

**NON-  
FICTION**



PHOTO: INGER MARIE HELGASÆTTER MULLVAD

## / Annette Rosenvold Hvidt og Gertrud Oelsner Vilhelm Hammershøi

### WHY A NEW BOOK ON HAMMERSHØI?

Vilhelm Hammershøi is a painter whose deceptively tranquil pictorial universe speaks directly to our chaotic times. Now, more than 100 years after his death, his paintings are perhaps exciting more interest than ever before. The motifs – often simple interiors, such as a corridor, a window, an open door – are painted with a galvanising presence, often using refined variations of white, grey, black and brown. A single painting can hold up to 50 nuances of white. Alongside this ‘presence’ in the brushwork, there is an enigmatic mystique in the ‘empty’ interiors – paintings seemingly without a narrative and with figures whose backs are often turned towards the viewer. This lack of content, as one might call it, stimulates and provokes the imagination and posits a myriad of ideas and situations.

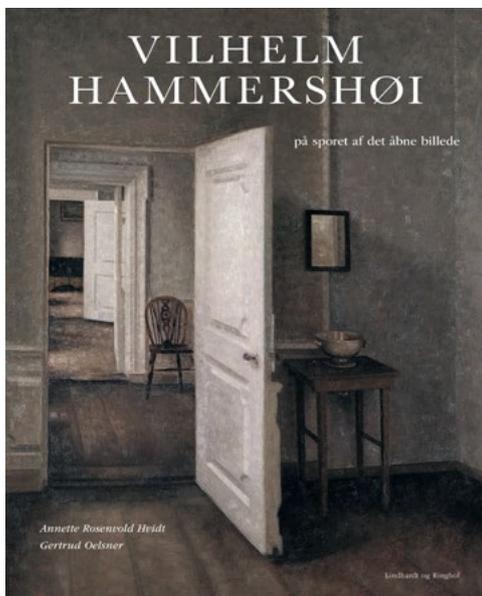
Up till now none of the research on Hammershøi has considered his use of, and interest in, photography. By contrast, in a rich series of image-sequences, this new book displays the many different types of pictures and sources that inform Hammershøi’s work. It supports the perspective that Hammershøi’s oeuvre is actually open, revealing and beautiful and that its material and subject matter can never be exhausted, as it is constantly throwing up new perspectives and scenarios.

### ANNETTE ROSENVOLD HVIDT (1963)

An art historian and art facilitator at SMK (the National Gallery of Denmark) who has specialised in Danish and French art from 1850-1920, along with the creative boundaries between painting, photography and film.

### GERTRUD OELSNER (1972)

An art historian and director of The Hirschsprung Collection, who has specialised in Danish art in the 19th century. She has written about Danish landscape painting as well as the interplay between traditional visual arts and photography.



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# Annette Rosenvold Hvidt og Gertrud Oelsner / Vilhelm Hammershøi - På sporet af det åbne billede (Hammershøi / In Search of the Open Picture

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Kristeligt Dagblad



Ekstra Bladet



*Vilhelm Hammershøi – In Search of the Open Picture* is in every sense exceptional. The authors write with a knowledge and an engagement that is infectious.

Weekendavisen

**ABOUT BOOKS FROM DENMARK**

*Books from Denmark* is a new initiative from the Danish Arts Foundation, taking over from the previous publication, *Danish Literary Magazine*. Twice a year, *Books from Denmark* will present a 'right now' selection of the best and most interesting Danish fiction, non-fiction and Children and Young Adult literature. All titles are selected by the Committee for Literary Project Funding, with literary quality as the key selection criteria.

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**DANISH ARTS FOUNDATION**

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**CONTACT**

Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces / Literature  
H.C. Andersens Boulevard 2,  
1553 Copenhagen V, Denmark  
Tel. +45 3373 3373  
litt@slks.dk  
www.danisharts.dk

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