

ZORN – ONE OF SWEDENS FOREMOST ARTISTS

Anders Zorn (1860-1920) is one of Sweden's foremost artists, most famous for his nude paintings, genre scenes, and vivid depictions of water. Born in Mora, Zorn obtained great international success as a portrait painter, not least in United States.

Among the commissioners were not only notable Americans of the day, but also three presidents: Grover Cleveland, William Taft, and Theodore Roosevelt. Zorn's earnings from his American endeavors provided him with the funds he needed to create a home for his wife Emma and himself, known as Zorngarden or The Zorn House. Located in his native town of Mora and completed in 1910, the house was filled with objects of art, some of which he purchased abroad, others collected in the province of Dalecarlia. Perhaps its most remarkable feature, however, is the large timber construction in the east, which contains the more-than-30-foot-high, tapestry-lined hall, aptly suited to the couple's extended social life. The Zorn House can be visited on guided tours daily. In 1939, the artist's wife established a museum next to the Zorn House, dedicated to the works of Anders Zorn and his collections. The Zorn Museum, considered to be one of Sweden's finest provincial museums, also offers seasonal temporary exhibitions.

The Zorn Collections, Vasagatan 36, Mora. Open all year round, Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Good Friday. Phone +46 (0)250-59 23 10, www.zorn.se



MUNTHES HILDASHOLM

– LIKE NO OTHER HOUSE IN THE LEKSAND AREA

To arrive at Hildasholm is like stepping back in time. Here one can feel the pulse of history and take part in the imaginative and fantastic accounts of people and events in latter-day Europe.

Hildasholm was the summer residence of doctor and author Axel Munthe, which he had built on the shores of Lake Siljan for his English-born wife Hilda Pennington Mellor as a wedding gift in 1911. The house is decorated, in the main, with old English furniture of mixed styles. One of the highlights is a rare set of furniture that had originally been made in the 1780s, by the famous maker Sheraton. Furniture, paintings and artworks from the continent bear witness to a family who chose to have a very individual home to relax in.

THE GARDENS

Hilda Munthe was a very clever gardener and laid out different gardens among the buildings. The oldest is called the Yellow or Peacock Garden from 1912. Next to the Yellow Garden lies the Juniper garden and the Sunken Garden. The Fountain Garden, on the northern side, was laid out for the visit by (the Swedish) Queen Victoria in 1924 and was formally opened by her. During the summer of 2004 two new gardens were laid out at Hildasholm. A kitchen garden has been recreated in the same place as existed in Hilda Munthe's time during the 1920s and '30s. In a separate area, a medicinal herb garden has been created in memory of Axel Munthe.

Muntes Hildasholm, Klockaregatan 5, Leksand. Open in summer. Phone +46 (0)247-100 62, www.hildasholm.org

