

HISTORY IN ART

Anders Zorn 1860–1920

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1860 – Anders Zorn is born on his grandparents' farm in central Sweden, 300 km from Stockholm.

1875 – Enters Royal Swedish Academy of Arts for five years. His early work is mostly in watercolour, and his painting *In Mourning* from 1880 attracts a lot of interest. People admire the delicacy with which he paints and he is soon offered commissions. Many of his early works are of children. He meets Emma Lamm and they plan to get married when he has a regular income.

1881 – Travels abroad for four years to study, mostly in England and in Spain, and to sell his work, but returns home regularly during that time to see Emma. Acquires a more confident technique.

1885 – Marries Emma Lamm. In the next few years, they spend a lot of time in England and France, but return to Sweden in the summers.

1886 – Zorn receives a commission from the Nationalmuseum in Stockholm for what is now his most well-known watercolour, *Our Daily Bread*.

1887–88 – The Zorns spend the winter in St Ives in Cornwall, where he develops his technique as an oil painter. One of his paintings in St Ives is exhibited at the Paris Salon and bought by the French state.

1888 – They move to Paris and in the next eight years he becomes part of the Parisian art world, and is recognised by the French government with the award of the Légion d'Honneur medal. He is very successful as a portraitist, even producing a self-portrait commissioned by the Uffizi in Florence.

1893 – Travels to Chicago for the Columbian World Fair and manages the Swedish exhibition there. He is feted in the US and invited to depict American presidents, including Grover Cleveland and Theodore Roosevelt. He visits the US many times over the next few years, enjoying life there.

1896 – Anders and Emma Zorn move back to Sweden and build a cottage on land near his birthplace. They become involved in many philanthropic activities, with Emma setting up a reading society, library, children's home and domestic handicraft society. They both work to foster traditional culture in the area, and this includes a music contest in 1906, which encouraged the revival and preservation of folk music. Today the Zorn prize is still awarded to folk musicians. Zorn now concentrates on images of the people of the locality in a Realist or Impressionist style. He becomes known for his nudes, often in a natural environment.

1909 – Zorn receives a commission to paint the portrait of Queen Sofia of Sweden. In the late 19th and early 20th century he also experiments with etchings and sculpture. In 1906 he produces an etching of Auguste Rodin and in 1910 one of August Strindberg.

1920 – Zorn dies after a few years of deteriorating health. His funeral is attended by members of the royal family and many personalities from the arts. Emma Zorn continues with their philanthropic work and sets up a museum in memory of her husband, which opens in 1939. She dies in 1942.