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From Fairy Tale to Fantasy: The Art of Gustaf Tenggren **September 20th, 2020 – March 14th, 2021**

ASHM is delighted to present *From Fairy Tale to Fantasy: The Art of Gustaf Tenggren*, an exhibition of the illustrations and paintings of renowned Swedish-American artist Gustaf Tenggren. This memorial exhibition, coinciding with the 100th year of Tenggren's immigration to the United States and the 50th since his death, highlights Tenggren's work on memorable characters from Walt Disney's early animation such as *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*, *Pinocchio*, *Bambi*, and *Fantasia* and memorable childhood literature characters such as the *Poky Little Puppy* and *Mother Goose*.

Drawing on loans from the Kerlan Collection at the University of Minnesota, the Weisman Museum of Art in Minneapolis, and the Walt Disney Family Museum in San Francisco, this exhibition will be among the most comprehensive presentations of Tenggren's art in North America. While reminding visitors of Tenggren's contributions to animation and childhood literature, the eighty-six works in *Gustaf Tenggren and Disney* also highlight the subtle, pervasive influence of Swedish regional painting and rural life on his commercial work. As viewers and readers in 20th-century America enjoyed Tenggren's charming characters, they were also unknowingly taking in a product of traditional Swedish folk art.

This show will remind visitors of the fairy tales and stories of their childhood while giving younger guests the chance to learn about the childhood stories of their parents and grandparents. As a show designed to connect generations together, you and your family will not want to miss it.

Gustaf Tenggren was born in 1896 near Gothenburg, Sweden. Even from a young age it was evident that he would become a great artist, grounded in Scandinavian folk painting traditions. After apprenticing with his grandfather, a renowned regional *kurbits* painter Tenggren immigrated to the United States in 1920 and found work in Cleveland, Ohio before moving to New York City. In 1934, a talent scout for Walt Disney hired young Tenggren to illustrate the early animations for the films, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*, *Pinocchio*, *Fantasia*, and *Bambi*. After leaving Disney, Tenggren worked for Little Golden Books between 1942 and 1962 illustrating children's books still in print today. While Tenggren's name remained relatively unknown throughout his life, by the time of his death in Maine in 1970 his art was among the most widely recognized in the United States.

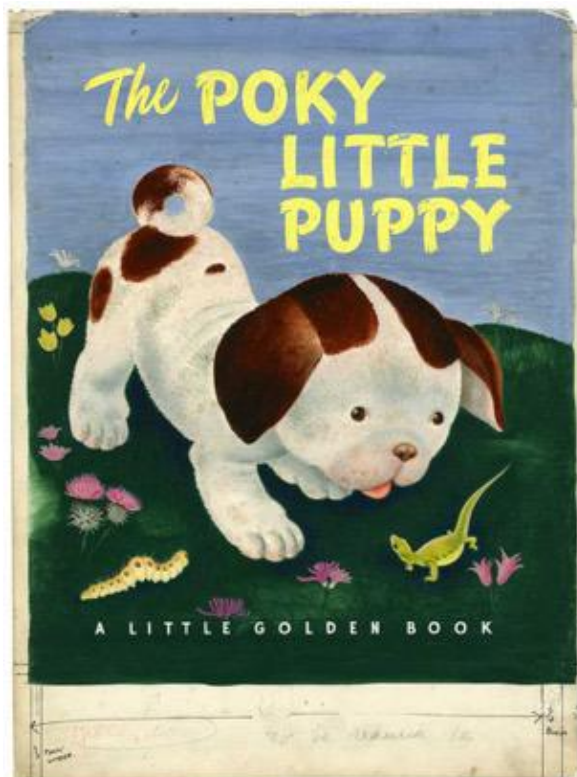
Visitors are invited to the exhibit open house on Sept. 20th from 12:00 – 4:00 pm to view these amazing works of art and chat with ASHM's Curator to learn more about Tenggren's life and work. For a virtual option, the exhibit opening will also feature a Zoom talk by Tenggren expert, Lars Emaunuelsson at 3 pm. Register at www.americanswedish.org/events

Please contact ASHM at 215-389-1776, tbrandt@americanswedish.org for more information or visit www.americanswedish.org.

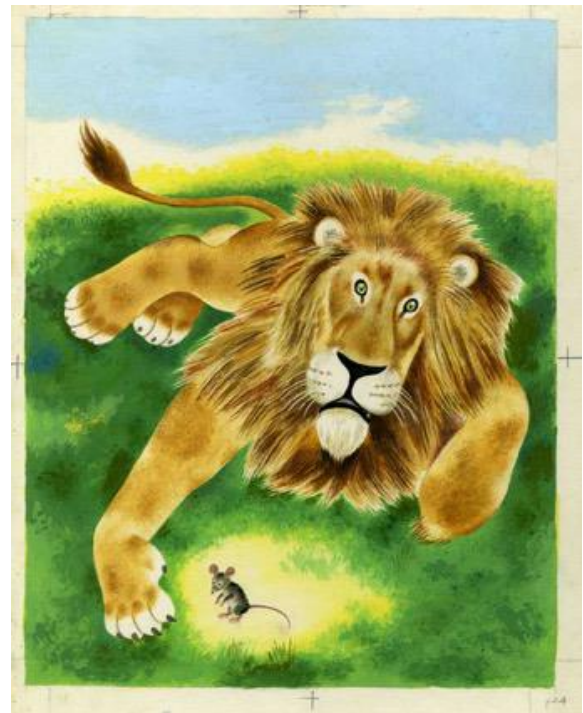
This exhibition was curated by Lars Emanuelsson and organized by Millesgården. It is made possible at ASHM by a grant from the Davenport Family Foundation.

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Selected Pieces:

- [01] *The Poky Little Puppy*, cover painting, 1942, oil on canvas, The Kerlan Collection
- [02] *The Lion's Paw*, cover painting, 1959, The Kerlan Collection
- [03] *The Tenggren Fairy Book*, unfinished book project, c. 1960, The Kerlan Collection
- [04] *Pinocchio*, Concept painting, 1938, The Walt Disney Family Museum
- [05] *Pinocchio*, Concept painting, 1938, The Walt Disney Family Museum
- [06] *Snow White*, Storyboard painting, 1936, The Walt Disney Family Museum