

Fredrik Sjöberg

L'art de s'enfuir

Nya Doxa Förlag, Suède, 2006, 192 pages

Piège à mouches (Les Allusifs, 2011) vendu dans 15 langues
La Troisième île (Editions Corti, 2014) vendu dans 8 langues

Dans »L'art de s'enfuir«, Fredrik Sjöberg renoue avec un sujet qui le passionne: l'enquête de personnages tombés dans l'oubli, dans ce cas le peintre d'origine suédoise Gunnar Widforss. Sjöberg enquête sur ce peintre célèbre aux États-Unis, mais oublié dans son pays d'origine et suit ses aventures à travers le continent nord-américain. Un autre livre étonnant de cet auteur exceptionnel suédois.

Gunnar Widforss is one of the best known Swedish painters – in the U.S. – and one of the least known – in Sweden. There is a Widforss Point at the Grand Canyon, and his paintings sell for triple digit prices at American art auctions. Contemporary Swedish art encyclopedias do not even mention his name. Born in Stockholm in 1879, he left Europe at the age of 42. Originally heading for Japan, but coming no farther than California, he became the great painter of the national parks and his fame is largely attributable to the establishment of the huge American national parks in the early twentieth century, and the birth of the domestic tourist industry.

Presse:

«Since his literary debut in 1988 he has written on everything from the history of the environmental movement to the insect collection of Tomas Tranströmer. [...] Sjöberg has a witty, erudite, incisive tone reminiscent of travellers and anthropologists such as Barlow, Chatwin or even Robert Byron. As such, his book feels more English than any Swedish book I have read in a good while.»
- Swedish Book Review

«A hit when it appeared in Sjöberg's native Sweden in 2004, the book makes for seductive reading, a quirky and wide-ranging meditation on the deep pleasures of collecting, obsession and the natural world. [...] Sjöberg's forthright and unapologetic unpretentiousness is close to liberating in an age when nature writing is so often quasi-theological, veering routinely between awe and homily, sometimes even in the same sentence.» - New York Times on The Fly Trap



Fredrik Sjöberg would certainly describe himself as a solitary person. He is one of the friendliest wolves in sheep's clothing, a biologist, an honorary professor at two universities, author of a growing list of books, which he dedicated to the theme of passion in many different ways. His books have been translated into 15 languages.

Albert Bonniers Essay Prize 2013 for Varför håller man på?
Swedish Academy Essay Prize 2015

