimited then rest turns to idleness. That’s not therapeutic nor is it valued. No one would appreciate rainbows if they appeared every day. If vacation continues endlessly, it no longer serves its purpose of relaxing, refreshing, and reinventing us.

It is in the order of things that the ‘power of vacation’ gives way to the ‘power of vocation’. Blessed are those who love what they do – work, creative endeavour, craft, profession, or social service. This is also the power of International Forum. We are a non-profit organisation of *volunteers*. Our members have different vocations, but we share a worldview about the value of friendship and cultural exchange. This autumn, once again, our committees present a series of outstanding programmes that will broaden our horizons. We hope to see you at these events, as they unfold one by one, revealing the beauty and complexity of the world we live in.

Best regards

Anita Pratap
President



FROM THE BOARD

E-faktura for Membership Fee

We would like to provide some information to our members about the annual membership fee payment. The procedure will be the same as last year. On August 25, an e-faktura will be sent directly to your bank account. There is no change in the annual membership fee of NOK 500.- for 2023-2024. Overseas and Associate membership fee remains at NOK 250.-

If you have not activated e-faktura, please contact your bank to do so. We are happy to note that 90% of our members already use e-faktura.

When you receive the International Forum e-faktura in your bank account, please click on it. All the information, including your KID number, is automatically entered in the payment. The KID number helps to register your payment in our system.

The last date for payment is September 30. Early payments are welcome.

FROM THE EDITOR

The Editorial Team needs more proofreaders



You do not need to know much about editing, but you need to have a love for the English language. No-one is perfect, least of all me. I do use a spellcheck programme, but errors will sneak in, so I depend on a couple of keen eyes to check my work.

If you would consider joining the team, please contact me by email:
or by mobile phone.

Elizabeth S. Rasmussen

COMING EVENTS

ARENDALSUKA 2023

GLOBAL OUTLOOK 2023



‘Bridging a Fragmented World’

August 14 from 12:00

Kulturhuset, Arendal

Global Outlook, one of the main inaugural events of Arendalsuka, will be opened by the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Anniken Huitfeldt, as her predecessors have done in all the previous years. The event will be held at the main indoor stage at Arendal’s Kulturhuset.

Keynote Speakers:

Foreign Minister **Anniken Huitfeldt**

TEDx Speaker and co-President of Club of Rome **Sandrine Dixzon-Declève**

Asia Society and Policy Institute’s **C. Raja Mohan**

Ukrainian sustainability entrepreneur **Maryna Saprykina**

Head of Nobel Foundation **Vidar Helgesen**

European Affairs expert **Georg E. Riekeles**

Moderator: **Anita Pratap**

AMBASSADORS ROUNDTABLE 2023

August 15 from 10:00 am to 11:30

Gamle Rådhus, Arendal



‘De-risking the Future: Meeting the challenges and concerns that lie ahead.’

War, inflation, global debt, and climate change are among the issues disrupting life across the world. Our speakers will examine how nations can meet these challenges and create opportunities for a better tomorrow.

Speakers:

Mr Espen Barth Eide, Minister of Climate and Environment

‘De-risking the Future: The Geopolitics of Green Transition’

H.E. Marc Nathanson, Ambassador of the United States

‘The role of the United States in managing geopolitical, economic and climate risks’

H.E. Dr Detlef Wächter, Ambassador of Germany

‘Norway and Germany: Partnering in our “Zeitenwende” to strengthen defence, business and energy security in a new era’

H.E. Jan Thompson, Ambassador of the United Kingdom

‘Post Brexit: Opportunities and challenges for Norwegian-British relations’

Welcome by Robert Nordli, Mayor of Arendal

Moderator: **Anita Pratap**

For more information, please see the June *Newsletter*.

SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

September 4

Odd Gunnar Skagestad: 'Russia after Putin'



Author and former Norwegian diplomat Odd Gunnar Skagestad will give a lecture based on his new book with the same title, in which he raises the question of what kind of country Russia will be once its authoritarian and warlike leader leaves the arena.

He will also discuss what consequences Putin's war of aggression against Ukraine will have for Russia, for Putin and for his regime. Skagestad avoids predictions and speculations of what will happen and writes about what is likely to happen given specific conditions. Skagestad has in-depth knowledge of Russia's history, culture, and power structures in Russia, so this is something not to be missed!

- DATE/TIME:** Monday, **September 4** at 18:45 for (19:00)
- SIGN UP:** To Gunnel Anita Solheim, by email:
as soon as possible.
- PRICE:** NOK 105.- **Please sign up before you 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:** Guests are welcome if there is room. No-shows will be charged.

For last minute cancellations, please call Gunnel Anita Solheim on mobile phone.

ART COMMITTEE

Before Tomorrow: Astrup Fearnley Museum 30th Anniversary

September 14



The Art Committee has great pleasure in inviting you to the Astrup Fearnley Museum at Tjuvholmen. The museum itself is a piece of art, designed by the Italian architect Renzo Piano, who is probably most known for being the architect of the Pompidou Centre in Paris. The collection holds multiple works from several significant artists both Norwegian and international. The celebration of the museum's anniversary is thus a tribute to the museum's founder who, with this generous gift, made his collection available to us all.

DATE/TIME: Thursday, **September 14** at 11:45 (for 12:00)

SIGN UP: To Katarina Plavnik by email [no later than September 8.](#)

Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art at Tjuvholmen.

PLACE: NOK 165.- for the guided tour and entrance fee. Please pay

PRICE: by bank to the IF's account 1600.40.36631 or by VIPPS to 591747. No cash will be handled. Please state your name and the event in the payment transaction.

TRANSPORT: Tram 12 stops at Aker Brygge and Bus 21 stops at Tjuvholmen. The Nationaltheatret Station is within walking distance, and there is ample parking at the P-houses of both Aker Brygge and Tjuvholmen.

LUNCH: Ventiventi is an Italian restaurant adjacent to the museum and there are lots of cafés and restaurants at Aker Brygge.

Maximum number of participants: 30

Guests are welcome if space available. Members will have priority. For last minutes cancellation, please call Trudy on email.

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

Katarina Plavnik and Trudy Brand-Jacobsen

DIPLOMATIC SALON

‘Art and Resilience’

A repeat Diplomatic Salon due to popular demand
at the Residence of the Ambassador of the United States to Norway

September 20 at 11:45 (for 12:00)



Blue Suede Shoes by Leikny Havik Skjærseth



Jane Nathanson, wife of the American Ambassador in Norway, has graciously agreed to do a repeat Salon because the first one was fully booked within two hours. She is a psychologist by profession and an art collector by passion. She also has a degree in fine arts and has held several positions in the art world in their hometown, Los Angeles.

Mrs. Nathanson is a member of International Forum. At this Diplomatic Salon, she will talk on ‘Art and Resilience.’ After the luncheon discussion, Mrs Nathanson will take members on a tour of the art collection in the 112-year-old Residence.

DATE/TIME: **September 20** from 12:00 to 14:00

PRICE: NOK 45.- for gift

If you would like to attend, please email **Anita Pratap**

SPECIAL EVENTS

Visit to Linderud Manor House

September 26 at 11:30

Please save the date now!



The Special Events Committee welcomes you to a visit of the Linderud Manor House (Linderud gård) on Tuesday, September 26, at 11:30. Beautiful Linderud gård is called the ‘pearl’ of Groruddalen and is located in the east of Oslo. It houses a wonderful collection of art works and furniture known as ‘De Mathiesenske Samlinger’ (the Mathiesen Collection). The manor is surrounded by one of Norway’s best preserved historical gardens, with elements from the Renaissance and the Baroque period, English landscape and functionalist styles.



Footpath through hazel trees



The estate canal

Details of the tour will come in the September *Newsletter*.

Rosemary Hauge

A C T I V I T I E S

ACTIVITY GROUPS AND COURSES – Autumn 2023

ACTIVITIES:

International Forum Activity Groups are formed when one member or a group of members get together and organise an activity. No payment is required, and the activities are open to all members depending on availability. Are you interested? See the contact information below.

If you are interested in an activity that is full, 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 new groups.

Contact: Gunnel Anita Solheim on email or mobile phone.

ACTIVITY GROUPS

The Norwegian Conversation Group (norsk samtalegruppe).



This is a group of thirteen ladies from Japan, India, Colombia, Russia, Peru, Canada, Germany, Hungary, and Norway. New members to International Forum are welcome! We meet once a month in each other's homes. The intention of the sessions is to practise speaking Norwegian in an informal setting and to share experiences and interests in our daily life. We have all levels of proficiency. No homework. The hostess decides if she wants to serve a light lunch or just coffee and biscuits (or cake). We usually meet on Fridays at 11:00.

Contact: Eva Øglænd, email, or mobile phone, or Mona Bækkelund Reinboth, email or mobile phone.

INTERNATIONAL BOOK CLUB I

The meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month in each other's homes, and the hostess serves a light lunch. We read and discuss books, usually novels by international authors, chosen by the group.

Book Club I will read the following books:

- August 16: Salinger, J.D. (2016) *The Catcher in the Rye*. Little, Brown & Company
September 20: Erpenbeck, J. (2021) *Kairos*. Penguin.
October 18: Ahmad, A. (2022) *The Return of Faraz Ali*. Hodder & Stoughton or Penguin Random House
November 15: Keegan, Claire (2022) *Foster*. Grove Atlantic

Contact: Dorota Steensland by e-mail,
or mobile phone.

INTERNATIONAL BOOK CLUB II

The same procedures as those of the International Book Club I. The gatherings take place once a month. As always, we meet in each other's homes for a light lunch on the first Thursday of the month at 13:00. Whoever has suggested a book prepares a short presentation and leads the discussion.

Book Club II will read the following books:

- September: Cummings, Janine (2021) *American Dirt*. Flatiron Books
October: Johns, Ana (2019) *The Woman in the White Kimono*. Park Row
November: Austen, Jane (2014) [1813] *Pride and Prejudice*. Norton
December: Ishiguro, Kazuo (2021) *Klara and the Sun*. Faber & Faber

Contact: Heidi Høivik, email or mobile phone.

COOKING GROUP I

Cooking Group I has been up and running for many years. Some of the original ladies are still in our group. Since we are an international group, some are leaving, and new people are attending. As we rotate between each other's private homes there will be limited space most times.

Contact: Liss Laan, by email or mobile phone.

MONDAY DUPLICATE BRIDGE

We usually play bridge every Monday. The gatherings take place in members' homes. We have room for more players.

Contact: Kirsten Whist by email or mobile phone.

MONTHLY WEDNESDAY BRIDGE GROUP

We generally meet on the second or third Wednesday of the month, depending on the holidays. We are usually 8 or 12 players, on occasion 16. We play duplicate bridge and enjoy a light lunch afterwards.

Contact: Ida Tschudi Heilemann by mobile phone.

NEW - COURSE IN BRIDGE FOR BEGINNERS

From the beginning of October, there are plans to start an introductory course in bridge. The duration of the course is one month, and the participants will meet with their teachers/mentors twice a week. A prerequisite for starting such a course is that at least 5 people are interested in participating.

If you are interested in this course, please

Contact: Gunnel Anita Solheim by email
or mobile phone.

PHOTO GROUP

We are amateur photographers. No qualifications are required other than being interested in learning about digital photography. The aim is to become a better photographer, to learn how to master devices such as camera, telephone, computer and iPad, and to learn how to make photo books, greeting cards, or how to post Instagram stories, etc.

We have workshops 4-6 times a year at Gunnel Anita's home or at another member's home from 13:00 – 15:00, or we go on 'Outdoor Photo Safaris'.

The first topic this autumn is to make photo books, and we will start with a workshop on **August 21**, at 12:00 – 15:00 at Anita's Home at Grønsundåsen 19, 1394 Nesbru.

Contact: Gunnel Anita Solheim by email
or mobile phone.

WALKING GROUP

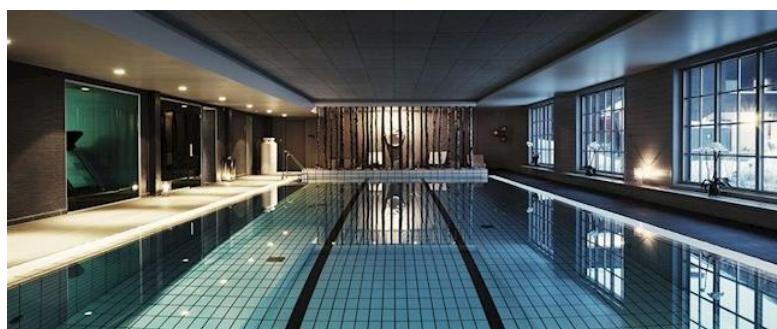


The walking groups starts again in September. Kerstin Pettersen will send an email to the group members and inform them of the first walk of autumn 2023. Walking is great exercise and fun for those who like the outdoors. If you are interested, please send Kerstin your mobile number and email address.

Contact: Kerstin Petersen by email or mobile phone.

SWIMMING AT LYSEBU

The Danish Cultural Centre at Voksenkollen is now open again after having been closed during the pandemic.



International Forum members will be most welcome to swim at Lysebu and only must show their IF membership card at the front desk. The fee is NOK 100.- per visit. This is not a group activity

as such, but IF members can use this great, newly renovated facility as a group or individually. Any questions?

Contact: Gunnel Anita Solheim by email or mobile phone.

COURSES

The courses are activities for which the participants pay a **fee** to the teacher.

TRADITIONAL NORWEGIAN ROSE PAINTING

Rose painting (‘rosemaling’) is a traditional Norwegian folk art which goes back to the 1700s and which is still alive in many parts of the country. Morning and evening courses can be organized for large or small groups.

Contact: Vivian Grieg Teisner, email by or mobile phone.

DIPLOMATIC SALON

April 26

‘Fasting and Feasting in Egypt throughout Time’

By H. E. Amr Ramadan, Ambassador of Egypt



The Ambassador and Anita Pratap



Ms Heba Mamish, the Ambassador's wife and IF Board Member

The month of Ramadan – the ninth month of the lunar or Hijri year – ended on Friday, April 21, followed by a three-day feast called Eid-al-Fitr, the first day of the month of Shawwal. The day of the Diplomatic Salon, April 26, was the

Ambassador's first day back in the Office. He was introduced by President Anita Pratap, who briefly outlined a distinguished career, both within the Egyptian Foreign Service and the UN. The Ambassador has also worked with human rights. The Residence was filled by attentive IF members.

Fasting in different forms has been practiced in Pharaonic Egypt, Ancient India, and Greece for millennia. Fasting was and still is used to improve health and to strengthen the spirit. Fasting predates the religions of the Book. In Pharaonic Egypt, the fourth month of the Egyptian Calendar (Khoiak) was a time for fasting: 30 days before the birth of Isis. This fast was done mainly by the priests.

Religion is an important component of Egyptian society, both for the Coptic Christians and the Muslims. Fasting has always been an important part of Egyptian society, as a ritual of purification and introspection. Ancient Egyptians celebrated the harvest season, religious festivals, and royal events with fasting. This fast was seen as a way for the priests to purify themselves before the celebration of the birth of Osiris, the god of the afterlife, training the human spirit to exercise self-control.



Heba addressing the assembly before the Ambassador's lecture.

The ancient Greeks used to consume water and *no* food during their fasting periods, a practice referred to as water fast, believed to increase physical and spiritual awareness and purify both body and mind.

Jesus fasted for 40 days, which is what Catholic and Orthodox Christians do before Easter. Christians who fast usually avoid animal products, in particular meat. The Greek philosopher and mathematician Pythagoras (580-500 BC) systematically starved himself for 40-day periods, believing that the exercise would increase his mental perception and creativity.

In modern Egypt, most people are Muslim and around 15% are Coptic Christians. They all practice fasting in some way. What they share is a sense of restraint to achieve spiritual improvement. Many Coptic Christians fast alongside Muslims during the holy month of Ramadan, and some Muslims fast during the 40-day Lent before Easter, which lasts for 55 days. Christmas – Eid Mawlid al-Meseeh – falls on January 7. Copts attend church on the night of January 6 (Christmas Eve), visit family and friends, exchange gifts, and host large meals for family and friends after a period of 43 days fasting.

Fasting is thus more of a societal practice than a religious one. Judaism, Christianity, and Islam all consider Abraham their common forefather. Remember that Adam was not allowed to eat the fruits of the apple tree in the Garden of Eden. This is the example of food restriction in the Holy Scriptures.



Some of the traditional dishes enjoyed during Ramadan

In Islam, there is yet another Eid or feast – the **Eid al-Adha** or Biram – on the tenth day of the twelfth month of Dhul Hijjah, which is the ‘Day of Sacrifice’ in memory of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Isaac at God's command. Muslims around the world observe this day of feasting, eating a sacrificial animal of which one third goes to family, one third to friends and the rest to the poor.

It was during the month of Ramadan that God revealed the first verses of the Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad. The fast reminds people that they should be grateful for the blessings they have received during the year and encourage them show compassion for those who are less fortunate. Giving alms is one of the Five Pillars of Islam.

Fasting during Ramadan is limited specifically to *daytime hours* between sunrise and sunset. Only at sunset may believers break the fast with a meal known as *Iftar*. Being without food for 12 – 14 hours is difficult, but being without water on hot days can be very challenging, as people are expected to continue to work during the month of fasting. The sick, pregnant women or old or incapacitated people are exempt from fasting.

Since the pharaohs believed that the human body was made from the earth, they thus believed that they should eat from the plants of the earth, to create a balance. As such, they would break their fast on foods such as Fūl (fava beans) and Bessāra (a stew of beans and coriander). This is food that modern Egyptians eat when breaking the fast.

The food varies according to region. But certain dishes are common, such as fermented fish (*Feseekh*), green onions (symbols of spring) and *lupini* beans served as snacks.

A great *Thank you!* to the Ambassador and his wife Heba for hosting this wonderful Salon with a lot of thoughts on the journey of fasting across time.

Elizabeth S. Rasmussen

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Queen Sonja Art Stable

Craftsmanship at the Royal Palace – 200 years of creations



On a beautiful sunny day in May, a group of 24 Forum members met at the Queen Sonja Art Stable for a guided tour of the latest exhibition. Our guide Elisabeth Myking guided us through several important items, some of which are still used at the Palace.

We started the tour by viewing the coronation robe which was originally made for Queen Josephine. Since she was never crowned in Norway, the robe was first worn by Queen Louise in 1860. The last person to wear the coronation robe was Queen Maud in 1906. The robe is made of red velvet and adorned with

appliquéd and embroidered crowns made of silver and gold-coloured metallic thread, and red and blue silk thread for the details. Round pieces of metal are incorporated into the crown pattern. Around 1500 ermine hides were used for this robe.

Then we went to see the throne. His Majesty the King sits on this chair during the ceremonial opening of the Norwegian Parliament each year. The significance of the throne is emphasized by its size, rich ornamentation, and the fact that it is covered in gold. The gold that we see on the throne today is the work of a gilder a few years back, but the Italian gesso beneath the gold is original. The throne has been restored and regilded several times since it was made in the 1800s.

The Buick Roadmaster from 1939 from General Motors Corporation, USA, was a gift to Crown Prince Olav and Crown Princess Märtha. This Buick has been used during many important events, such as the return from exile of King Haakon, Crown Prince Olav and Crown Princess Märtha 7 June 1945 and the consecration of King Harald and Queen Sonja on 23 June 1991.

In addition to these important old items, we were shown a beautiful gilded and enamelled silver tea and coffee set from 1895, made by Gustav Gaudernack for David Andersen. This coffee set belonged to Queen Maud, and it is still in use for state visits and other grand occasions.

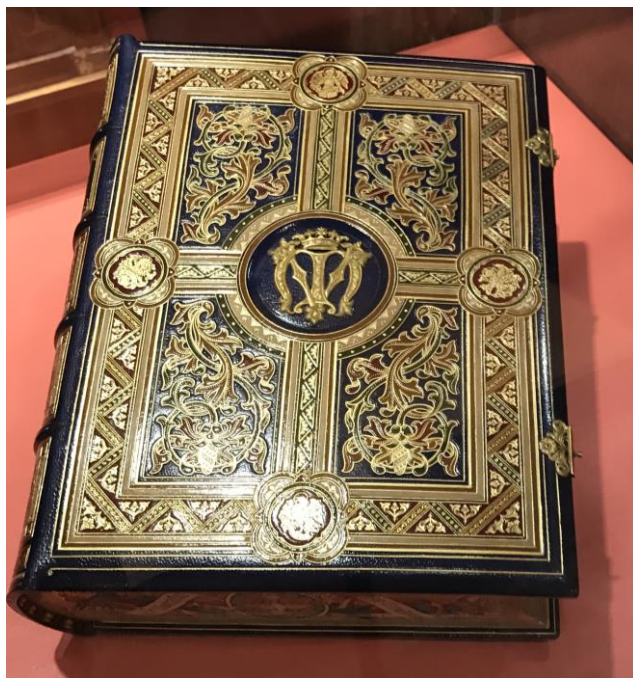


On a formal note, the Norwegian order of St. Olav (Grand Cross) has its origin from the time when Norway and Sweden were in a personal union established by King Oscar I in 1847. The King of Norway awards different orders and distinctions, the highest of which is the order of St. Olav.

In terms of craftsmanship, the Grand Cross is extremely challenging to produce.

Since the order is awarded on the condition that it is returned upon the death of a recipient, the insignia on the cross are refurbished and recycled for the new recipient whenever possible.

The newest item in this exhibition is the gift of a *Telemarksbunad* from His Majesty King Harald and Her Majesty Queen Sonja to Princess Ingrid Alexandra at her confirmation. A group of *bunad* makers was established together with Queen Sonja and researchers with access to the Norwegian Museum of Cultural History archives. The garment is based on knowledge of the historic costume worn by women in Aust-Telemark between the years of 1800 and 1850. Queen Sonja did the embroidery work on the wadmál stockings.



The Craftsmanship Exhibition contains many more exciting old, small, gold, silver, wooden and woven items that are on display and well worth a visit on an individual basis. The Forum members enjoyed a wonderful visit of the Queen Sonja Art Stable!

Mona Bækkelund Reinboth

THE ART COMMITTEE

Edda Gimnes at Nitja Art Centre on May 25



Thirteen lucky ladies got to see Edda Gimnes' wonderfully original and creative collection of wearable art. Edda was born in Lillehammer but is now based in London. She is absolutely an artist to follow! Only 28 years old, she has shown the determination to take on the very competitive world of fashion with her quirky, yet very stylish clothes. With no sewing or drawing experience she was accepted at St. Martins school of Art in London by sheer force of persuasion.



She decided to compensate for her lack of drawing skills by using her left hand. The result is seen on the first podium: clothes that appear almost two dimensional, like canvases waiting to take a walk. Many of the garments are in black and white, inspired by old photos, accentuating the artsy cartoon feeling.

The second podium has a more structured look. In this montage, the artist has been assisted by a skilled pattern cutter at St. Martins and the result is more definitions and more colours in garments largely inspired by 1950s shapes and patterns. *Trompe l'oeil* belts and pockets add yet another dimension. Socks and bags in the same style make the outfits sculpture-like. Lady Gaga owns one.

The last room houses the newest collection. Inspired by her great-aunt's home furnishings, old-fashioned fabrics are made sharp and fresh in billowing ball gowns. The large neckpiece is also printed, cut out and then assembled.



Nitja Art Centre at Lillestrøm is only a ten-minute train ride from Oslo central station. Many thanks to our excellent guide Kathrine Wilson for answering all our questions and keeping our enthusiasm in check. Thanks to Kerstin Petersen for proposing this exhibition.

Bente Brandt

THE ART COMMITTEE

Visit to Blaafarveværket on June 8

The Art Committee organised a visit to the annual exhibition at Blaafarveværket, which this year features works from the National Museum of Stockholm. Twenty-five art-interested ladies arranged a carpool. The weather was wonderful.



Our group with the guide

It was a Scandinavian exhibition with numerous artists. Sweden was very well represented with artists such as Carl Larsson, Anders Zorn, Bruno Liljefors, Ernst Josefsson and August Strindberg among others.



From Norway, there were works by Hans Gude; and from Denmark, by Vilhelm Hammershøi. The period between 1879 and 1910 is called the New Wave. The artists often lived in Scandinavian colonies in France and Germany, where they would inspire each other.

Spotting nature and catching the beauty of the moment became very important after the industrial revolution and

pandemics in Europe. People felt uneasy and wanted to live more in harmony with the natural environment.

Carl Larsson (1837-1902), for instance, lived a harmonic life with his family at Sundborn in the Swedish region of Dalarna, where many of his famous paintings were created. The interior design made by his wife Karin has shaped the taste of Swedes nationwide and dictated the look of countless living spaces. Her

influence was so great that many interior decorating features can still be found in popular Scandinavian home design.

August Strindberg (1849-1912) is most famous as a writer and playwright, but also a painter. He presented a new art form called *l'Art fortuite* or 'fortuitous art'. He believed that it is first and foremost the artist himself who can enjoy art and then his friends. The outside everybody can see. The meaning of a picture, however, is for the artist and his friends.



He used a painting knife instead of a brush. He once said to Edvard Munch, 'I am the biggest painter in the world.' Munch replied, 'I am the biggest writer in the world.' There was often a competition between the two.

Hans Gude (1825-1903) was one of Norway's foremost landscape painters. He started painting at the age of 12 and then studied in Germany. Gude has been considered a mainstay of Norwegian national romanticism and was influenced by the Düsseldorf school of painting. Light and the Nordic landscape were his favourite motives. He worked together with Adolph Tidemand on many paintings, among others the famous *Brudeferd i Hardanger* ('bridal procession on the Hardanger fjord').

Vilhelm Hammershøi (1864-1916) from Denmark is one of the best-known artists in Scandinavia for his poetic and subdued portraits and interiors. He also painted the countryside with stands of trees, farmhouses and rolling hills.

Hammershøi travelled widely in Europe, finding London especially full of atmosphere. His wife Ida figures in many of his interiors, often seen from behind.

This exhibition is well worth the trip. There is so much to see! A big thank you to Jane Steenbuch, who organised this tour.

Kerstin Petersen

A R O U N D O S L O

Rock Carvings at Tanumshede, Sweden

Vitlycke Museum

May – August 10:00 – 17:00

September – November 10:00 – 16:00

The **Rock Carvings in Tanum** in Bohuslän, Sweden, were declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1994 because of their high concentration.



In total, there are thousands of petroglyphs on around 600 rock panels in an area that covers nearly 51 hectares (126 acres). Back in the Bronze Age, the area was located near the coastline but is now some kilometres inland. Bronze Age and Iron Age people were sophisticated craftsmen and very skilled travellers by water. Many of the petroglyphs depict boats carrying passengers. Wagons and carts are also depicted.

There are hunting scenes and pictures of people performing rituals, and stories of war with the Kelts (who had square shields whereas the Scandinavian people had round ones). One of the larger rocks (22 m x 6 m) – the *Vitlyckehäll*, is located near the museum. A guided tour of the *häll* is worth the while. It contains nearly 300 carvings of a variety of scenes, people, and objects. Afterwards, go for a walk and discover more carvings in the surrounding landscape!

Tanumshede is approximately two hours by car from Oslo. Follow the E6 southwards. There are several smaller hotels in the area.

For more information, please see www.vitlyckemuseum.se



INTERNATIONAL FORUM

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Dispatch: August 1, 2023