



Helene Schjerfbeck

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- A new study examining the life and work of Helene Schjerfbeck, the Finnish painter who created some of the most significant self-portraits of the twentieth century
- Published to accompany a major retrospective at the Royal Academy, running from 20 July to 27 October 2019, the first time her works have been seen in London since 1890

Though little known outside her native country, Helene Schjerfbeck (1862-1946) is one of Finland's best-loved artists. Her career, which stretched from the late 1870s to the end of the Second World War, encompassed both Impressionism and Modernism. This book records an exhibition that marks the first time her works have been seen in the UK since she exhibited in London herself in 1890. It presents the full range of her exceptional paintings and drawings, with 70 works in all genres, including portrait, landscape and still-life.

Schjerfbeck's technique, her social and cultural context and her legacy are all examined in depth by the authors. The book also explores the role of the masquerade in Schjerfbeck's work, and the impact of old-master paintings on her practice.

Anna-Maria von Bonsdorff is chief curator at the Ateneum Art Museum / Finnish National Gallery, Helsinki. **Rebecca Bray** is Assistant Curator at the Royal Academy of Arts, London. **Désirée de Chair** is an art historian and curator. **Jeremy Lewison** is an art historian and curator. He was formerly Director of Collections at Tate.

Images below, left to right:

Helene Schjerfbeck, *Self-portrait, Light and Shadow*, 1945. Oil on canvas, 36 x 34 cm. Villa Gyllenberg, Signe and Ane Gyllenberg Foundation; Photo: Matias Uusikylä

Helene Schjerfbeck, *Self-portrait with Red Spot*, 1944. Oil on canvas, 45 x 37 cm. Gösta and Bertha Stenman Donation. Finnish National Gallery / Ateneum Art Museum; Photo: Finnish National Gallery / Hannu Aaltonen

Helene Schjerfbeck, *The Family Heirloom*, 1915-16. Oil on canvas, 63 x 44.5 cm. August and Lydia Keirkner Fine Arts Collection. Finnish National Gallery / Ateneum Art Museum; Photo Finnish National Gallery / Yehia Eweis

