



Isaac Grünewald: *Självporträtt*, (1912), Private owned, Photo: Lars Engelhardt // *Det blå köket*, (1917). ©Kulturmagasinet/Helsingborgs museer

## IN THE REALM OF FANTASY Isaac Grünewald and the decorative expressionism

**3<sup>rd</sup> March – 6<sup>th</sup> August 2023**  
**Exhibition opening: Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 5-7pm**

**An exuberant symphony of colour, Nordic Expressionism, and a master of self-presentation. Gammel Holtegaard proudly presents a major solo show with one of the pioneers of Scandinavian modernism, the Swedish painter Isaac Grünewald.**

“A painting should be a feast for the eyes”, according to Swedish painter Isaac Grünewald (1889-1946). Gammel Holtegaard is delighted to invite you to join an exuberant exhibition, presenting evocative works full of atmosphere and celebrations. With his vividly coloured modern paintings, flamboyant lifestyle, and staunch belief in a new decorative, expressive style, Isaac Grünewald both outraged and fascinated people in Sweden and Denmark in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The exhibition *In the Realm of Fantasy* is a solo presentation of the Swedish avant-garde artist, reflecting the influence of his mentor Matisse’s expressionistic qualities, but also charting his discovery of a direction of his own in a previously unseen form of Scandinavian modernism. Isaac Grünewald was one of a kind, and his oeuvre points to a new, Nordic style of decorative expressionism and the independent movement it became.

The exhibition zooms in on the 1910s and 1920s, a key stage of Grünewald’s oeuvre when he had his international breakthrough. Throughout this period Grünewald experimented freely and playfully, exploring the interplay of bright, clear and often complementary colours. The rules of naturalism, with its true-to-nature hues, spatiality and perspectives, are suspended in his works, which favour a decorative, Fauvist play on colour and belief in its innate expressive power. The exhibition presents a wide range of the artist’s paintings of cities, landscapes, floral motifs, as well as self-portraits and his portraits of friends.

The exhibition celebrates the work of a leading Swedish artist, who was key in shaping the course of Scandinavian modernism.

### **ISAAC GRÜNEWALD'S LIFE**

After studying art at the influential Konstnerforbundets Skola in Stockholm, from 1908-11 Grönwald was the apprentice of Henri Matisse in Paris. Together with his first wife, the painter Sigrid Hjertén, he played a central role in the arts and cultural life of Sweden. As well as being a painter, Grönwald was an author, set designer and professor, and was an active and enthusiastic participant in contemporary cultural debates. He featured heavily in the gossip pages, and due to his Jewish background was also subject to antisemitism. Isaac Grönwald died in a plane crash with his second wife Märta Grundell-Grönwald in 1946.

### **CATALOGUE**

The exhibition is accompanied by a short, illustrated publication with texts by director of Gammel Holtegaard, Maria Gadegaard, and curator Mai Dengsøe.

The graphic design is by Spine Studio, and the publication date Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March.

### **CREATIVE WORKSHOP FOR ALL AGES**

The creative workshop is open during exhibition opening times. Here you can experiment with paints, mirrors and the inspiration you draw from Isaac Grönwald's paintings. Visitors are welcome to explore the workshop on their own every day, and it is also staffed on selected Saturdays.

### **EVENT PROGRAMME**

The exhibition is accompanied by an extensive programme of events presenting new perspectives on its themes. Experience author Glenn Bech in conversation with Danish poet Haidar Ansari on class and social mobility with readings of their work. Art photographer Fryd Frydendahl will also be visiting the exhibition to talk about city pictures, and associate professor in art history Andrea Kollnitz will be joining us from Stockholm University to talk about fashion among artists of the avant-garde with a focus on Grönwald's stylized self-image. You can also experience the exhibition on one of our short, free guided Art & Cider walks, as well as our guided tours inside and out.

Check our [website](#) for more information. Most events are in Danish.

### **EXHIBITION OPENING**

We look forward to welcoming you to the opening of the exhibition and wine, cider and salmon canapes from 5-7pm on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2023.

The opening event will be held indoors and outdoors so please wrap up warm.

### **EXHIBITION DATES**

The exhibition runs from Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March until Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup> inclusive.

#### NEW Opening hours

Tuesday-Friday: 12-5pm, Thursday: 12-8pm, Saturday-Sunday: 10am-5pm. Closed Monday.

### **PRESS PREVIEWS AND CONTACT**

Individual press views can be booked from Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

For more information about the exhibition, event programme or previews please contact:

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You can [download press material and photos here](#).

**The exhibition is generously supported by:**

15. Juni Fonden, Spar Nord Fonden, Jørgen Kryger & Anne Ammitzbølls Fond, Dronning Margrethe & Prins Henriks Fond, Knud Højgaards Fond and Lizzie & Ejler Ruges Kunstfond.

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