Paper Cutting Exhibition Travels to Seattle from Norway

Scissors for a Brush, featuring the work of Karen Bit Vejle runs March 22 through June 16, 2013.

February 22, 2013 | Seattle, WA— Using just scissors and paper as her tools, Danish-Norwegian artist Karen Bit Vejle creates a stunning, multi-faceted world. Now that world, where design, detail, and wonder meet, is coming to Seattle as the exhibition Scissors for a Brush. The exhibition’s first time beyond Scandinavia, Scissors for a Brush will run March 22 through June 16, 2013.

Bit Vejle will visit the Museum and lead public tours of the exhibition at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 22 and at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 23.

“I have finished a number of cuttings over the course of nearly 40 years, and as I never had anywhere else to keep them, they had just remained hidden underneath my rugs,” says Bit Vejle. “They might have stayed there forever, if a colleague had not happened to look under my rugs and find them. He thought they should see the light of day. Ever since, these paper cuttings have taken on a life of their own and started a crusade for the rediscovery of
Psaligraphy—the art of paper cutting—is an art form that takes painstaking patience and concentration. Bit Vejle’s works are formed from a large, continuous piece of paper that is folded one, two, and three times, and then cut using only a pair of scissors. Every single scissor cut is carefully planned, as the slightest mistake can have disastrous consequences for the finished result.

Exhibition curator Sissel Guttormsen says, “Her magical cuttings are rooted in a tradition that has known a long journey through history. But she has created a personal style and technique that are entirely her own. For more than 35 years she has been absorbed, fascinated, and deeply committed to this art form that developed from small, simple snowflakes to unusually large and highly complex image cuttings. She is one of very few in Europe who can cut at such an advanced technical and artistic level. There is a great degree of humor in Karen Bit Vejle’s world of imagery; humor and the ability to identify joy in small things. Just as often, though, she confronts deep seriousness and themes intended to invoke involvement and reflection.”

In addition, alongside Bit Vejle’s work, *Scissors for a Brush* will feature four original paper cuts by Hans Christian Andersen on loan from the Hans Christian Andersen Museum in Odense, Denmark. This is a rare opportunity to see these fragile works in the United States.

Bit Vejle’s first show opened at The National Museum of Decorative Arts in Trondheim, Norway in 2008. Since then the traveling exhibition *Scissors for a Brush* has been touring prominent museums in the Nordic countries to considerable public attention.

Learn more about the exhibition at [http://www.nordicmuseum.org/exhibitions.aspx#scissors](http://www.nordicmuseum.org/exhibitions.aspx#scissors).

**Exhibition–Related Programs at the Museum** In conjunction with the exhibition, the Museum will offer several related programs; more information about the following events will be posted as the exhibition nears.

**Thursday, March 21**, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Member & Press Preview with artist Karen Bit Vejle

**Friday, March 22**, 2:00 p.m. *Artist Tour: Scissors for a Brush* with Karen Bit Vejle

**Saturday, March 23**, 2:00 p.m. *Artist Tour & Paper Cutting Activity: Scissors for a Brush* with Karen Bit Vejle

**Saturday, April 13**, 2:00 p.m. *Lecture* with Nikki McClure

*Exhibition support is provided by Scan Design Foundation by Ingers & Jens Bruun, 4Culture, Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, the Washington State Arts Commission, the Norwegian Association for Arts and Crafts, and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.*

*Photos by Lasse Berre.*

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**About the Nordic HeritageMuseum**

With over 55,000 visitors annually, the Nordic HeritageMuseum is a cultural treasure in the Pacific Northwest. It is the only museum in the
United States that represents the cultural heritage of all five Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The Museum’s mission is to share Nordic culture with people of all ages and backgrounds by exhibiting art and objects, preserving collections, providing educational and cultural experiences and serving as a community gathering place. The Nordic Heritage Museum presents a wide range of vibrant programs including contemporary art exhibitions, outstanding concerts, lectures and films and a variety of special events throughout the year.

Museum hours: Tues-Sat 10 am to 4 pm; Sun 12 noon to 4 pm; Mon closed

Admission: $6 general; $5 seniors & college students; $4 children over 5 years;

FREE for children under 5 and Museum members; free on first Thursdays

The Museum is located at 3014 NW 67th Street, Seattle, WA 98117.

www.nordicmuseum.org

Event Type: Exhibits

Related Fields:
- Scandinavian Area Studies
- Norwegian

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Source URL: https://scandinavian.washington.edu/events/2013-03-22/intricate-paper-cutting-exhibit-danish-norwegian-artist