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*Strandberg Publishing A/S*

Gammel Mønt 14, 5.th.  
1117 København K

mail@strandbergpublishing.dk  
+45 88 82 66 10

strandbergpublishing.dk

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Anne-Louise Sommer

## **Watercolours by Finn Juhl**

Finn Juhl (1912-1989) is known and loved in Denmark and around the world for his sophisticated and sculptural furniture designs – but his masterly watercolours are less well known. Throughout most of Juhl's career, his workshop drawings were carefully finished with a watercolour wash. To ease understanding, as he put it. Because watercolours hold a power of seduction that no technical drawing possesses. The use of light and shading comes into its own in watercolours, making the chair, the table and the interior come alive. Almost allowing us to feel the smooth surface of the wood and the delicate structure of the textile.

The watercolours were an integrated aspect of Finn Juhl's design process throughout the years, and many are widely admired. In fact, many of them are the result of a woman's touch. In the 1950s, as a recent interior design graduate, Marianne Riis-Carstensen (born 1927), worked in Finn Juhl's drawing office. With her mastery of watercolour techniques, she was entrusted with the task of applying the wash to Juhl's drawings.

### **A unique figure in Danish furniture design**

Finn Juhl occupies a unique place in the history of Danish furniture design. His architectural training and a career revolving mostly around furniture and interior design gave him a holistic grasp of spatial qualities. This is evident in Juhl's watercolours, which in addition to a wide range of furniture designs depict applied art, exhibition objects, architecture and interiors, including his interior design of the UN's Trusteeship Council Chamber in New York and the outfitting of SAS's DC-8 airliners from the early 1950s.

## A glimpse into Finn Juhl's universe

The book opens with an essay introducing the reader to Finn Juhl's fascinating universe, based in part on Marianne Riis-Carstensen's recollections from her time at Juhl's drawing office in the 1950s. After this introduction, the book presents more than 125 watercolours in thematic chapters. The watercolours all belong to Designmuseum Danmark, which celebrated the centenary of Juhl's birth in 2012 with an exhibition of a wide selection of the watercolours presented alongside his furniture. Since then, there has been a strong wish to publish a book about Juhl's watercolours, many of which have never been published, and thus make them accessible to everyone.

## About the author

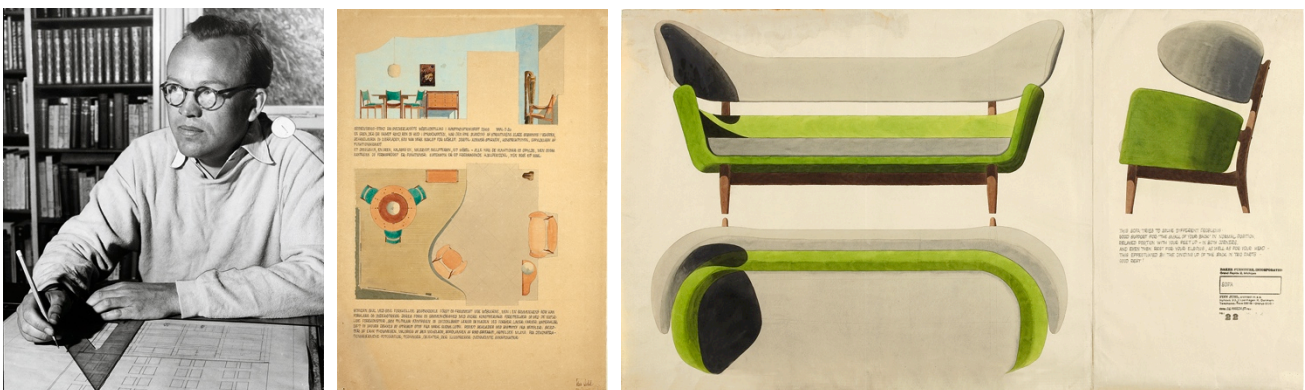
The book's author, Anne-Louise Sommer (born 1961), is the director of Designmuseum Danmark in Copenhagen, an adjunct professor at the University of Southern Denmark and the author of numerous books and articles on design, architecture and garden design.

## Additional information and press inquiries

For inquiries about review copies, press photos or interviews with the author, please contact Press Officer Mette Wibeck at [mette@strandbergpublishing.dk](mailto:mette@strandbergpublishing.dk) or tel. +45 4075 3476.

## Facts

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Throughout Finn Juhl's career, his workshop drawings were finished with a watercolour wash. Watercolour of Finn Juhl's exhibition stand at the furniture exhibition of the Cabinetmakers' Guild in 1949, which featured several of Niels Vodder and Finn Juhl's furniture designs, which went on to achieve iconic status. Watercolour of a sofa that Finn Juhl designed for the American furniture company Baker Furniture, Inc. in 1951.