

**"AN ALLIANCE OF ART AND INDUSTRY:
THE BRILLIANCE OF SWEDISH GLASS, 1918-1939"
AT THE BARD GRADUATE CENTER
FROM NOVEMBER 21 TO FEBRUARY 2, 1997**

This exhibition is the first in the United States to examine the most important chapter in the history of 20th-century Swedish design.

"An Alliance of Art and Industry: The Brilliance of Swedish Glass, 1918-1939" examines the landmark developments of the Swedish glass industry during the inter-war years. Approximately 120 works have been selected to demonstrate the broad range of glass designed and produced in Sweden from 1918-1939, including stemware, one-of-a-kind pieces and limited production glass. Original drawings by significant designers and artists of the period and working models illustrating technical innovations will also be exhibited.

The exhibition has been curated by Derek E. Ostergard, Associate Director and Founding Dean of the Bard Graduate Center; Nina Stritzler-Levine, Director of Exhibitions at the Bard Graduate Center; and Gunnel Holmér, Curator of Glass, Smålands Museum -- Sweden's Museum of Glass.

This exhibition will serve to deepen the viewer's understanding and appreciation of the conceptualization, design and production of Swedish glass. The Orrefors and Kosta Boda Museum and the Smålands Museum are the principal lenders to the exhibition. Additional loans have been secured from other museums and private collectors in Sweden and the United States, including the Swedish Nationalmuseum, Stockholm; The Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, Ohio; and The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland.

Swedish glass factories lagged behind their European counterparts in the early 20th century, but during the inter-war years they became recognized throughout the world for their

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extraordinary artistic achievements. Their efforts led to outstanding design and technical innovations that established the Swedish glass industry as the international leader of modern design. This is evidenced by the influence of the Swedish factories in a wide range of manufacturers and artisans in Europe.

The exhibition focuses on the leading artists and the aesthetic and technical developments that occurred at Swedish glass houses. These changes emerged because of the influence of modernism on international design. The contribution of Orrefors Glassworks, one of the most highly acclaimed manufacturers, was unsurpassed in its support of artists, designers and craftspeople. Spectacular works for Orrefors Glassworks by Edward Hald (1883-1980), Simon Gate (1883-1945) and Vicke Lindstrand (1904-1983) and for the Kosta Glasshouse by Elis Bergh (1881-1954) and Sven Erik Skawonius (1908-1981), among others, are featured in the exhibition. Lesser known and under recognized Swedish glasshouses will also be represented, including Reijmyre, Gullaskruf, Elme and Limmared.

"An Alliance of Art and Industry: The Brilliance of Swedish Glass, 1918-1939" is the first Bard Graduate Center traveling exhibition. Its second showing will begin on March 2, 1997 at The Chrysler Museum of Art in Norfolk, Virginia.

The exhibition will include a fully illustrated catalogue published for the Bard Graduate Center by Yale University Press. There also will be a variety of public programs relating to the exhibition, including a scholarly symposium, family days and an open house for seniors.

Partial funding for the exhibition and the accompanying catalogue has been generously provided by Orrefors Kosta Boda, Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken, an anonymous donor, the Consulate General of Sweden, The American-Scandinavian Foundation and The Swedish Institute.

For further information, please contact Tim Mulligan or Kelly Moody at 212/501-3072.