

AMERICAN SWEDISH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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-- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE --

A Swedish Artist in the American Landscape
Birger Sandzén on Art, Music and Transcendence
A Lecture with Dr. James M. Kaplan
Thursday, May 19th at 6pm
At the American Swedish Historical Museum



Mountains, Birger Sandzén, Oil on Canvas, 1924

As a Swedish immigrant to the United States in the late 19th century, Birger Sandzén used his Old World sense and artistic training to capture the majesty of the New World in his paintings. As a result, he came to be considered one of the foremost artists of the American landscape, in particular for his images of the American West. His work is chronicled in the book *Birger Sandzén on Art, Music and Transcendence* by Dr. James M. Kaplan, of Minnesota State University Moorhead.

On Thursday, May 19th, Dr. Kaplan will present a lecture on Sandzén's life and work, as well as sign copies of his book. If you own a Sandzén painting or print, please bring it with you for the show-and-tell portion of the lecture. "Works by Sandzén" from ASHM's permanent collection will also be on display on the balcony level. A light dinner buffet will be served at 6pm, followed by the lecture at 7pm. Admission is \$15 for ASHM members, \$20 for non-members. Seating is limited, RSVP by May 16th. For more information or to register on-line, visit the museum's website, americanswedish.org/calendar.htm.

Sandezén came to America in 1894, and he spent his life teaching art at Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas. In his painting, he is known as a colorist, due to his rich use of color to

describe the vibrancy of the Western landscape. Beyond his work as a painter, Sandzén was also an author, widely respected in the Swedish-American community at the turn of the 19th century. Dr. Kaplan has studied Sandzén's writings as a way to gain an original and deeper understanding of his art. In *Birger Sandzén on Art, Music and Transcendence*, published by Nordic Studies Press, Dr. Kaplan has brought to life a brief cultural Camelot in America when immigrant artists, musicians and authors, nourished by the culture of the Old World, were stimulated in their craft by the exciting New World they had found in America. For further information go to Nordicstudiespress.com.

The American Swedish Historical Museum is located in scenic Franklin Delano Roosevelt Park at 1900 Pattison Avenue in South Philadelphia near the Sports Complex. Free parking is available. ASHM is accessible from Interstates 95 or 76, Broad Street Subway or bus #17.

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