

ART 1950-1975

Signum's art history of Sweden begins as early as twelve thousand years ago - when man hunted on the tundra at the edge of the inland ice - and brings us up to the present day. Arranged in fourteen parts and in chronological order, Signum's history of art is the most extensive and detailed ever published. Twelve thousand years of Swedish art are described in around seven thousand pages, with over ten thousand pictures.

Each part of the book covers an epoch in the history of art. The subject of art is interpreted broadly:

paintings, sculpture, architecture, interior design, gardens, handicraft and the art industry are all depicted here. Twelve parts have so far been published and the thirteenth, Art 1950-1975, is due in May 2005, with part fourteen, Art 1975-2000, expected in spring 2006.

"Born in 1939, Alexius Huber came to Skåne from Germany as a trained designer in the 1960's. His background, artistic and rich in ideas, featured the Bauhaus school, with its strong connection between handicraft and visual art. In this heritage lies a belief in art as a human activity. Considerable thought has been given to artistic direction and the choice of materials. Here, we find aluminium, stainless steel, acrylic glass, concave and convex mirrors made from metal, sound, light and even pasteboard. Huber has carefully studied the relationship between works of art and the observer in those barely conscious processes which control our vision and experiences. Whiteness, blank surfaces, transparency, matt finishes and what lies in shadow combine to form something new, though still classed as painting. In Huber's case, it is hard to determine where the boundaries lie between painting and sculpture, particularly as a sense of lightness tempers the gravity in his works. Huber's works of art in stainless steel and plexiglass are eye-catching. The working process itself is refined to precision. Huber breaks up the surfaces and creates an optical effect using various cuttings, grindings and polishings. Shapes are transformed. Huber has exhibited these visual displays in a variety of public places. Examples of such works are a ventilation tower in Malmö made of stainless steel for HSB, Södertorp and a nine-metre high stainless steel mobile for Bygghälsan in Malmö, both exhibited in 1988."

(Signum's art history of Sweden, part 13: Art 1950-1975, pages 56-57)