



Marie-Louise Berner  
and Mette Thelle

## The Flower Painter J.L. Jensen

Between Art and Nature in the  
Golden Age

**Publication:** 20 January 2018

**Content:** 316 pages, 352 illustrations

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### The most important Nordic flower painter

Johan Laurentz Jensen (1800–1856) is the most influential still-life painter in the Nordics. His beautiful flower and fruit paintings and the rarer kitchen and game still lifes have always had an appreciative audience, and his works adorn many Danish and international art collections. In recent decades J.L. Jensen's art has attracted increasing international interest, yet in his own time, he was underappreciated by his contemporaries, and he never got the permanent place in Danish art history that the artistic quality of his work warrants.

### From village life to royal palaces

The book tells the fascinating story of a schoolteacher's son from a small village in the Danish countryside who brought international flower painting to Denmark and transplanted it here in his own style. He elevated porcelain painting to new artistic heights in porcelain services commissioned by the Danish royal family, for whom he also decorated royal palace interiors with still lifes of nature on a grand scale.

The works of J.L. Jensen represent dreams of everlasting beauty and eternal life. His works have thus far remained fairly neglected in art history literature, but that shortcoming is now finally remedied with this in-depth scholarly and richly illustrated documentation of J.L. Jensen's life and artwork. The two authors, art historians Marie-Louise Berner and Mette Thelle, have studied the topic for

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many years, and the editor of the book is The Nivaagaard Collection's chief curator, Birgitte von Folsach.

## J.L. Jensen at Nivaagaard

The publication of the book coincides with the opening of the most comprehensive exhibition ever about J.L. Jensen, which is presented at The Nivaagaard Collection from 21 January through 12 August 2018. Museum Director Andrea Rygg Kaberg says:

*It is a great pleasure to publish the first book exclusively about J.L. Jensen on the occasion of our special exhibition of his work. 'Blomster-Jensen,' [Flower-Jensen] as he is known colloquially, is a beloved and brilliant Danish Golden-Age painter, who has academically stood in the shadow of other students of Eckersberg. His flower paintings are masterly executed and full of sensuous beauty. Both historians and the general public, especially those who have an interest in botany, will surely enjoy the book.*

## About the authors

Marie-Louise Berner (b. 1946) is a Master of Arts. She was a research librarian in 1977-1999 at the Danish National Art Library and is the author of "Bertel Thorvaldsen. A Daguerreotype Portrait 1840", from 2005.

Mette Thelle (b. 1945) is a Master of Arts. She has been the museum director of Esbjerg Art Museum, Randers Art Museum and Funen Art Museum.

## Information and contact

To order copies and photos for the press, and to reach the authors, please contact Mette Wibeck at [mette@strandbergpublishing.dk](mailto:mette@strandbergpublishing.dk) or call +45 4075 3476

For photos and further information please visit [strandbergpublishing.dk/presse](http://strandbergpublishing.dk/presse)

For information about the exhibition please contact Maria Westh at [mw@nivaagaard.dk](mailto:mw@nivaagaard.dk) or call +45 4914 1017.



Still life of Iris, 1843



Still life with flowers in an antique vase, 1834



Roses and convolvulus on a ledge, 1822-1823



Pomegranates, green and black grapes on a marble ledge, 1833



Still life with dead duck, 1855