

BREAKFAST TIME by Hanna Pauli Hirsch



This picture is to be found at National Museum in Stockholm and is one of the most popular ones. It was painted in oil and the size is 87 X 91 centimetres. It was finished in 1887 and was purchased by the National Museum in 1910.

According to the museum the description follows:

“The painting shows a glimpse of the reality of the bourgeois dining room on display in nature. The table that is laid with beautiful objects is supposed to give

associations to family life and a great homely feeling. Breakfast time is one of the most popular paintings. “ You are supposed to feel invited, as if it was your own breakfast. The chair is waiting for you and you can feel the movements of the teapot.” (A quotation from a public survey made by National Museum)

Breakfast time is an open-air painting, the table and the foliage are resolved by light reflexes which creates a suggestive shimmer on the objects. The artist has partly been inspired by the impressionistic way of displaying the light with colours. The treatment of the light, the lively brush writing and the partly thickly painted colour fields upset several contemporary Swedish critics.

They considered Hanna Pauli’s technique being too modern and one critic even assumed that the light spots on the tablecloth was the result of the painter cleaning her brush directly on the tablecloth in question.

Hanna Pauli participated with among other things her painting “Breakfast time” in the World Exhibitions in Paris in 1889 and in Chicago in 1893.”

At National Museum today there is an exciting department for children only, Villa Curiosa, a series of rooms for different types of experience and imagination, built upon a number of paintings from the museum, in one of the rooms the exhibits all originate from the painting. A section of the painting is

Hanging on the wall. The section shows the magnificent table full of breakfast objects, In the real room there is a similar table, with a tablecloth, a teapot and many of the objects shown in the painting.

We get the main motive from the painting moved into reality and it becomes an exciting comparison between the painting and reality.

<https://www.nationalmuseum.se/utställningar/villa-curiosa>



Some people are invited, the chairs are waiting for the guests. The early morning sun shines through the foliage and is mirrored on the table cloth. The table is laid with cups and saucers, which indicates that some persons are to come soon,,,,, What else is on the table? Who will participate in this breakfast?

With whom do you normally have breakfast yourself?

ABOUT HANNA PAULI:

1864-1940, born and raised in Stockholm. She studied at the Art Academy in Stockholm first and later in Paris. She preferred making portraits. She got married to Georg Pauli and he was also an artist.

There have been interpretations of her painting "Breakfast time" as being the table she had prepared for her husband. At that time it was not common that a married woman could be an active artist but she managed both. The couple was financially independent so they could live their life the way they wanted.

Hanna Pauli was a painter for many years but her production was quite minimal- Other well-known artworks are the portrait of Karl Nordström from 1890 and the painting "Friends" from 1900.