



## Gerhard Munthe

### Norwegian Pioneer of Modernism

Jan Kokkin

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- Inspired by antiquity, Norwegian folk art and Japonisme, Norwegian Gerhard Munthe was one of the most groundbreaking and innovative artists in the late 1800s, active as a designer in the fields of tapestries, carpets, furniture, stained glass, silver, porcelain, wallpaper, wrought iron, book bindings, fonts and interior decoration
- Scholarly presentation of Gerhard Munthe's oeuvre with special emphasis on his interior decoration projects and tapestry designs
- Accompanies a retrospective at the National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design, Oslo (NO), in the summer of 2018

Gerhard Munthe (1849-1929) is one of the most unique and important artists within the art nouveau movement and a significant contributor to its international diversity. His radical, abstract style based partly on old Norwegian folk art is today considered a precursor of twentieth-century modernism. Among Munthe's greatest achievements are his countless room decorations, of which the Holmenkollen Turisthotell (1896-1898) in Oslo and Håkonshallen (1910-1915) in Bergen are the most significant. A series of illustrations of old Norwegian ballads and fairy tales made in 1892-1893 became the basis for a renewal of the decorative arts in Scandinavia, notably in the weaving industry. Munthe's work as a designer covers most fields within the decorative arts: tapestries, carpets, furniture, stained glass, silver, porcelain, wallpaper, wrought iron, book bindings, fonts and ex libris. Published to accompany the exhibition at the National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design, Oslo, 8 June-2 September 2018.

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