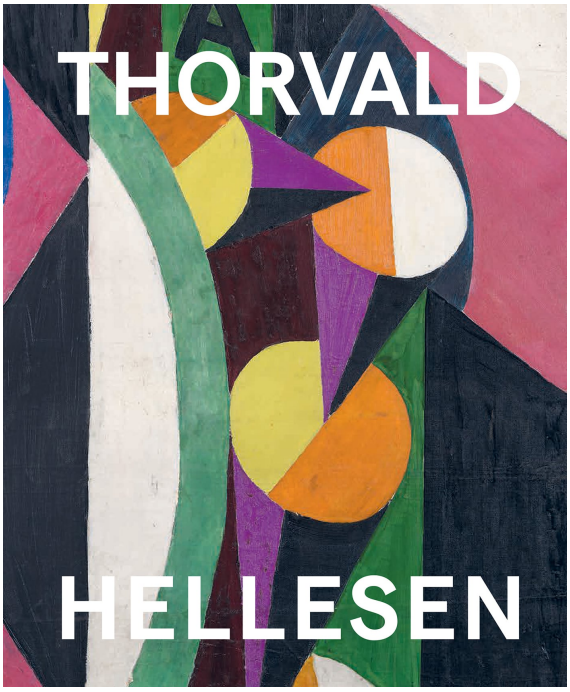
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Thorvald Hellesen

Pioneering Cubism

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"Colour orgies […] slung up on the walls." This was just one of many caustic remarks aimed at Thorvald Hellesen's first – and last – exhibition in Norway, held in 1919. He would never again exhibit in his native country, where he was gradually forgotten.

In Paris, Hellesen became part of the Cubist circle in Montparnasse. Here he got to know Pablo Picasso, Juan Gris, Albert Gleizes and Fernand Léger. In around 1920, he finally achieved critical acclaim. He became a member of Section d'Or, was a frequent Salon exhibitor, and had his work reproduced in Der Sturm and De Stijl. "Among the Cubists, Hellesen is one of the most interesting," declared Amédée Ozenfant.

This richly illustrated and well researched catalog illuminates the whole span of Hellesen's Cubism. His interactions with Orphism, Crystal Cubism and Mechanical Cubism are explored, together with his attempts to exploit Cubism in interior design and fashion. The book also examines Hellesen's status as an outsider in Norway and partial insider in Paris – and subsequently as an overlooked pioneer of the Norwegian and Nordic avant-garde.

Text in English and Norwegian.



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