

A GROUP EXHIBITION INSPIRED BY THE POETRY OF
EDITH SÖDERGRAN

2022

The Great Garden.

CURATED BY
CEDERSTRÖM & HALLA



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The Great Garden

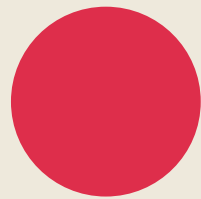
A GROUP EXHIBITION INSPIRED BY THE POETRY OF EDITH SÖDERGRAN



The Great Garden

Framtidens skugga, 1920 **EDITH SÖDERGRAN**

*We are all homeless wanderers
and we are all brothers and sisters.
Naked we go in rags with our knapsacks,
but what do princes possess in comparison with us?
Treasures stream to us through the air,
they cannot be measured by the weight of gold.
The older we grow
the more surely we know that we are brothers and sisters.
We have nothing else to do with the rest of creation
than to give it our souls.
If I had a great garden
I would invite all my brothers and sisters to it.
Each and every one would take with him a great treasure.
Since we have no homeland we could become a people.
We would build a trellis around our garden
so that no sound from the world could reach us.
From our silent garden
we would give the world a new life.*



THE GREAT GARDEN

*"If I had a great garden
I would invite all my brothers and sisters to it.
Each and every one would take with him a great treasure."*

We invite artists working in a variety of mediums in different genres to interpret Edith Södergran's stirring poem "The Great Garden". We are interested in unexpected ways of revealing Södergran's presence through artistic responses. This international project aims to bring artists together to promote and celebrate collaboration between cultural workers in the spirit of Södergran's words. The identity and work of each artist is presented as their own creation, but also in harmony and unity with the works of others which together form "The Great Garden".

Edith Södergran (1892-1923) holds a strong cultural and historical position in the history of Finnish and Finnish-Swedish art, poetry, and literature. Our aim is to reveal Södergran's art and celebrate it through a curated exhibition of interpretations by contemporary artists in various artistic fields.

Södergran's poems were ahead of their time more than a hundred years ago and during her lifetime she received very little recognition for her work. Through the exhibition we will experience the life and the position of a female artist during Södergran's lifetime, observe that worldview in present times, and reawaken The Great Garden.



Together

ARTIST CALL

The artist call will take place 1.2.2022 - 30.6.2022.

Inspired by the poetry of Edith Södergran, we invite professional artists from different genres to take part in creating The Great Garden. The Great Garden will be implemented as a group exhibition in different locations during 2023-2024. Exhibition space for the project has been applied for at HAM Gallery of the Helsinki Art Museum.

Based on the applications, we will curate a unified entity of the art works. The works can represent different genres. For example, jewellery, textile art, sculptures etc. It is most important to view the artists' own experience of the poem and their vision of a shared garden.

*“From our silent garden
we would give the world a new life.”*

The Great Garden, Framtidens skugga 1920

Invitation.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES FOR ARTISTS

You are an experienced and recognised artist and/or have graduated from an institution of arts.

Artist's Curriculum Vitae
Written explanation of the work
Picture material of the work

When applying, please indicate whether your work needs floor or wall space, or both. Let your creativity fly, but please note that the capacity to show large works is limited.

The written report of the work must contain information about the sustainability of the production of the work. Environmental damage must be minimized in the production of the work.

The artist commits to submit their work and related written materials by a pre-agreed date. Shipping costs and insurance are the responsibility of the artist. The organizer of the exhibition is responsible for the insurance during the exhibition. After the exhibition, the artist is responsible for the return of their work.



EDITH SÖDERGRAN

Södergran was one of the first Finnish modern poets and the most important representative of Finnish-Swedish modernism. Her production was characterized by vision and the futuristic and symbolic currents of her era. Södergran published her debut book *Dikter*, in 1916. At the time she was already suffering from tuberculosis, which she died of seven years later at the age of 31. Despite her illness, Södergran wrote four poetry books and one collection of aphorisms.

Södergran's poems confused many of her contemporaries. She has been considered a genius who lived a lonely and isolated life. Södergran was unconventional and shook the image and perception of the female poet of her time.

Södergran Edith

4 April 1892 – 24 June 1923

EDITH SÖDERGRAN

Edith Irene Södergran was a Swedish-speaking Finnish poet. She is the most internationally known Finnish poet, whose poems have been translated into more than 40 languages. Her poetry is known for its visual and picturesque language, free rhymes, and passionate intellectual style.

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"Vierge moderne" (engl. David McDuff), Dikter 1916

Images:

The Society of Swedish Literature in Finland (SLS)

THE GREAT GARDEN

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