

CARL VILHELM HOLSØE

ÅRHUS 1863 – ASSERBO 1935

Carl Holsøe was born in Jutland, moving to Copenhagen in 1882 to study at the Technological School and then at the Academy of Fine Arts. After three semesters at the academy, Holsøe joined P. S. Krøyer's drawing school in Copenhagen, where he met his lifelong friends Peter Ilsted and Vilhelm Hammershøi.

This friendly triumvirate might be designated "The Danish Interior School of the Nineteenth Century," for each painted scenes from his own household, sharing a view of domestic tranquility not seen in Danish art before, though preceded by, and evocative of, the 17th century interiors of the Dutch masters Jan Vermeer (1632–1675), Pieter de Hooch (1629–1683), and Gerrit ter Borch (1617–1681). It was Hammershøi, however, who has been credited with being the true inspiration for Holsøe's focus on interior settings; the influence of Hammershøi is evident throughout his work.

A significantly successful artist in his day, Holsøe's work has enjoyed a recent resurgence of interest among art connoisseurs. Over his career he exhibited 116 paintings, chiefly in Charlottenborg but also in Europe and England. In Paris he received an honorable mention in 1889 from The Salon, and in Denmark he was awarded the Royal Academy's highest award, the Eckersberg Medal.

B.H.

LITERATURE: Karl Madsen in *Nordisk Tidsskrift*, 1888, p. 104; Peter Michael Hornung and Kasper Monrad, *Dengang i 80'erne*, Kunstforeningen, Copenhagen, 1983; *Danish Paintings*, Bury Street Gallery, London, 1986; Bente Scavenius, *Den Frie Udstilling i 100 år*, Copenhagen 1991; Vera Rasmussen in *Weilbach*, vol. 3, Copenhagen 1995.