



A Tribute to Our Danish Art Friends

When my family first arrived in Denmark and we walked through the doors of Rydhave, we all felt like a newspaper editor on his first day at work – facing 70 blank pages. Only in our case, it was two dozen blank walls.

Of course, we knew that a great collection of North Carolina art was on its way. However, we also realized that it would be some time before it got here. Meanwhile, we wanted to begin hosting visitors, entertaining guests, and generally getting settled.

We concluded that a wonderful way to do that, and to showcase the strong partnership between Denmark and America, would be to feature Danish art at the Residence. Graciously, a number of Copenhagen art galleries and individual Danish artists stepped forward and offered to lend us some of their impressive works.

It was an irresistible opportunity. Over the next few weeks, Helen and I were busy visiting galleries, selecting the pieces we wanted, and learning about the artists themselves.

No request was too big or too small it seemed. Peter Weinberger, Christina Wilson and Susanne Ottesen, not only lent us great art from their galleries, but also gave good advice on where to hang it. Anette Holmberg did three beautiful paintings especially for our dining room in only a couple of days. In addition, when we needed something unique for an antique glass-fronted cabinet, Royal Copenhagen let us display a set of Flora Danica plates. Suddenly, there were no more blank walls left at Rydhave. Gorgeous colors and fabulous forms that swept us off our feet had taken their place. Over the past year and a half, more than 10,000 guests have enjoyed these works with us.

Since then, the official Art in Embassies collection has arrived and most of the Danish works have gone back to the galleries. A few unique pieces remain, however, as we wanted to remind all of our guests, through our art, of the close bonds between Denmark and America.

Curiosity and love of the arts are vital ingredients in the creation of any great collection, however temporary. Based on our experiences, Helen and I would like to add friendship to that formula. We will never forget the generosity and kindness we encountered during those early weeks. It was a wonderful introduction to Denmark and the Danish people. Thank you so much to all of you.

Rydhave, the Library with painting (right) by Michael Goldberg lent by Galleri Weinberger.



Photo by Thoralf Amdal Christensen.



Photo by Omar Ingerslev

Rydhave, the Salon with painting by Kaspar Bonnén lent by Galleri Christina Wilson.

Photo by Thorhild Amdt Christensen



Ambassador James P. Cain and artist Anette Holmberg in front of her paintings in the dining room.

CONTRIBUTING GALLERIES

Galleri Christina Wilson
Galleri Susanne Ottesen
Galleri Weinberger
Glasmuseet i Ebeltoft
The Royal Copenhagen Collection

ARTISTS

Lone Arendal
Majbritt Ulvedal Bjelke
Kaspar Bonnén
Torben Ebbesen
Maja Lisa Engelhardt
Michael Goldberg
Rolf Hanson
Darryle Hinz
Anette Holmberg
Cathrine Lee
Linda Levit
Kehnet Nielsen
Mikkel Niemann
Monica Ritterband
Mette Winckelmann