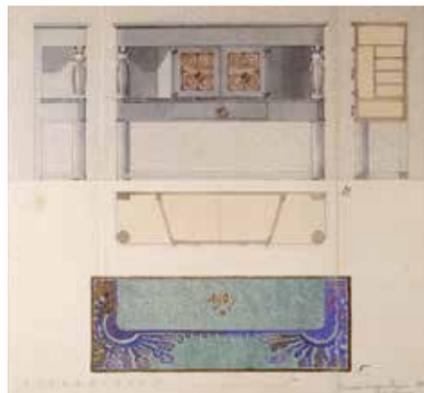


The legendary Suur-Merijoki manor house

Near Vyborg, not far away from Saint-Petersburg, stood Suur-Merijoki – a manor house right out of a fairytale. It was built between 1901 and 1903 by the trio of architects, Saarinen-Gesellius-Lindgren, who were praised at the Universal Exhibition of 1900 in Paris for their Finnish Pavilion. The manor house combined architecture and the decorative arts in the most elegant Art Nouveau style. Some exquisite watercolours by the architects Eliel Saarinen and Herman Gesellius, and a little furniture are all that is left of this enchanted place, which was destroyed in the Second World War.

From the late 19th century, wider knowledge of architecture was spread through illustrations seen at exhibitions or in magazines. The boundary between art and architecture fades away in these watercolours,



Eliel Saarinen (1873-1950), *Cupboard and carpet in the Great Hall of Suur-Merijoki manor house*, 1903. Watercolour, 39.5 x 43 cm. Museum of Finnish Architecture, Helsinki.

highlighting the dream-like dimension of the Neuscheller family's summer residence.



Eliel Saarinen and the Friends of Finnish Handicraft, Ryijy for the Suur-Merijoki manor house, 1903. 192 x 222 cm. Vapriikki, Museum Centre, Tampere.

«About the exhibition» programme

Conference

Saturday 24 November

- **“Illustrating Finnish myths and fairytales in the early 20th century”**, presented by Laura Gutman, exhibition curator.

Palais Lumière Auditorium, 7.15 p.m. Free (thanks to sponsorship from the Friends of the Palais Lumière).

Film screening

Sunday 16 December

- **“The Angel of the North”** (2017), by Jean Michel Roux: A film about the power of an enigmatic painting of 1903, “The wounded Angel” by Hugo Simberg, today the painting the most beloved by the Finnish population. An investigation assembling confessions and symbolist visions. Screening followed by a debate with the film director.

Palais Lumière, 17h. €4.

Concert

Sunday 10 February

- **Concert “Nordic countries through songs”**

Palais Lumière Auditorium, 5 p.m. €16 / €13 (discounts). Includes visit to the exhibition. Tickets and reservation from museum reception.

From Friday 14 December to Sunday 6 January

- **“Visiting with the Flottins”**: exploring the legends of the Nordic countries. Visits for children in the company of a Flottin.

Palais Lumière, every day at 5.15 p.m. Free for under 16s / adults: exhibition admission €8 / €6 (concessions)

Sunday 16 December, 27 January, 10 February

- **Story visits for all the family: “In the fairytale forest”**.

Palais Lumière, 4 p.m., €4 in addition to price of admission.

- **Workshops for children** (ages 6 to 12)

- **Saturday 1st December: “Once upon an ending”** (primary schools). Children decide how a Nordic fairytale will continue and end in words and pictures.

- Saturday 12 January: “Heroic-fantasy tales”

(primary and secondary schools). Based on extracts from Nordic fairytales, children illustrate texts in heroic fantasy style.

Palais Lumière, 10 a.m.-noon. Workshop (2 hours) after a visit to the exhibition (30 minutes). Registration at museum reception: €5 per child.

• Family workshop

Saturday 15 December

“Kings and queens of the forests” (ages 3 and over, accompanied by an adult & preschool / primary school). Making some decorative crowns. Workshop with a Flottin storyteller.

Palais Lumière, 10 a.m.-noon. Workshop (2 hours) after a visit to the exhibition (30 minutes). Registration at the reception desk: €5 for children and €8 for adults.

Reservation required

- Workshops on offer to schools (preschool, primary, secondary).

Reservation required: 04 50 83 10 19 or courrier@ville-evian.fr. Workshop (2 hours) after a short visit to the exhibition (30 minutes). €55 per class.

• Workshops for adults

- **Saturday 26 January: “Tales of the Palais Lumière”** Fairytale writing workshop.

Palais Lumière, 10 a.m.-noon. Workshop (2 hours) after a visit to the exhibition (30 minutes). Registration at the reception desk: €8 per person.

• School holiday courses (ages 6 to 12)

Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 December or Wednesday 2 and Thursday 3 January

“It’s in the box!” Creation of a diorama and a storytelling show with the help of the Flottins
Palais Lumière, 2 to 4 p.m. Workshop (2 hours) after a visit to the exhibition (30 minutes). Reservation required on 04 50 83 15 90: €8 per child for 2 days.

Practical information

Palais Lumière Evian (Quai Charles-Albert Besson)

Open every day from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Monday: 2 to 7 p.m.) Closed on 25 Dec. and 1st January.

Tel. +33 (0)4 50 83 15 90 / www.ville-evian.fr / Follow the Palais Lumière on [facebook](#)

Curation: Laura Gutman, scientific curator, art historian, **William Saadé**, honorary head curator for heritage and scientific curator for the Palais Lumière. **Staging:** Alexander Reichstein, artist-sce-nographer. Elodie Vichos, studio Kaksi Design.

Admission

• Standard prices

- **Adults:** €8;
- **Visits with commentary** for individual visitors every day at 2.30 p.m.: €4 in addition to price of admission.
- **Themed visits:** €4 in addition to price of admission (see details in: «about the exhibition»)

• Young people / families

- **Free** for under 16s;
- **Concessions:** €6 for students and large families, members of the «Petit Léonard» club;
- **Discovery visit** for children (aged under 16) with their parents, every Wednesday at 4 p.m. (adults: €6);
- **«Palais Lumière Game»** (ages 6 to 12): a booklet for a fun visit to the exhibition, available from the museum reception;
- **Educational workshops:** €5 / children-teenagers / family workshops €8 / adults (see details in: «about the exhibition»);
- **Courses and workshops** during the school holidays: €8 for 2 sessions, (see details in: «about the exhibition»).

• Groups

- **Discounts:** €6 (groups of 10 people minimum);
- **Guided visits** (reservation required): 04 50 83 10 19 / courrier@ville-evian.fr, €55 per group of 10 to 25 people, in addition to price of admission.

• School groups / teachers

- **Free** for school groups;
- **Guided visits** (reservation required): 04 50 83 10 19 / courrier@ville-evian.fr, €55 per group of 10 to 30 pupils;

- **Educational workshops:** for schools, youth centres, holidays centres (for details, see «about the exhibition»), €55 per group;
- **Teaching resources** available online on www.ville-evian.fr

• Special rates (please provide proof of eligibility)

- **Free** for members of UDOTSI, Léman Sans Frontière and journalists;
- **Concessions:** €6 (for details about discounts, see www.ville-evian.fr)
- **50 % off admission** (full or concessions) on presentation of a City of Evian «household allowance» card;
- **30 % off admission** to exhibitions on presentation of a ticket for the Pierre Gianadda Foundation in Martigny.

• **Exhibition catalogue:** co-published by the Palais Lumière-Silvana Editoriale, on sale from the museum shop: €35.

Tickets:

- From the exhibition reception.
- From ville-evian.fr/fr/culture/expositions
- From the FNAC network and on www.fnac.com
- From CGN outlets (boats and ticket offices)

Coming up in 2019

At the Palais Lumière

• 16 March – 2 June 2019

“The Last Impressionists - the New Society”, in partnership with the Singer Laren Museum in the Netherlands, the Quimper Fine Arts Museum and the Breton departmental museum.

At the Maison Gribaldi

• 13 April – 3 November

“A taste of paradise, Anna and the shores of Léman”

At the Pierre Gianadda Foundation in Martigny

• Until 13 January

“Pierre Soulages”.

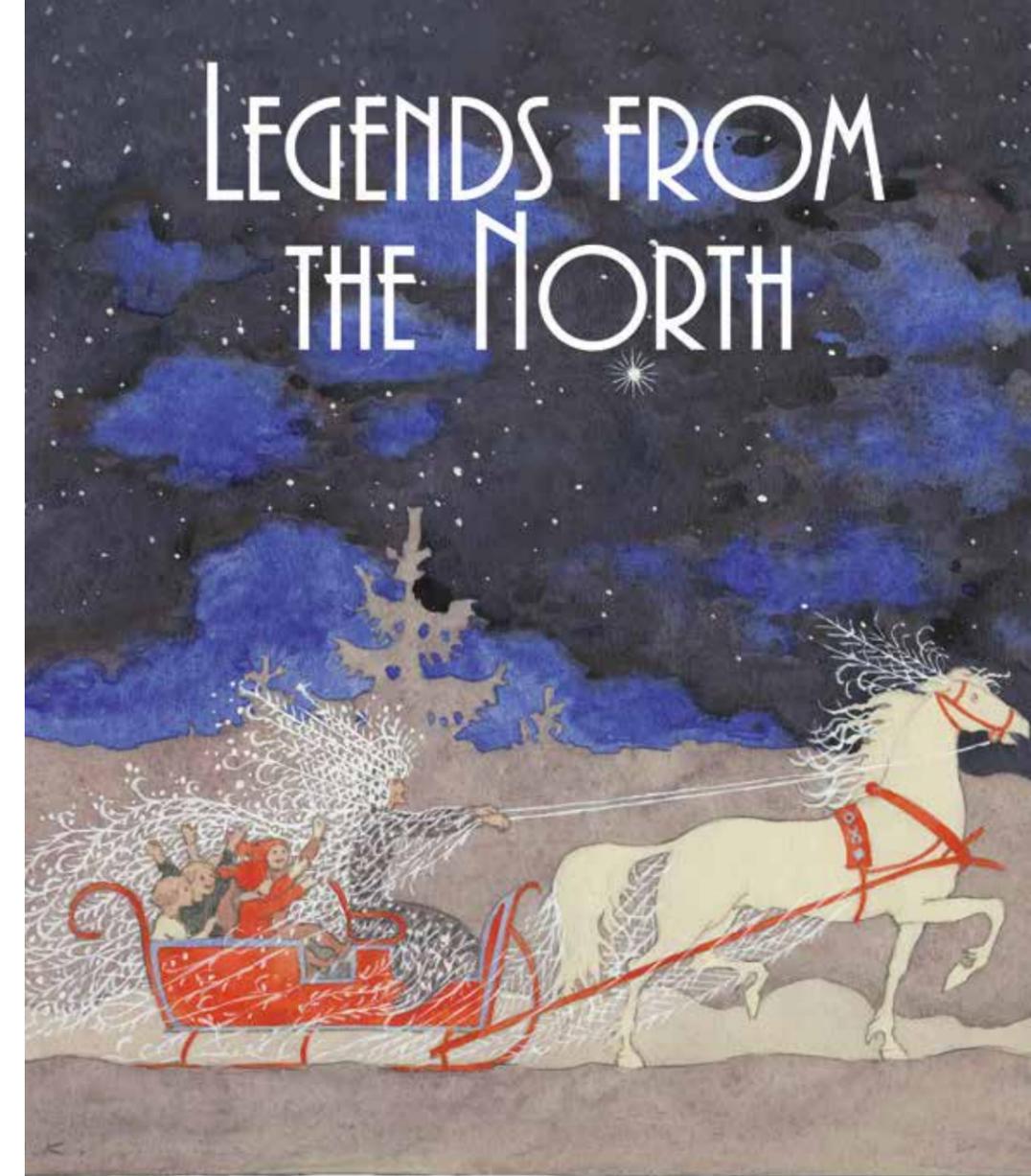
• 8 February – 16 June 2019

Degas, Cézanne, Monet, Renoir, Gauguin, Matisse...

The Ordrupgaard Collection.



Rudolf Koivu, Story of the Christmas Star, 1934, Amer Foundation / Tuusula Art Museum



24 November 2018-17 February 2019
Palais Lumière Evian

Because Christmas is a time of traditions and winter's tales...

The *Legends from the North* are coming to enchant the banks of Lake Geneva this winter. From the moment visitors arrive in the exhibition area, in a world of snow, forest, waters filled with life and a mysterious castle designed by Alexander Reichstein, they are immersed in the fairytale atmosphere created by Rudolf Koivu. The work of the most famous Finnish illustrators will then be displayed in the rooms of the Palais Lumière.

Akseli Gallen-Kallela was staying in an artistic colony in Taos, New Mexico, when he began a huge project on an illuminated book, *The Great Kalevala*. Taking inspiration from the decorative arts of the Indians of Taos, he highlighted the archaic quality of the myth and associated it with modern Primitivism. Back in Finland, the artist stopped work on the project, however.

Akseli Gallen-Kallela (1865-1931) and the Great Kalevala

The great myth of the *Kalevala*, taken from the bards of Karelia, in eastern Finland, was the subject of numerous paintings by Akseli Gallen-Kallela in the 1890s. His paintings came to embody National Romanticism and helped forge the Finnish national identity in the late 19th century. By the time he again worked on the *Kalevala* in the 1920s, Finland had become an independent country and was moving into the modern world.

Akseli Gallen-Kallela (1865-1931), *Ilmatar*, illustration for the *Great Kalevala*, Song I, 1920s. Watercolour, 41.5 x 33 cm. Gallen-Kallela Museum, Espoo. Photo: Jukka Paavola.



Joseph Alanen (1885-1920), *The maidens of the headland*, Kalevala, Song V, c. 1919-1920. Tempera, 49,5 x 64,5 cm. Tampere Art Museum. Photo: Jari Kuusenaho.

Joseph Alanen (1885-1920), the other great Kalevala illustrator

The ideas underlying Joseph Alanen's paintings dedicated to the *Kalevala* are not known. But his use of the *a tempera* technique on a rough canvas to produce a tapestry effect, the repetition of the same format and the limited palette of colours would suggest that each painting was designed as part of a wider project.

Although now forgotten because of his early death, Joseph Alanen was one of the modern painters in the early 20th century who continued the work of the Symbolists. He broke away from all links to realism by using a stylised line and blocks of colour, suggesting a deeply intellectual approach. Rather than a simple visual paraphrase of the songs of the *Kalevala*, his paintings seem like a mystical projection of the Finnish legend.



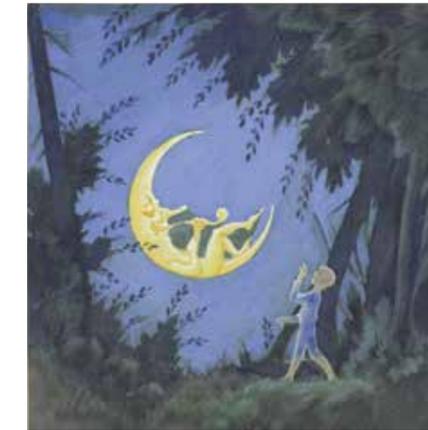
Joseph Alanen (1885-1920), *The New Stars Do Not Bring Light*, Kalevala, Song XLIX. Tempera on canvas, 61 x 46 cm. Private collection. Photo: Stella Ojala.

Rudolf Koivu (1890-1946), the Symbolist beginnings

Rudolf Koivu brought to Finnish illustration the real vision of a painter and an advanced understanding of modern illustration. His childhood in Saint Petersburg and his mastery of Russian meant he was familiar with the thought of artists who saw illustration as an inspired artistic work in its own right, and not just a by-product of literature.

In the fairytale, European Symbolist artists had seen a way to bring enchantment back to the modern world. From fairytales they borrowed princesses and fairies filled with light, the voyages to long-lost worlds and the terrifying monsters dwelling deep in the darkness

of the forest. Early on in his career, Rudolf Koivu gave back the Symbolist imagery to the fairytale that had first inspired it.



Rudolph Koivu (1890-1946), illustration for *The Golden Bird*, 1927. Watercolour and gouache, 30.5 x 33.5 cm. Amer Foundation / Tuusula Art Museum.



Rudolph Koivu (1890-1946), illustration for *Brother and Sister*, 1929. Watercolour, 39 x 29 cm. Amer Foundation / Tuusula Art Museum.



Rudolph Koivu (1890-1946), illustration for *Story of the Christmas Star*, 1934. Watercolour, 36.5 x 25.5 cm. Amer Foundation / Tuusula Art Museum.

Martta Wendelin (1893-1986), children's illustrator

Martta Wendelin was close to the early Finnish authors of children's books and became their finest interpreter with pictures harmonising with the hopes of childhood. In the land of Santa Claus, children dreamed of enchanted experiences far from their own often precarious daily lives.

The characters drawn by Martta Wendelin are no taller than wild strawberries, like little Tom Thumbs living through incredible adventures. Aili Sommersalo's tales feature the little Jukka-Pekka, along with his godfather the Learned Imp, a cat and a dog. They are shown in wonderful lilliputian pictures, flying away in a pea pod or on the back of a dragonfly.



Martta Wendelin (1893-1946), *Summer*, illustration for *Tale of the Seasons*, text by Ebba Varma, 1935. Gouache, 30 x 23 cm. Tampere Art Museum.



A lack of money limiting the use of colour printing failed to hamper Martta Wendelin's style. She manages to convey all aspects of childhood, from tantrums to daring and a love of sweet things.

Martta Wendelin (1893-1946), illustration for *The Gift from the Mistress of the Waters*, text by Anni Swan, 1920. Ink and watercolour, 26.5 x 30 cm. Tampere Art Museum.