

Anders Zorn

MASTER OF SWEDISH PAINTING

15 September – 17 December 2017



Tuesday – Sunday, 10 am – 6 pm
Late closing: Friday, 9 pm

INFORMATION
www.petitpalais.paris.fr

Following up the Carl Larsson exhibition of 2014, the Petit Palais is delighted to be presenting a large-scale retrospective of the work of Anders Zorn (1860–1920), Swedish painting's other major figure. Although recognised and admired in Paris in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Zorn has not been shown here since...1906! Some 150 works will retrace the career of a great artist: friend and rival of Sargent, Sorolla, Boldini and Besnard, virtuoso watercolourist, talented oil painter and brilliant etcher. This exhibition marks the return of a master whose popularity in Scandinavia has never flagged and who was fêted in San Francisco and New York in 2013 and 2014.

Anders Zorn's life was the stuff of a great novel: born into a poor family, abandoned by his father, rising by sheer hard work to fame and fortune. At 21, after training at the Royal Swedish Academy of Fine Arts in Stockholm, he left his homeland to travel the length and breadth of Europe: Spain first, then London, Paris, Turkey, Italy and Greece, followed by North Africa and triumphal tours of the United States. This cosmopolitan artist was quick to attract attention with his large watercolours and the consummate skill he brought to depicting water in portrayals of the Stockholm archipelago, the North African coastline, the Venetian Lagoon, the port in Hamburg and the waves of the Atlantic. In capturing water's endless movement he knew no equal. During his many stays in Paris Zorn alternated watercolour and oil painting, specialising in portraits whose refinement and sophistication were much appreciated by his clients. His innate sense of framing and mastery of light made each painting an elegant tour de force. In the United States his success was phenomenal, as presidents, politicians, bankers and industrial magnates vied for the privilege of having him paint their portraits. In a few short years he became one of the most respected and sought-after painters in USA of course but also in Europe. Multi-talented, he was also a superb etcher, much indebted to Rembrandt, whose engravings he collected.

Late in the 19th century Zorn and his wife moved to Mora, in Sweden, where his house-studio remains a tourist attraction today. In his painting he celebrated his country's natural environment and vernacular traditions: his *Midsummer Dance*, an outright declaration of love for his native region of Dalarna and its long summer nights, has become a Swedish art history classic.

The exhibition's layout and scenography will conjure up this many-faceted life with very different ambiances and enlargements of photographs of the artist, most of them never shown before. This is a chance to see the finest works from the Zorn Museum in Mora and the Nationalmuseum in Stockholm, both of which are partners in this project. The presentation is rounded off by major loans from other Scandinavian and French museums.

CURATORS

Johan Cederlund: director, Zornmuseet, Mora
Carl-Johan Olsson: curator, Nationalmuseum, Stockholm
Christophe Leribault: director, Petit Palais
Dominique Morel: chief curator, Petit Palais

CATALOGUE

Published by Paris Musées, 224 pages, 35 euros

PRESS OFFICER

Mathilde Beaujard
mathilde.beaujard@paris.fr / +33 1 53 43 40 14



Anders Zorn, *Summer Holidays*, watercolour, 1886.
Private collection © photo Hans Thorwid