

## Torger Enckell

Wing, Project Room, from 30 September 2011 to 15 January 2012

Featured in the Maire Gullichsen Art Foundation collection, Torger Enckell (1901–1991) was one of the key figures among the internationally-oriented Swedish-speaking modernists in Finland.

As an artist, Enckell was self-taught. He studied art only a few months at the drawing school of the Fine Arts Association of Finland in 1919–1920, but was also a private student under Marcus Collin and Gunnar Finne. Enckell's art was profoundly influenced by his study trips, the first to Germany 1921–1922, the second in 1926 to Paris, where he studied at Académie Colarossi.

Torger Enckell's early work is characterised by influences from Expressionism and an interest in classical Modernism, acquired in Paris. Andre Dérain was a particularly important artist for Enckell. Later on, Enckell's style became more colouristic and came closer to the principles of French colour painting. Light and colour became the main elements in Enckell's late work.

The central subject in Enckell's art is man. The majority of his paintings are character studies, portraits or self-portraits. Instead of adhering to the aims of conventional portraiture, Enckell sought to depict the emotional side of his subjects, to reveal the inner essence behind external appearances. Other recurring motifs in his work are landscapes and still lifes. Torger Enckell also worked with printmaking from the 1920s to the end of the 1930s. He created illustrations for Elmer Diktonius's books of poems and for *Quosego*, a pioneering journal of Finland-Swedish literary Modernism.

Enckell was one of the founders of the Prisma group, established in 1956. The internationally oriented group played a major role in bringing new influences to post-war art in Finland. Members of the group included Yngve Bäck, Gösta Diehl, Ragnar Ekelund, Unto Pusa, Sigrid Schauman and Sam Vanni. Enckell also worked as a teacher at the Free Art School from 1958 to 1963, and as the school's rector from 1960 to 1963.

The exhibition in the Pori Art Museum presents Torger Enckell's work from the start of his career in the 1920s and up to the 1970s. The show also includes prints, book cover illustrations and sketches. The works are from private collections and from the museum's own collection. The exhibition is accompanied by a research publication on Enckell's work. In the publication Altti Kuusamo examines Enckell's self-portraits, Erkki Anttonen discusses the Gestalt-psychological underpinnings of Enckell's art, Stella Parland sheds light on Finland-Swedish modernism, and Carolus Enckell writes about the different aspects of his father's work.

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### Book info:

#### **Torger Enckell**

240 pages, colour plates

Edited by Carolus Enckell, Teija Lammi, Esko Nummelin

Writers: Erkki Anttonen, Carolus Enckell, Maija Koskinen, Altti Kuusamo, Erik Kruskopf, Teija Lammi, Esko Nummelin, Stella Parland, Lars-Ivar Ringbom

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