

Brian B. Magnusson

Affiliate Assistant Professor

Ph.D. University of Wisconsin, 1988

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Fields of Interest

Nordic-American Art, Architecture and Material Culture in the Far West

Nordic Antiquities and Archaeology

Nordic Art, Architecture

Nordic Immigration and Settlement

Fields of Specialization

The art of Jonas Olof Grafström, Ruth Grafström, Fritiof Colling, Eric Winqvist and Johan Gustaf Kalling

Figural form in North European Iron Age Art

Background and Distinctions

Summary

Academic Affiliation

Research

Courses Taught

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Community Engagement

Curatorial Contributions

Summary

Educational Background:

Following completion of a Master of Arts degree in Scandinavian Studies at the University of Washington (supporting area: Art History) in 1967, I pursued further study in Nordic art and architecture (Art History) at the University of Minnesota and Nordic and Comparative Antiquities (Archaeology) at the University of Stockholm. In 1977 I entered a Ph.D. "Cross-Cultural, Interdisciplinary Study of North European Prehistory" in Scandinavian Studies at the University of Wisconsin. My course work was done largely through the Departments of Anthropology, Art History and History. My dissertation dealt with the portrayal of the human head as *pars pro toto* in early Iron Age art and was titled, "Messages, Contexts and Form:

Correlates in Scandinavia's Early Iron Age Head Motif (100 B.C. to 500 A.D.)." Paralleling my studies in Nordic antiquities has been my long fascination with early Nordic-American art, architecture and culture, an interest that first evolved in my youth and was later pursued as part of my graduate studies in Art History at the University of Minnesota. During the past two and a half decades I have devoted most of my research activity to early Nordic-American art and architecture in the Pacific Northwest.

Present Academic Affiliation:

Docent (Lecturer/Assistant Professor)

Nordic and American Art and Culture

TAIKU – Department of Art and Cultural Studies

Jyväskylä University

Finland

Research:

Early Nordic-born artists in the Pacific Northwest, including Jonas Olof Grafström, Fritiof Colling, Eric Winqvist, Olaf Möller. Early Nordic-American vernacular architecture.

Subjects Instructed:

Nordic antiquities, art and architecture, Nordic-American art and architecture, research methodology, Swedish language

Distinctions:

Nordplus Lecturer (2007, Turku University), Fulbright Senior Scholar (2005, Jyväskylä University), Fulbright Research and Teaching Stipend (2001-2002, Jyväskylä University), Hans Mattson Award (2001, Sweden), Swedish Emigrant Institute Research Stipend Recipient (1997, 2000, 2002, Växjö).

Community Engagement:

Founder and Lecture Coordinator, The Peninsula Nordic Study Circle (1989 to present), Co-Coordinator for North American traveling exhibit *Transfigurations: Finns in Russian-America* (2003-2004), Chair, Pierce County Swedish Immigration Sesquicentennial Celebration (*Migrationsår 1846-1996*) 1995-1996.

Selected Publications and Reviews

"In Treacherous Waters: Two Ships and a Rendezvous with Infamy," *The Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*, October 2013.

"Transcending Traditional Boundaries: Erna Gunther and that Strange Little Figure from Valley Creek," *Taidenhistoriallisia tutkimuksia – Konsthistoriska studier* 44, Jyväskylä University, 2012.

"Unikt verk av J.O. Grafström," *Emigranten*, 2012 – 2.

"Ett skepp kallat *Venezuela*," *Agunnaryds Allehanda*, January 2012, March 2012.

"Mountains for Multiple Audiences: Olof Grafström's Journey to *Silver Lake, Washington*," *The Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*, April 2010, July 2010.

Book review: *Zorn in America*, 2009, William and Willow Hagans (*The Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*, July 2009).

Book review: *Swedish Seattle*, 2008, Paul Norlen (*The Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*, October 2008).

“Early Nordic Painters on the Olympic Peninsula,” *The Nordic Heritage Museum Journal*, Summer/Fall 2007.

Contributing editor: *Transfigurations: Finns in Russian-America*, Jyväskylä University Museum, 2004.

“Classical Elements in Early Scandinavian-American Architecture: Some Initial Impressions,” *The Problem of Classical Ideal in Art and Architecture around the Baltic Sea*, Estonian Academy of Art Proceedings, November 9-10, 2001, published 2003.

“Observations on the Material Culture of the Scandinavian Immigrant Settlement at Lake Ozette and Royal (1880-1910),” Cultural Resource Statement: United States National Park Service, Olympic National Park, 2000.

“Sump Farms and Distant Peaks: Three Swedish Immigrant Painters in the Early Pacific Northwest,” *The Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*, April, October 1998.

“Tacoma, Washington, Rediscovered its Swedish Roots,” *Utvandrare och invandrare i Sveriges historia, 1846-1996* (Växjö: Migrationskommitten & Svenska Emigrantinstitutet, 1997).

Selected Curatorial Contributions

I Nicholas Delins fotspår: Svenskspråkiga immigranter i Tacoma, Washington, Ålands Emigrantinstitut/Ålands Museum, Finland, October – November 2008; Svenska Emigrantinstitutet, Växjö, Sweden, May – September 2008.

Transfigurations: Finns in Russian-America, Karpeles Library and Museum, Tacoma, Washington, June 2004.

From Baltic Realms 1709 to 1809: Historic Treasures from Private Collections in the Puget Sound Region, Karpeles Library and Museum, Tacoma, Washington, June 2004.

From Parlor, Boarding House and Atelier: Swedish-American Art in Pierce County – A Retrospective. Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington, August – September 1996.

A Study in Elegance: The Swedish Landscape in Pattern and Print, 1600 to 1900. Karpeles Library and Museum, January 1996.

In the Footsteps of Nicholas Delin: The Swedish Presence in Pierce County, Washington. Handforth Gallery, December 1995 – January 1996.

