

**Modern Nordic Arts and Culture – Module 1**  
*Department of Arts and Cultural Studies - Autumn 2016*  
**Modern Nordic Art, Visual Culture, Architecture and Urbanity**

Course coordinator:  
 Inger Damsholt

Teachers/Examinators:  
 Ragni Linnet, Martin Zerlang, Gunhild Borggreen and Jens Tang Kristensen

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **1. (Week 36): Introduction (Inger Damsholt)**

Presentation and background

Academic profile: The BA elective in Modern Nordic Arts and Culture

Objectives for Modern Nordic Art, Visual Culture, Architecture and Urbanity

Course schedule, required reading, types of instruction and work

Academic objectives and Exam provisions

### **2. (Week 37): Nordic/National studies in a globalized world (Ragni Linnet)**

Nordic (and National) arts and culture are often considered to be dealing with something more than just arts and culture produced in the Nordic countries. But what is this mysterious more? What does the concept 'Nordic' imply and what characterizes 'Nordic Art'? Starting with the pre national 'nordism' and internationalism - before the politically motivated national trends of the 19th century - the second part of the lecture will introduce the oeuvre of Nicolai Abildgaard (1743-1809) whose case reveals a great deal about the vicissitudes of the concept the Nordic.

### **3. (Week 38): Late 19th century Nordic or National art (Ragni Linnet)**

The first part of the lecture deals with the study programs at the Royal Academy of Art in Copenhagen during the Danish Golden Age. Special attention will be given to Norwegian landscape painters I.C. Dahl (1788-1857) and Thomas Fearnley (1802-1842) and the folkloristic tableaus of the Dane Wilhelm Marstrand (1810-1873) and Hans Frederik Gude (1825-1903) from Norway. The second part of the lecture presents two professors of the Academy: C.A. Lorentzen (1749-1828) and C.W. Eckersberg (1783-1853) - the latter of whom has recently been termed 'Father of Danish pictorial art'.

### **4. (Week 39): Late 19th century Nordic or National art (Ragni Linnet)**

Nordic art has often been connected with an existentialist trend and a special Nordic mood (epitomized by e.g. the Norwegian playwright August Strindberg or the Swedish filmmaker Ingmar Bergman). From this perspective this lecture will discuss Vilhelm Hammershøi (1864-1916) from Denmark and Helene Schjerfbeck (1862-1946) from Finland.

**5. (Week 40): Nordic Architecture and Urban development (Martin Zerlang)**

The theme of Nordic Architecture and Urban development is exemplified in three off-campus excursions with on-site lectures focusing on the development of Modern Copenhagen after the fall of the city walls in 1856.

This week the theme is *City Halls*: We visit “Råd- og Domhuset” (Copenhagen Court House), “Københavns Rådhus” (Copenhagen City Hall) and “Rødovre Rådhus” (Rødovre City Hall).

**6. (Week 41): Nordic Architecture and Urban development (Martin Zerlang)**

This week the theme is *Squares*: We visit “Gråbrødretorv” (the Franciscan Friary Square), “Israels Plads” (lit. Israel’s Square), “Blågårds Plads” (lit. the Blue House Square) and “Superkilen” (lit. the Super Wedge).

## WEEK 42 - AUTUMN VACATION

**7. (Week 43): Nordic Architecture and Urban development (Martin Zerlang)**

This week the theme is *Suburbanisation*: We visit “Brumleby” (The Workers' Building Society), Terraced houses in “Brønshøj”, “Bellahøj” and “Tingbjerg”.

**8. (Week 44): Japonism in Nordic Art and Culture (Gunhild Borggreen)**

The theme of Japonism is related to the notion of Orientalism that influenced Europe and the Nordic countries during the 18th and 19th centuries. In this first part, we discuss the concept of Orientalism and Japonism, and look at Nordic examples of influence from the “Far East”.

**9. (Week 45): Exam Preparation (Inger Damsholt)**

Academic objectives and Midway Evaluation

General exam rules, the take-home assignment and assessment criteria:

- How to choose an optional subject and individual pensum of 200 pages
- How to articulate a problem within the horizon of the field
- How to conduct an investigation or case study based on methods and theories

**10. (Week 46): Japonism in Nordic Art and Culture (Gunhild Borggreen)**

This week we explore discourses and visual examples of the influence from Japanese culture on Nordic art and design. We visit the exhibition *Learning from Japan* at Design Museum Denmark to study collections and museum display.

**11. (Week 47): Japonism in Nordic Art and Culture (Gunhild Borggreen)**

This week we investigate elements of power and gender related to Japonism, including representation of women and the feminization of consumption and desire in Nordic Japonism. We also discuss the reception and influence from contemporary popular culture from Japan.

**12. (Week 48): 20th century Nordic art (Jens Tang Kristensen)**

Terms such as 'New Nordic Fashion' and 'Scandinavian Furniture' are often used to represent design movements in the five Nordic countries characterized by simplicity, minimalism and functionality. But how can the term 'Avant-garde Art' make sense in a Nordic/Scandinavian/local context and perspective?

**13. (Week 49): 20th century Nordic art (Jens Tang Kristensen)**

This week we will investigate how international avant-garde movements such as constructivism, dadaism and surrealism influenced the Nordic artists and artist-groups such as 'Linien', 'Linien II', 'Halmstadgruppen', 'Cobra' etc.

**14. (Week 50): 20th century Nordic art (Jens Tang Kristensen)**

This lecture will bring insight into the local political post-war art movements from the early collaborations - such as 'Cobra', 'Situationist Internationale' and 'SPUR' - to Eks-Skolen" (the Ex- School), Fluxus and onwards to the contemporary art-scene of today.

**Plus I. Damsholt:** Last Exam information, Closure and Final course evaluation