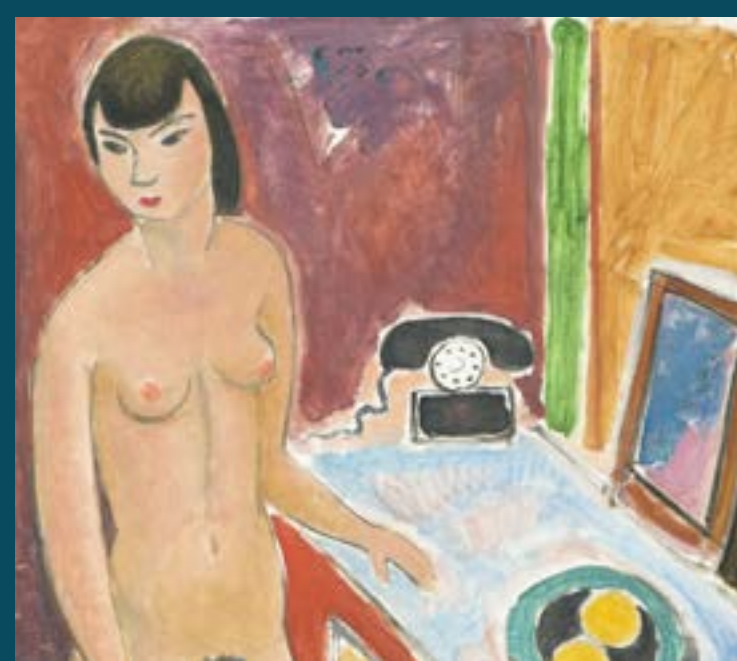




# Christen Sveaas', Kunststiftelse



Annual report 2021  
Christen Sveaas' Art Foundation

Designed by Maren B.T. Kjærnes







## About the Foundation

Christen Sveaas Art Foundation was established by Christen Sveaas in October 2019. The goal of the foundation is to safekeep, convey and lend artworks from the foundation's collection to promote Norwegian and international art from the last 100 years.

Around 800 artworks were donated to the foundation from Christen Sveaas' private collection on 24 May 2020. The donation was marked by the exhibition *Come Out!* at the Kistefos Museum.

An important goal for the foundation is to make the collection more accessible for a wider audience. This is done by cataloguing the works on the web platform and by extending loans to the Kistefos Museum as well as other Norwegian and international museums, organizations and institutions.





# The Kistefos Museum



Pierre Huyghe  
*Variants*  
2022



Ida Ekblad  
*A deadly slumber of all forces*  
2021



Carol Bove  
*Pasanasap*  
2021





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# 01 About Christen Sveaas



Christen Sveaas (b. 1956 in Oslo) is a Norwegian businessman, art collector, investor and donator who has collected art and antique Norwegian silver for more than 40 years. In 1996 he founded the Kistefos Museum on the grounds of his grandfather Anders Sveaas' old wood pulp mill at Jevnaker, Norway. The wood pulp mill was active from 1889 until 1955 but is still intact. The museum has one of the largest sculpture gardens in Europe, an industrial museum and two exhibition spaces for contemporary art. The museum building The Twist, designed by BIG architects, opened in 2019.

Sveaas developed an interest in art and collecting at an early age. Among his first acquisitions were paintings by Harald Sohlberg, Johan Christian Dahl, Frits Thaulow and Gustav Wentzel. The collection was extended through the acquisition of works from the Norwegian realism, modernism and post-war movements. The collection became more international in the 1990s, when several Norwegian galleries extended their exhibition programs beyond the border. Howard Hodgkin, Martin Kippenberger, Albert Oehlen, Christopher Wool, Keith Haring and Ross Bleckner have been key artists in the collection since the 1990s.

After the new millennium, Sveaas began to follow the practices of artists such as Edward Ruscha, Marina Abramović, Gilbert & George, David Salle, Lari Pittman, Bjarne Melgaard, Adrian Ghenie, Andreas Gursky, Louise Bourgeois, Ida Ekblad, Paulina Olowaska and Hurvin Anderson. Christen Sveaas still holds an important private art collection that continues to grow.







# 02 Loans and activity in 2021

The artworks in this foundation are made available to the Kistefos Museum as a prioritized institution. Because the number of works largely surpasses the size of the museum, they are also made available to Norwegian and international museums, organizations and institutions. Several loan agreements between Norwegian and international institutions were made in 2021:



Eight photographs by Constantin Brâncuși (1876-1957) are currently on a long-time loan to Henie Onstad Kunstsenter in Bærum, Norway. The photographs dated between 1920 and 1938 are currently showing as part of the exhibition *Merz! Flux! Pop!* which showcases the German avant-garde artist Kurt Schwitters (1887-1948) and his artist colleagues. Curated by Caroline Ugelstad, the exhibition is on view in the newly opened Sal Merz until May 2022.

Considered one of the most influential sculptors of the 20th-century and a pioneer of modernism, Brâncuși is called the patriarch of modern sculpture for his experimenting with forms in their extreme simplicity.

As a schooled artist from Ecole des Beaux-Arts (1905-07) he started with photography, learning how to turn the artform into a very organic process, where he used multi exposures and the changeable process in the development to create his unique works. As in photography he was an avant-gardist in the way he used his materials. Instead of modelling clay as his peers, he carved his work directly from wood or stone, or cast it in bronze. At the same time, he rejected realism, preferring that his sculptures evoke rather than resemble the subjects mentioned in the titles.

As his work evolved, Brancusi became immersed in the Parisian avant-garde. Though he was never a member of any organized art movement, his friends included Marcel Duchamp, Fernand Léger, Henri Matisse, Amedeo Modigliani, and Henri Rousseau. In 1913, five of Brancusi's sculptures were included in the Armory Show in New York.

Photo by Øystein Thorvaldsen/ Henie Onstad Kunstsenter

# Constantin Brâncuși

at Henie Onstad Kunstsenter, Norway





# Anne-Karin Furunes

at The Museum of Decorative Arts & Design in Trondheim, Norway

16 June – 15 August 2021 / Nordenfjeldske Kunstindustrimuseum

Curated by Solveig Lønmo, the exhibition *Plissé. Anne-Karin Furunes*, was imagined as a dialogue between the artist Anne-Karin Furunes' (b. 1961 Norway) large portraits and the Museum of Decorative Arts & Design's iconic Delphos dress in pleated silk, created by Mariano Fortuny in Venice in 1907. A recurring theme in Furunes' works is that of the female character victim to historic events beyond her control. Furunes is known for her perforated canvases based on images found in archives. These small photographs, originally used for bureaucratic purposes, are enlarged, and transformed into large paintings.



Exhibition photos: Freia Beer/NKIM



# Thorvald Helleesen

at Lillehammer Art Museum, Norway

Thorvald Helleesen (1888-1937) is considered one of Norway's first cubists. He spent most of his adult life in Paris where he integrated the circles around Picasso and Fernand Léger, who both had a profound impact on him. In 1921, an art critic in *L'Esprit Nouveau* wrote: "Among the Cubists, Helleesen is one of the most interesting, for he seems to have a well-defined aesthetic, where colour and form blend in systematic fashion".

Several works by Helleesen disappeared after the 1930s. He was rediscovered in the 1980s and subsequently included in the Norway's National Museum Collection.







Anna-Eva Bergman's (1909-1987) body of work is marked by a radical turning point that led her from figuration to abstraction. This shift took place in the late 1940s. By 1952 she had laid down a formal vocabulary of archetypal shapes inspired by the Scandinavian nature and mythology: stones, planets, mountains, horizons, ships.

Anna-Eva Bergman worked until the end of her life and often diametrically opposite the current trends in art schools. She benefited from critical acclaim during her lifetime, exhibiting widely in France and Norway.



# Anna-Eva Bergman

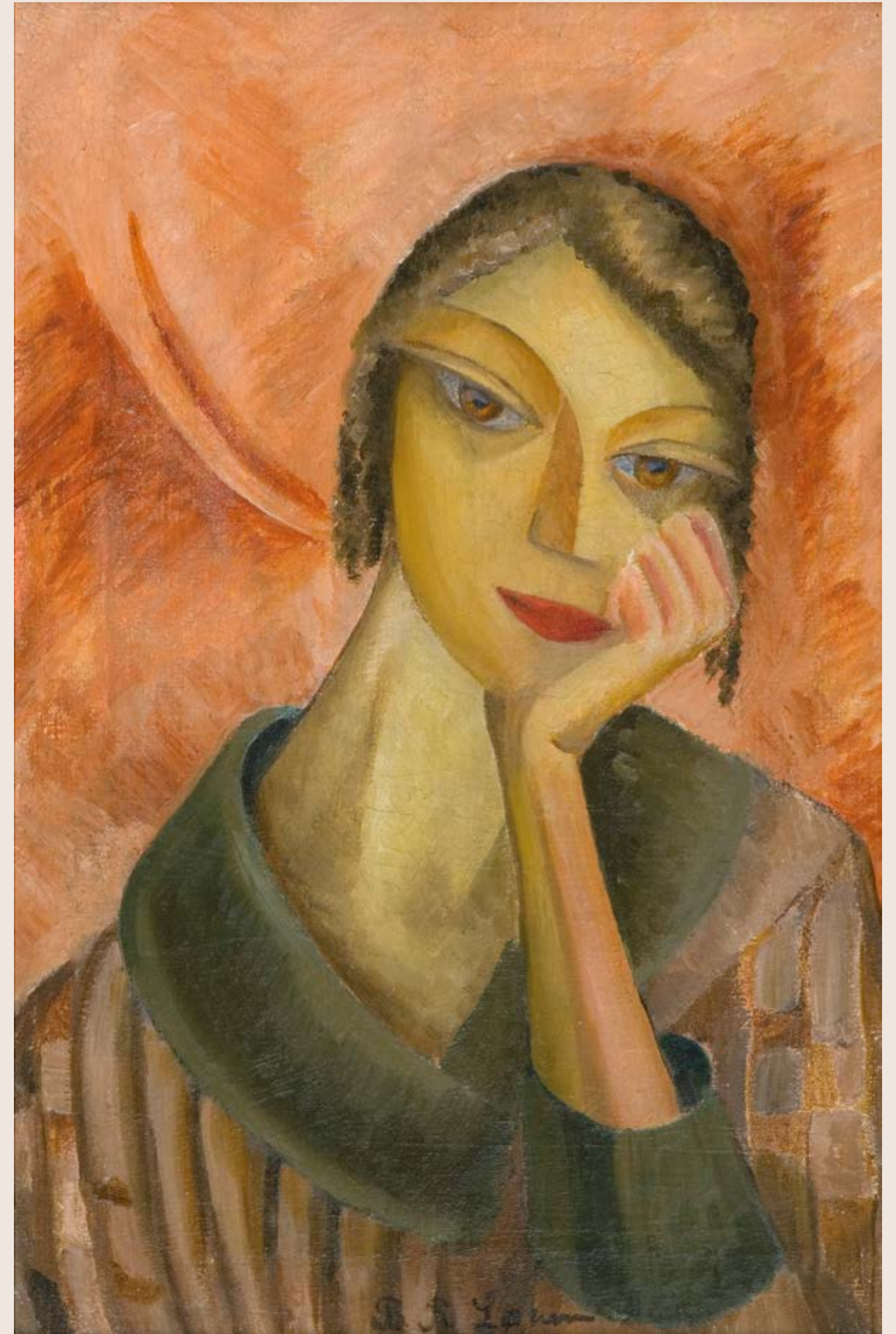
at Lillehammer Art Museum, Norway





Borghild Røed Lærum (1877-1959) was a Norwegian cubist painter and pioneer. She was a student of Harriet Backer, Fernand Léger and André Lhote. Lærum experimented with different artistic styles, from naturalism to realism and cubism. She visited Paris several times and was also deeply influenced by Léger. Although she is considered a pioneer in the Norwegian cubist movement, she was never properly recognized; she had no solo exhibitions during her lifetime and was rarely cited in artist literature.

# Borghild Røed Lærum





# Isa Genzken

at Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf, Germany

8 May – 1 November 2021

The exhibition *Isa Genzken. Here and Now* undertook a diagnosis of the state of the present. Featuring installations, sculptures, and wall works, the Berlin-based artist (b. 1948 Germany) took an unabashed look at the society of late capitalism. In doing so, she exposed the crises, fears, and taboos that characterize it.

A group of works in the exhibition were the *Schauspieler (Actors)*. These sculptures, comprised of mannequins which the artist has dressed, sprayed, and equipped with everyday objects, stand individually or in groups fraught with tension. References to the artist's own biography become clear—several of the mannequins wear Genzken's own clothes.



Exhibition photos: ©: Achim Kukulies, Düsseldorf. Courtesy die Künstlerin, Galerie Buchholz Cologne/Berlin/New York



# Marianne Heske

at Vestfossen Kunstlaboratorium, Vestfossen, Norway

9 May – 26 September 2021



The group exhibition *TIL DEG. Kunstgaven 2018-2020* presented twelve contemporary artists, from or based in Norway, including Marianne Heske (b. 1946 Norway). Heske is considered a pioneer in conceptual art in Norway and is especially known for her video manipulated paintings and installations. *Mountains of the Mind* is part of a series of large-scale inkjet prints on canvas that Heske calls 'video paintings'. They follow the established tradition of Norwegian landscape painting that celebrates the grandeur of the natural environment. The rugged power of nature that surrounded Heske as a child remained a vivid part of her memory.



Exhibition photos: Nina Ansten



# 03 Exhibitions in 2021







# This is the Night Mail

Ida Ekblad selects from the Christen Sveaas Art Foundation

After years of planning, the first international presentation of the Christen Sveaas Art Foundation finally opened at Whitechapel Gallery in August 2021. This is the Night Mail – Ida Ekblad selects from the Christen Sveaas Art Foundation was the first of four artist-curated displays at the London gallery.



Whitechapel Gallery,  
London, UK

27 / 8 / 2021 – 2 / 1 / 2022



## About Whitechapel

The Whitechapel Gallery was founded in 1901 to bring great art to the people of east London. The Gallery's history is a history of firsts: in 1939 Picasso's masterpiece, *Guernica* was displayed at the Whitechapel Gallery on its first and only visit to Britain; in 1958 the Gallery presented the first major show in Britain of American abstract expressionist Jackson Pollock; and in 1970 and 1971 the first shows of David Hockney, Gilbert & George and Richard Long were staged to great acclaim.

Exhibitions in the 1980s and 90s included Frida Khalo, Donald Judd, Cy Twombly, Cindy Sherman and Lucian Freud. From 2000, the Gallery has shown Liam Gillick, Nan Goldin, Cristina Iglesias, Paul McCarthy, Mark Wallinger and Michael Rakowitz.

The Gallery is internationally renowned for its exhibitions of modern and contemporary art and its pioneering education and public events programmes. Part of the Whitechapel Gallery's programme is also to open up public and private collections to wider audiences.

## About the exhibition

Inspired by the 1936 documentary film *"Night Mail"* with contributions by WH Auden and Benjamin Britten about the night train delivering Britain's post, Ekblad took us on a journey through the masterpieces of 19th and 20th century Norwegian art alongside paintings and sculptures by important artists of our times – all chosen from the Christen Sveaas Art Foundation and from the private collection of Christen Sveaas. Imagining the Whitechapel's collections gallery as train carriage, her installation of over 60 paintings and objects, including antique Norwegian silver and glass, also mirrored the eclecticism and visual appetite of her own, maximalist paintings.

Among the artists included were Nikolai Astrup, Louise Bourgeois, Johan Christian Dahl, Sophie Calle, Theaster Gates, Thorvald Hellesén, Martin Kippenberger, Theodor Kittelsen, Edvard Munch, Albert Oehlen and Paulina Olowska.

The three other artists who have been invited to select from the Christen Sveaas Art Foundation and collections are Paulina Olowska, Hurvin Anderson and Donna Huanca.



## Installation Photographs



Whitechapel Gallery  
This is the Night Mail  
2021 - 2022







# No One Is An Island

Nybruket Gallery,  
Kistefos Museum, Norway

5 / 6 / 2021 – 17 / 10 / 2021

Curated mainly with works from the Christen Sveaas Foundation, this exhibition explored themes of community, collectivity, socio-cultural observations and the rhythm and layering of human existence that was challenged in the pandemic year of 2020.

## No One Is An Island

With a starting point in the newly acquired work by Helen Johnson – a monumental painting that serves as a reminder that community is vital for our sense of collective purpose and wellbeing – this group exhibition journeyed through human values, relationships and the domestic dynamic – alluding to John Donne's No Man Is An Island: Humans do not thrive on their own, they need to connect, to be a part of something bigger. The exhibition was curated by Kate Smith.

## Works from the Christen Sveaas Art Foundation included:

- Elliott Hundley, *Let the Whole House Crash. Season IV* (2011)
- Ilya Kabakov, *Painting with Door #3* (2010)
- Helen Marten, *The Weather* (2018)
- Laura Owens, *Untitled* (2015)
- Sverre Bjertnæs, *Det latterlige mørket* (2018-2019)



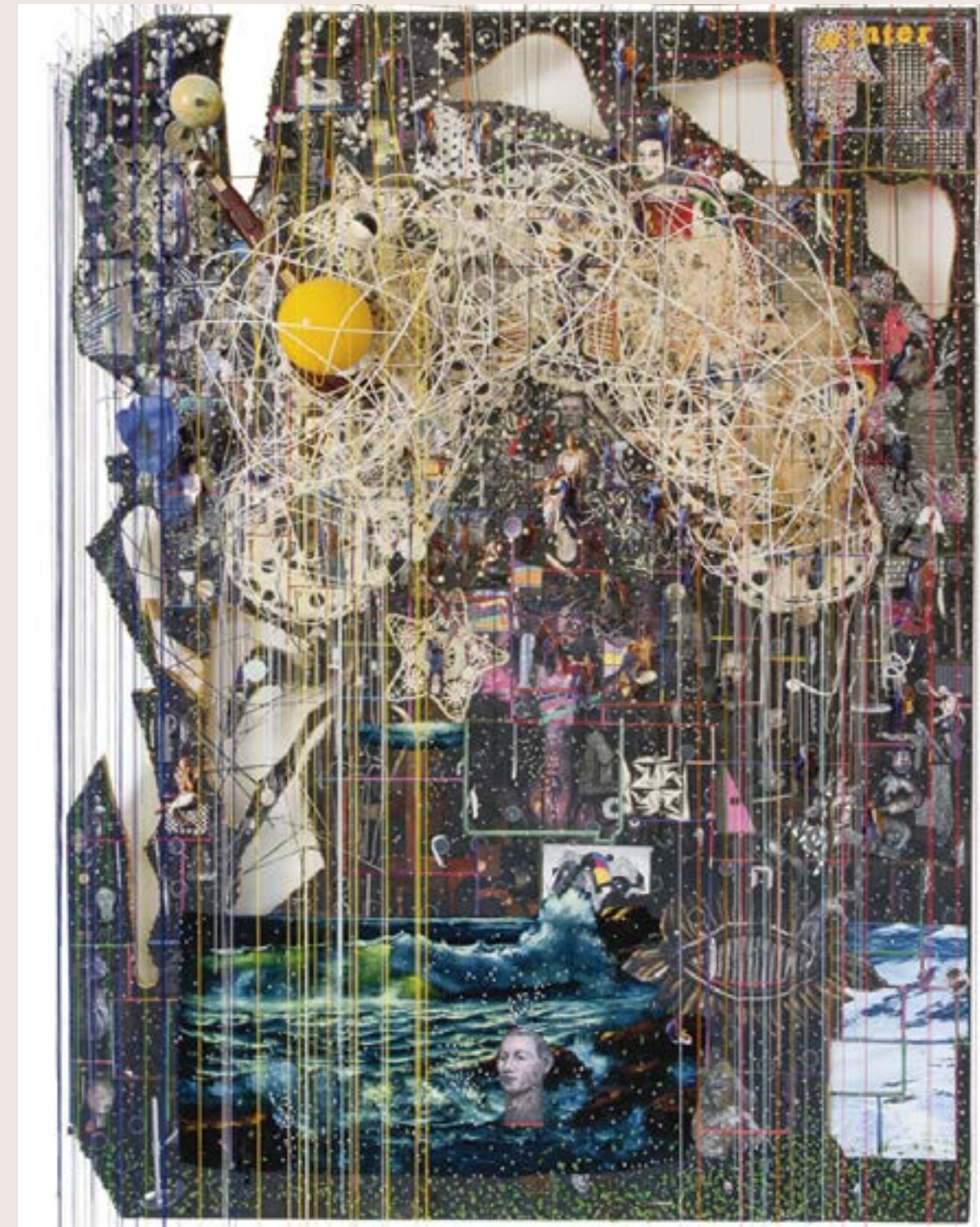


## Samples of work



Exhibition photos: Vegard Kleven

Sverre Bjertnæs  
Det latterlige mørket  
2018 - 2019



Elliott Hundley  
Let the Whole House Crash Season IV  
Season IV 2011



Ilya Kabakov  
Painting with Door #3  
2010







# 04 Finances







## Annual Report

# Christen Sveaas Art Foundation, 2021

**Christen Sveaas Art Foundation** was established on October 7, 2019 and registered in the Register of Business Enterprises on October 31, 2019. The foundation's share capital of NOK 1 million was established through a gift by Christen Sveaas.

The foundation's offices are located in Oslo.

### Goals

Christen Sveaas Art Foundation is a tax-exempt foundation, and its goal is not to increase the number of acquisitions. The goal of the foundation is to safekeep, convey and lend artworks from the foundation's collection to promote Norwegian and international art.

### Small enterprise

Although the foundation meets the requirements of the Accounting Act for small enterprises, the foundation has chosen to produce an annual report in accordance with § 3-3 of the Accounting Act.

### Continued operations

The prerequisite for continued operation was taken into consideration upon submitting the financial statement.

### Equality and work environment

The requirements of the law in matters of equality between men and women are met at board level. The managing director is employed at 20 percent.

### External environment

The foundation's activity does not imply significant pollution of the external environment.

### Yearly result

In 2020, the foundation received 800 artworks as a donation from its founder Christen Sveaas at a value of approximately NOK 1.100 million. In 2021 the foundation received NOK 2 M in gifts from AS Holding to cover future management costs. The yearly management costs were NOK 1,3 M. The foundation's yearly result for 2020 was NOK 0,69 M, which is suggested transferred to the foundation's equity balance.

### Gifts of Art

The foundation's artwork collection includes Norwegian and international art from the last 100 years and has been collected by Christen Sveaas for more than 30 years. Several key artists are represented in the collection with significant works. The diversity and size of the collection makes it one of the largest and most important art collections in Norway.

### Share capital

The foundation's share capital per December 31, 2021 was NOK 1 million and the total equity was NOK 1.242 million.

Christen Sveaas  
Chairman of the Board

Bettina Banoun  
Board member

Erik Wahlstrøm  
Board member

Jens Henrik Munthe-Kaas  
Board member

Hege Galtung  
Board member

William Flatmo  
Managing Director



Regnskap 31.12.2021

# Christen Sveeas Kunststiftelse, 2021

Org. nr. 923 672 435



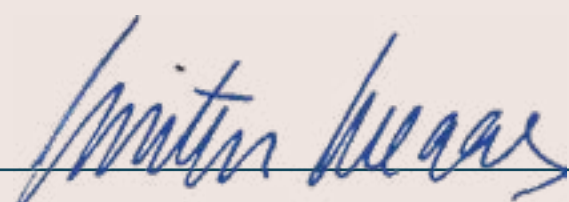
<b>RESULTATREGNSKAP</b>	Note	2021	2020
<b>(Beløp i hele kr)</b>			
<b>DRIFTSINNEKTER</b>			
Mottatte gaver	2	2 000 000	1 119 846 892
Annen driftsinntekt		21 000	6 000
<b>Sum driftsinntekter</b>		<b>2 021 000</b>	<b>1 119 852 892</b>
<b>DRIFTSKOSTNADER</b>			
Lønn	3	367 929	138 442
Annen driftskostnad	3,4	958 927	841 607
<b>Sum driftskostnader</b>		<b>1 326 855</b>	<b>980 049</b>
<b>Driftsresultat</b>		<b>694 145</b>	<b>1 118 872 843</b>
<b>FINANSINNEKTER OG -KOSTNADER</b>			
Renteinntekter		0	268
Annen finansinntekt (-kostnad)		(307)	(202)
<b>Netto finansinntekter (-kostnader)</b>		<b>(307)</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>ÅRSRESULTAT</b>		<b>693 838</b>	<b>1 118 872 910</b>
<b>Overføringer</b>			
Overført (fra) til annen egenkapital		(693 838)	(1 118 872 910)
<b>Sum overføringer</b>		<b>(693 838)</b>	<b>(1 118 872 910)</b>



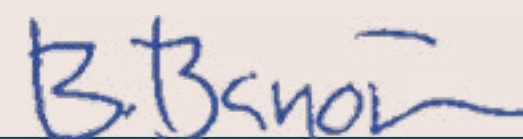
Regnskap 31.12.2021

# Christen Sveeas Kunststiftelse, 2021

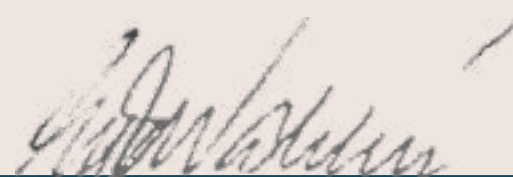
Org. nr. 923 672 435



Christen Sveeas  
Chairman of the Board



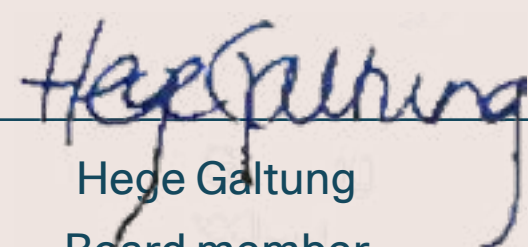
Bettina Banoun  
Board member



Erik Wahlstrøm  
Board member



Jens Henrik Munthe-Kaas  
Board member



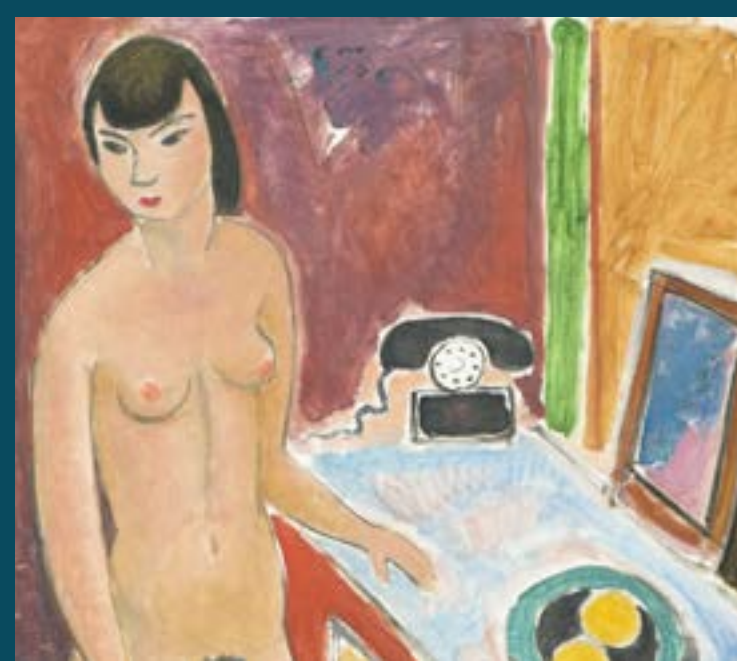
Hege Galtung  
Board member

<b>BALANSE</b>	Note	31.12.2021	31.12.2020
(Beløp i hele kr)			
<b>EIENDELER</b>			
<b>ANLEGGSMIDLER</b>			
Kunstverk	2	1 240 546 892	1 118 846 892
<b>Sum anleggsmidler</b>		<b>1 240 546 892</b>	<b>1 118 846 892</b>
<b>OMLØPSMIDLER</b>			
Andre kortsiktige fordringer	5	616 669	579 989
<b>Sum fordringer</b>		<b>616 669</b>	<b>579 989</b>
<b>Bankinnskudd</b>		1 330 403	669 005
<b>Sum omløpsmidler</b>		<b>1 947 072</b>	<b>1 248 994</b>
<b>SUM EIENDELER</b>		<b>1 242 493 964</b>	<b>1 120 095 886</b>
<b>EGENKAPITAL OG GJELD</b>			
<b>EGENKAPITAL</b>			
Grunnkapital	6	1 000 000	1 000 000
Annen egenkapital	6	1 241 440 451	1 119 046 613
<b>Sum egenkapital</b>		<b>1 242 440 451</b>	<b>1 120 046 613</b>
<b>GJELD</b>			
<b>KORTSIKTIG GJELD</b>			
Skyldig offentlige avgifter		16 200	15 200
Leverandører		12 563	19 240
Annen kortsiktig gjeld		24 751	14 833
<b>Sum gjeld</b>		<b>53 513</b>	<b>49 273</b>
<b>SUM EGENKAPITAL OG GJELD</b>		<b>1 242 493 964</b>	<b>1 120 095 886</b>





# Christen Sveaas', Kunststiftelse



Annual report 2021  
Christen Sveaas' Art Foundation

Designed by Maren B.T. Kjærnes