

## Föreningen Original-Träsnitt Grafik och grafiker på ett tidigt modernistiskt konstfält

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kommer att offentligens försvaras i Lilla Hörsalen, Humanisten,  
fredagen den 7 maj 2004, kl. 13.15.

### ABSTRACT

Wallin Wictorin, Margareta, 2004. Föreningen Original-Träsnitt. Grafik och grafiker på ett tidigt modernistiskt konstfält. (The Swedish Society of Original Wood Engravers. Graphic Art and Graphic Artists in an Early Modernistic Field of Art.) With an English Summary. Acta Universitatis Gothoburgensis, Gothenburg Studies in Art and Architecture nr 18. 448 sidor (pp), ill., Göteborg. ISBN 91-7346-492-9. ISSN 0348-4114.

This thesis is about Föreningen Original-Träsnitt (The Swedish Society of Original Wood Engravers), which was founded in 1912, at a time when new photographic methods of image reproduction contributed to a differentiation of the graphic visual culture in Sweden and Europe.

In the field of art a notion was spread that now when a picture could be reproduced mechanically, there was no need for the wood engraving, the technique which had been used for art pictures and illustrations in books, magazines and newspapers. Now demands of a special type of originality began to arise in the field of art. A movement striving to promote 'the original print' was formed in Europe. This movement, which included The Swedish Society of Original Wood Engravers, defined 'original print' as a picture that was created by the same person in every step of production. With regards to the woodcut, this meant that the same person should have designed, cut and most preferably even printed the picture.

This was the starting point when The Swedish Society of Original Wood Engravers gathered together to launch the woodcut as art in Sweden. The framework was also set by the structure and character of the Swedish field of art in this early modernistic era. The thesis deals with how the members acted to promote their art and whether they reached their goals.

The 1910's was a decade when different modernistic ideals of art was launched in Sweden. The fact that also the Swedish woodcut was a medium of an early modernistic syntax has hardly been noticed before. Art historical writing has often concentrated on the role of painting in the development of modernistic art, and when it comes to 20<sup>th</sup> century graphic art in Sweden, it has focused on etching and lithography. In this thesis is presented the pictorial styles that were applied by The Swedish Society of Original Wood Engravers, and in which contexts their prints were exhibited and received. It also gives an idea about the conditions under which artists of this time and place were working, and what it could be like to appear in public, especially as a woman artist.

*Keywords:* Föreningen Original-Träsnitt, woodcut, wood engraving, graphic art, original print, reproduction, art concept, 20th century art, modernism, primitivism, broadsheet, cultural field, field of art, artworld.