

August 25 through October 20, 2019

The Stories They Told

a traveling exhibition of woodcarvings from the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis, MN

The Sandzén Gallery thanks the American Swedish Institute for loaning this exhibition. It is a Lindsborg Sesquicentennial event and was made possible by a grant from the Smoky Valley Community Foundation, along with sponsorship support by Lindsborg Vacation Rentals.

Approximately 1.3 million Swedes immigrated to the United States between the late 1800s and early 1900s, including a number of the artists featured in this exhibition. They brought with their own cultural identity of tradition, customs, values and beliefs; including the practice of flat plane figure carving, a traditional Nordic craft technique, utilized as a medium for folk art.

The Stories They Told presents the work of 6 of the most recognized and collected Swedish flat plane figure carvers of the 20th century, as well as 2 contemporary American artists practicing this traditional craft today.

The artists in this exhibition explore themes of identity, migration, and belonging in the narrative of their work. Their carvings capture moments in time and often embody universal emotions and experiences.

This exhibition attempts to “unlock” the narratives carved into the figures, in providing a closer look into the social and societal factors that may have influenced each artist’s work. The work on display ranges from the early 1900s to today, documenting ongoing periods of global change influenced by immigration and migration.

This exhibit was organized by the American Swedish Institute (Minneapolis, Minnesota) with support from the Anne Ray Charitable Trust, the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation, and ASI contributing members and donors. Minnesota artist activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund, and a grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota.



Friendship by Emil Janel



401 N. First Street, PO Box 348, Lindsborg, KS 67456
(785) 227-2220 sandzengallery@gmail.com www.sandzen.org
Gallery Hours: Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.