

Intet som før

I pandemiernes spor på SMK

I vinteren 2020 ramte coronapandemien Europa, og den 11.-12. marts lukkede det danske samfund ned. På et af Statsministeriets første pressemøder meddelte man befolkningen, at vi stod ”på ubetrådt land” og ”intet ville blive som før”. Fraserne blev gentaget igen og igen og blev for en tid en form for sandhed. Men var situationen i virkeligheden så fremmed?

Én ting var sikkert: det var vanskeligt at genåbne samfundet og de store institutioner efter nedlukningen og fortsætte, som om intet var hændt. I sommeren 2020 valgte vi på Statens Museum for Kunst derfor at se nærmere på museets samling med pandemiens og epidemiens briller og producerede på få uger et nyt formidlingsspor i den permanente udstilling. Ideen var at undersøge, hvad den nationale kunstsamling kunne fortælle os om den aktuelle situation og indlede en samtale med publikum om, hvad vi egentlig stod over for: ville intet rent faktisk blive som før, og stod vi virkelig på ubetrådt land?

25 kunstværker blev udvalgt på tværs af samlingen og i 10 af udstillingssalene var der installeret store oversigtsplancher med fortællinger om, hvordan pandemier gennem tiden har formet historien, samfundet, menneskelivet og selvfølgelig kunsten. Pandemiernes historie fulgte samlingens egen kronologi. Sporet startede på den måde i ”Ældre europæisk” med den sorte død i 1300-tallets Italien, ved tavlen af den hellige Corona fra Siena – en kostbar helgentavle malet omkring 1350, i netop de år, hvor pesten ramte Italien. Herfra kunne man fx bevæge sig videre til kopper i rokokoen, koleraen i 1800-tallets danske maleri, tuberkulosen og det moderne gennembrud omkring 1900, den spanske syge og modernismen ved 1. Verdenskrigs afslutning frem til AIDS-pandemien og den neokoncep-

tuelle kunst fra 1990’erne. Undervejs var der afstikkere til andre hjørner af samlingen, hvor forskere og formidlere havde udvalgt værker til at reflektere over de aktuelle erfaringer, dilemmaer og spørgsmål, som coronapandemien havde ført med sig. Sporet var markeret med den samme magentårøde farve, som museet brugte til at kommunikere de nye coronarestriktioner med. Fulgte man denne farvekode ville man altså ikke kun støde på en masse påbud, men også få mulighed for at opleve samlingen på en anden måde og få øje på ting, man ikke før havde bemærket.

På de følgende sider finder man de 10 nu destruerede hovedplancher og et lille udvalg af de mere personlige værlæsninger genoptrykt i den form, de var at finde i i samlingen fra september 2020 til marts 2021. Da de sædvanlige interaktive hjælpemidler, der normalt understøtter formidling, var sat ud af spil på grund af coronarestriktioner spillede staben af omvisere, undervisere og vagter en ekstra afgørende rolle i formidlingen og i samtalen med publikum. Til sporet blev der produceret en række selvstændige film med forskellige eksperter, fra skolebarnet til historikeren, der udtalte sig om nogle af de spørgsmål, udstillingen rejste. De er stadig at finde på internettet.

Intet som før blev konceptualiseret af mig, Cecilie Høgsbro Østergaard, der også var hovedforfatter og redaktør på projektet. Formidlingen blev produceret i et tæt samarbejde med formidler Annette Rosenvold Hvidt og udstillingsarkitekt Pernille Jensen og grafiker Peter Folkmar. Desuden bidrog en lang række forsknings- og bevaringsmedarbejdere til udarbejdelse af værktekster og medarbejdere fra kommunikationsafdelingen til den kampagne og skiltning, som var afgørende forbundet med formidlingen.

Pesten – den sorte død

The Plague – the Black Death

YERSINIA PESTIS

FORTÆLLINGER OM HVORDAN EPIDEMIER HAR FORMET
HISTORIEN, KUNSTEN OG DET ENKELE Menneskes Liv
LÆSETID: 3 MINUTTER

STORIES ABOUT HOW EPIDEMICS HAVE SHAPED
HISTORY, ART AND THE LIFE OF THE INDIVIDUAL
READ TIME: 3 MINUTES

Pesten – den sorte død – hærgede første gang i Europa i midten af 1300-tallet og den vendte tilbage som pandemi flere gange de følgende århundreder med mange millioner døde på verdensplan. Man mener, at ca. ¼ af befolkningen i Europa døde af pest i middelalderen. Pest smitter via bakterien *Yersinia pestis*, som bl.a. kan overføres til mennesker via loppebid, men tidligere vidste man ikke, hvad sygdommen skyldtes og man kunne ikke behandle den. Symptomerne var blyder, feber, blodforgiftning og hudforandringer. Navnet "den sorte død" kom sig af, at den syges blev sort som følge af dødt væv. Man troede, at sygdommen var Guds straf og dens opståne forte til mange forestillinger og advarser, også i kunsten.

I Danmark udstedte Christian 4. i 1625 en pestordning for at sikre borgerne ved udbrud af pestepidemier. Forordningen er meget detaljeret i sin beskrivelse af tiltag og retningslinjer for borgerne, og der kan drages flere parallelle til de instrukser, som er gældende under COVID-19-pandemien.

Reglerne var klare: "... Derefter må ingen, som kommer fra de steder, hvor sygdommen er brudt ud, komme ind i de områder, der endnu er fri for sygdommen. De skal i stedet forvises tilbage igen. Hvis nogen ikke vil aflyde, så skal den eller de indlægges i pesthuset i rum og kamre, hvor der ikke har været nogen syge, og opholde sig der i fire eller fem uger. Derefter må de komme ind i byen, såfremt hverken de selv eller nogen hos dem har pådraget sig sygdommen". Man forsøgte desuden at desinficere breve fra pestramte områder: "... De breve, som kommer fra de steder, hvor sygdommen er i udbrud, og som det er tvingende nødvendigt at lade komme ind, skal holdes tæt ind til liden og roges med noget, der har effekt, når de åbnes eller holdes på".

Uddrag fra Christian 4.s pestordning bearbejdet på modern.



The plague – also known as the Black Death – first ravaged Europe in the mid-fourteenth century and returned as a pandemic several times in the following centuries, causing millions of fatalities worldwide. It is believed that approximately one quarter of the population of Europe died of the plague in the Middle Ages. The disease is transmitted via the bacterium *Yersinia pestis*, which can be passed on to humans via flea bites, but at that time the causes were unknown and there was no effective treatment available. The symptoms were swollen nodes, fever, blood poisoning and skin changes. It became known as 'the Black Death' because patients' skin could go black due to dead tissue. The disease was thought to be a punishment sent by God, and its advent prompted many different ideas, imaginings and warnings.

In Denmark, Christian 4 issued a set of ordinances for plague control in 1625 in order to protect citizens during outbreaks. The regulations are detailed in their description of measures and guidelines to be observed, and parallels can be drawn to the instructions in force during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

The rules were clear: "... Following this, no-one who hails from places where the disease has broken out may enter the areas that are still free of the disease. They must instead be banished back to whence they came. If someone fails to obey, then he or she must be admitted to the plague house in rooms and chambers unoccupied by anyone ill, and stay there for four or five weeks. They may then enter the city, if neither they nor anyone with them has contracted the disease". Attempts were also made to disinfect letters from plague-stricken areas: "... Any letters that come from the places where the disease is in outbreak, and which absolutely must be received and opened here for pressing reasons, must be kept close to the fire and smoked with something efficacious when opened or held".

Pesten og Danmark The Plague and Denmark

Ca. 500 f.Kr. / 500 CE

Den justinianske pest spreder sig fra Konstantinopel til Europa og til øerne og øgrupperne at have hærget i 500-tallet og fremover. Epidemien møter at have forårsaget 40 millioner dødsfald.

The Plague of Justinian spread from the Eastern Roman Empire and Asia Minor and is said to have caused the most severe outbreaks of the sixth century onwards. The epidemic is believed to have caused 40 million deaths.

1349-50

"Den sorte død" nåede i Danmark. Det rigste, der kom med et norsk skib, fyldt med døde sennende, der strandede i Nordjylland. 30-40 pct. af befolkningen dør.

The Black Death reaches Denmark. It is said that a ship from Norway, full of dead sailors, which beached in Northern Jutland. Some 30-40 per cent of the population died.



Dædemønsterne var ofte i klið i en beskyttelsesdragt som denne. I nærbilledet var der beskyttede urter.

The plague doctors of the day were often dressed in protective suits like this. The best of the mask contained protective herbs.

1360-62

Andet pestoutbrud. Denne gang rammer epidemien især børn.

Second outbreak of plague. This time, the epidemic particularly affects children.



Ligstue under plagen. Mellem 1360 og 1362. Digtet med en dyb bane.

1563-68

Et af de særligt dørlige blandt mange udbrud i 1500-tallet.

One of the most severe outbreaks among several others in the sixteenth century.



Et af de værste pestudbrud i Danmarkshistorien med et voldsomme dødsrat. Det var navnet "Den store død".

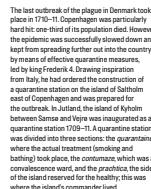
One of the worst outbreaks of plague in all of Danish history, causing massive destruction. Hence the name "The Great Death".

1601-03

Et af de værste pestudbrud i Danmarkshistorien med et voldsomme dødsrat. Det var navnet "Den store død".

Det sidste pestudbrud i Danmark fandt sted i 1710-11. Været i København, hvor en ¼ døde.

Til gengæld lykkedes det at bremse epidemien fra at sprede sig videre til landet generelt. Det lykkedes at stoppe udbruddet ved hjælp af en værkskabning Frederik 4. Han havde fået inspiration fra Italien fast anlagt en by i Sønderjylland, der skulle fungere som en karantæneby. Det var Københavns by, der var forbudt at, at udbruddet ville komme. I bydelen blev et kystområde tilpasset som en karantænestation 1709-11. Karantænen var opkaldt efter en kommandant ved navn Karantæne. Det var en kommandant i tre afdelinger – quarantæne, hvor selve behandlinger (regning og borttagning) foregik, undervisning i hygiejne, sanitetsværdertilgang, og prakticante efter "de rønke side", hvor en kommandant boede.

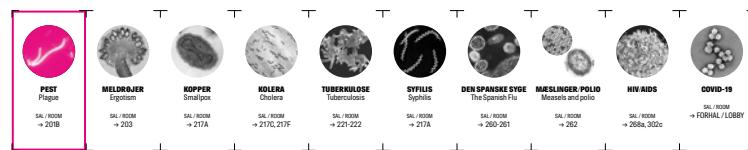


The last outbreak of the plague in Denmark took place in 1710-11. Copenhagen was particularly hard hit: one-third of its population died. However, the epidemic was successfully slowed down and kept from spreading further across the country by means of effective quarantine measures, led by King Frederick 4. Drawing inspiration from a similar facility in Italy, he established a quarantine station on the island of Saltholm east of Copenhagen and was prepared for the outbreak. In 1709, in the island of Kyholm between Copenhagen and Saltholm, was created as a quarantine station 1709-11. A quarantine station was divided into three sections: the quarantine, where the sick were accommodated; the contumace (washing and bathing) took place, the contumace, which was a convalescence ward, and the practice, the side of the island reserved for the healthy; this was where the island's commander lived.

1710-11

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Mesteren for Palazzo Venezia
Madonna (virksom 1340–1358)
Skt. Victor af Siena og Skt. Corona
1348–1352
Altartavle (maleri)
Tempera på træ, guldgrund
155cm (h) x 48cm (b)
SMK. KMS3624
Udstillet på SMK i Sal 201B

Mesteren for / Master of Palazzo Venezia Madonna (ca. 1340–1370) **Skt. Corona (th.) og Skt. Victor (tv.)** St. Corona (right) and St. Victor (left) 1351 eller kort før / or shortly before

Er linjen elegant, er farverne som juveler, er der en mangfoldighed af ornamenter? Hvis ja, så har man et typisk eksempel på kunst i Siena fra tiden omkring den sorte død i midten af 1300-tallet. Al den rigdom finder vi i Skt. Corona-tavlén. Den blev opstillet i domkirken tre år efter pesten havde fejet ind over byen.

Den hellige Corona er en relativt ukendt helgeninde. Ifølge legenden så den kun 16 år gamle Skt. Corona i et syn en engel stige ned fra himlen med to kroner – en beskeden krone (lat.: corona) til hende selv og en mere kostbar til Skt. Victor. På maleriet har hun den lille krone på hovedet, og hun holder den store i hænderne.

Skt. Corona er skytshelgen i økonomske spørgermel og spil, der involverer penge: hasard, lotto og skattekjagt. I marts 2020 foreslog det romersk-katolske konvent i Raleigh at påkalde hende som beskytter for verdensøkonomien under coronakrisen. Hendes relikvier, der befinder sig i domkirken i Aachen, er desuden blevet fundet frem til offentlig tilbedelse.

Eva de la Fuente Pedersen, SMK

“Der var nogle, der mente, at en behersket livsførelse, hvor man afstod fra enhver overflod, ville hjælpe dem til at modstå sygdommen. De sluttede sig sammen og lukkede sig inde i huse, hvor der ikke var nogen syge, og hvor man kunne leve godt. De spiste usdugt mad og drak fremragende vine med stort mædehold og undgik enhver form for velyst, de talte ikke med folk udøfra og ville intet here om død og sygdom. [...] Andre var af den modsatte mening. De var overbevist om, at man værnede sig bedst mod den hærgende sygdom ved at drikke meget og nyde livet, ved at ture syngende omkring i byen, more sig og tilfredsstille enhver mulig lyst og ved at le ad det, der foregik, og lave sjov med det.”

Uddrag fra indledningen i Giovanni Boccaccio's bog *Dekameron*, skrevet i årene lige efter forfatteren oplevede pesten hærgte i Firenze i 1348.
Dansk oversættelse ved Thomas Harder, 2019.

A CHANGED WORLD
TRACKING EPIDEMICS IN DENMARK'S LARGEST ART COLLECTION



PEST
Plague

Are the lines elegant, are the colours like jewels, is there a rich diversity of ornaments? If so, then you have a typical example of art from mid-fourteenth-century Siena. This panel of Santa Corona displays precisely such abundance. It was installed in the cathedral of Siena three years after the Black Death had swept through the city.

Saint Corona is relatively little known. According to legend, the sixteen-year-old Saint Corona had a vision of an angel descending from heaven bearing two crowns – a modest crown (lat.: corona) for herself and a more elaborate piece for Saint Victor. The painting shows her wearing the small crown on her head while holding the larger one in her hands.

Saint Corona is the patron saint of financial matters and of games involving money: gambling, lotto, and treasure hunting. In March 2020, the Roman Catholic Diocese in Raleigh proposed invoking her as protector of the world economy during the corona crisis, and her relics, located in the Aachen Cathedral, have been brought out for public veneration.

Eva de la Fuente Pedersen, SMK

“There were those who thought that to live temperately and avoid all excess would count for much as a preservative against [the disease]. Wherefore they banded together, and, dissociating themselves from all others, formed communities in houses where there were no sick, and lived a separate and secluded life, which they regulated with the utmost care, avoiding every kind of luxury, but eating and drinking very moderately of the most delicate viands and the finest wines, holding converse with none but one another, lest tidings of sickness or death should reach them [...] Others, the bias of whose minds was in the opposite direction, maintained, that to drink freely, frequent places of public resort, and take their pleasure with song and revel, sparing to satisfy no appetite, and to laugh and mock at no event, was the sovereign remedy for so great an evil’.

Excerpt from the introduction of Giovanni Boccaccio's *Dekameron*, written in the years just after the author saw the plague sweep across Florence in 1348.

Meldrøjersyge og syner

Ergotism and visions

CLAVICEPS PURPUREA

FORTÆLLINGER OM HVORDAN EPIDEMIER HAR FORMET
HISTORIEN, KUNSTEN OG DET ENKELTE Menneskes Liv
LÆSETID: 2:30 MINUTTER

STORIES ABOUT HOW EPIDEMICS HAVE SHAPED
HISTORY, ART AND THE LIFE OF THE INDIVIDUAL
READ TIME: 2:30 MINUTES

Meldrøjer er en svampestygdom, der især angriber korn som rug og byg. Mel udvundet af korn med meldrøje er giftigt og fremkalder sygdommen ergotisme hos mennesker, når det spises. Svampens hvilelegeme indeholder giftstoffet *ergotamin*, der kan give voldsomme halucinationer, kriblesyge, smertesyge og kræmper. Blodåerne trekker sig sammen, blodforsyningen hemmes og derudover belaster sygdommen nervesystemet, så der opstår brandende smertesyge i kroppen. De brændende smertesyge har også givet sygdommen navnet Sankt Antoniusild, opkaldt efter den hellige Antonius, der var helgen for voldsomme smertesyge og smitsomme sygdomme. Han blev påkaldt som beskytter under mange epidemier, også pest, og de såkaldte antonittermunkne drev hospitaler for de syge.

Særligt i middelalderen fra omkring år 1000 til år 1500 udbrød der flere epidemier af meldrøjersyge, men også senere har der været epidemier, i Danmark senest i 1892. I nyere tid har man fundet ud af, at *ergotamin* kan anvendes i migrænemedicin, men stoffet er også et mellemled i fremstillingen af det stærkt halucinogene LSD. Dette faktum har givet anledning til forskellige tanker om, hvorvidt mennesker i fortiden brugte naturens halucinogene stoffer aktivt. Kunne fx kunstneren Hieronymus Bosch have været pavirket, når han malede sine mest syrde malerier?

I J.P. Jacobsens middelalderfortælling *Pesten i Bergamo* fra 1881 spiller en munk i sort kutte, formentlig en antonittermunk, hovedrollen. Pesten har opløst al fornuft, moral og gudsfrigfærdighed i samfundet, og munkene forsørger forgæves at tale folk til rette med disse flammende syner:

Da stod en blandt de Fremmede, en ung Munk, op over dem og talte.
Han var bleg som et Lagen, hans sorte Øje glædede som Kul, der er ved at slukkes, og de mørke, smerteberedne Træk om hans Mund var som de skaret med en Kniv i Trae og ikke Folder i et Menneskes Ansigt.

Han strakte de tynde, forstikke Hænder mod hinlæn i Ben, og de sorte Kuttearme gled ned om hans hvide, magre Arme.

Saa talte han.

Om Helvede, talte han, om at det var uendeligt som Himlen er uendelig, og den ensomme Verden af Pine, hvor af de Fordomte har gjennemlejede og at fyldte med sine Krig. Seer Sovu var der, Marker af Skorpioner, Flammer, der lagde sig om ham, som en Kabbe den lægger sig, og stille, hærdede Flammer, der borede sig ind i ham som et Spidsblad, der drejes rundt et Saar.

Der var ganske stille, andelose lyttede de efter Hans Ord, for han talte, som havde han set det med sine egne Øjne, og de sprigte sig selv, er ikke denne en af de Fordomte, som er sendt til os op af Helvedes Gab for at vide for os."

The ergot fungus *Claviceps purpurea* mainly affects grains such as rye and barley. Flour extracted from crops contaminated with ergot fungus can cause the disease known as ergotism in any humans who eat it. The survival structure of the fungus, its sclerotium, contains the toxic *ergotamine*, which can cause violent hallucinations, tingling, pain and cramps. The blood vessels constrict, the blood supply is inhibited, and the disease puts strain on the nervous system, too, causing a sensation of burning pain in the body. The burning pains have earned the disease the name Saint Anthony's Fire, after the patron saint of excruciating pain and infectious diseases. He was called upon as a protector during many epidemics, including the plague, and the Order of Saint Anthony, also known as the Antonines, ran hospitals for the sick.

Several epidemics of ergotism broke out in the Middle Ages, particularly from around the year 1000 to the year 1500, but later epidemics have also occurred; the most recent outbreak in Denmark took place in 1892. In recent times, it has been discovered that *ergotamine* can be used in migraine medicine, but the substance is also a source of lysergic acid, a step on the way to synthesising the highly hallucinatory drug LSD. This has given rise to speculation that the people of the past might have been under the influence of this drug – and perhaps actively used their hallucinations. For example, might the artist Hieronymus Bosch have been high while painting?

In J.P. Jacobsen's Medieval tale *The Plague in Bergamo* from 1881, the main protagonist is a monk wearing a black cowl, presumably an Antonine monk. The plague has wrecked all reason, morality and godliness in society, and the monk seeks in vain to return the people to the fold with these fiery visions:

"Then one among the strangers, a young monk, stood up over them and spoke. He was pale as a sheet, his black eyes glowed like coals flickering with their last light, and the dark, pain-hardened features around his mouth were as if carved with a knife in wood, not folds in a human face.

He stretched his thin, grievously worn hands up to the sky in prayer, and the black sleeves of his robes slid down his white, thin arms.

Then he spoke.

About Hell, he spoke, about how it was infinite as Heaven is infinite, about the lonely world of pain which each of the damned must traverse in torment and fill with his cries. Lakes of sulphur there were, fields of scorpions, flames wrapping and engulfing him like a cape, and silent, hardened flames piercing him like a spear being twisted inside a wound.

There were quite still, breathlessly they listened to his words, for he spoke as if he had seen it all with his own eyes, and they asked themselves, is not this one of the damned sent up to us from the very Mouth of Hell to bear witness to us?"



Kalkmaleri af Sankt Antonius fra Sedrina Kirke, 1461.
Sankt Antropius Saint Anthony,
Sedrina Church, 1461.
Foto: photo: www.kulturarvsstyrelsen.dk

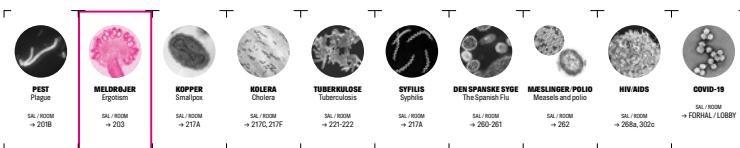


Meldrøjer på rug. For man kan vide om den indeholder giftstof trods man de sorte korne var ekstra korn, da denne drage mette, så man ikke nævnt det. Heraf navnet meldrøjer.

Ergot fungus on rye. It is believed that the name 'ergot' comes from the French 'ergot', meaning 'cockspur', which the fungus resembles.



Hieronymus Bosch, *The Garden of Earthly Delights* 1490-1500.
Musée du Prado, Madrid.





Hieronymus Bosch (Efterfølger) (1440-1516)
Kristus uddriver kræmmerne af templet

1570-1670

Maleri

Olie på træ

102cm (h) x 155.5cm (b)

SMK. KMS3924

Udstillet på SMK i Sal 203

INTET SOM FØR
FØLG EPIDEMIERNES SPOR GENNEM LANDETS STØRSTE KUNSTSAMLING

A CHANGED WORLD
TRACKING EPIDEMICS IN DENMARK'S LARGEST ART COLLECTION

Hieronymus Bosch (1439–1516) (efterfølger / follower)

Kristus uddriver kræmmerne af templet

Christ Driving the Traders from the Temple
Efter / After 1570



MELDRØJER
Ergotism

Maleriet *Kristus uddriver kræmmerne af templet* er malet af en efterfølger til kunstneren Hieronymus Bosch. Kristus er på én gang den milde og den strafende Gud, når han rydder op i Jerusalems Tempel, hvor griskhed, grådighed og hykleri florerer på bekostning af bøn og andagt. Billedet viser mange forskellige oprind, hvor menneskets dårligdomme udstilles. I forgrunden til venstre optræder en kvaksalver med tandudtrækning, mens en lommetyv er på spil blandt publikum.

I forgrunden til højre ser man en mand og to børn fange en gris. De har allerede én grisehud hængende på stokken. Gennem hele middelalderen havde antonitermunkeneret til at drive hospitaler for patienter med meldrejersyge, men også byldepest, kolera, lepra og syfilis. En af deres helige Antonius' attributter – eller kendtegn – er en gris, og man anvendte derfor grisehuder som medicin. Det gav munkenes ret til at lade deres Antoniusgrise øde frit overalt. Måske er det dette privilegium og den tvivlsomme behandlingsform med grisehud, som illustreres her.

Eva de la Fuente Pedersen, SMK

Christ Driving the Traders from the Temple was painted by a follower of the artist Hieronymus Bosch. Christ acts in a dual role as the redeeming and punishing God as he purges the Temple of Jerusalem, where greed and hypocrisy abound at the expense of prayer and devotion. The picture shows many different small scenes revealing the follies and sins of humankind. In the foreground to the left, a quack offers tooth extractions while a pickpocket is at work among the assembled crowd.

In the foreground to the right we see a man and two children chase and catch a pig. They already have one pigskin hanging from a stick. Throughout the Middle Ages, the Antonine monks held exclusive rights to running hospitals for patients afflicted by Saint Anthony's Fire, but also for patients suffering from bubonic plague, cholera, leprosy or syphilis. One of the attributes of Saint Anthony is a pig, and so pig skins were used as medicine. As a result, the monks were entitled to let their pigs graze freely anywhere. Perhaps it is this privilege – and the questionable pig-skin treatment – that is being illustrated here.

Eva de la Fuente Pedersen, SMK

Kopper og rokoko

Smallpox and the Rococo

VARIOLA

FORTÆLLINGER OM HVORDAN EPIDEMIER HAR FORMET
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HISTORY, ART AND THE LIFE OF THE INDIVIDUAL
READ TIME: 3 MINUTES

← Storkebmanden Niels Ryberg, som ses i maleriet venstre side, var en social menstærbyrder. Han far var fastebonde, men selv nåede Ryberg helt til tops i dansk erhvervsliv og blev hovedrig på et utal af forretninger, herunder den overiske trekanthandel med sukker og slavejordet mennesker. Trods sin opvækst og sit opgør med høveri, hvor bønder groft sagt var ejet af deres herremænd, havde han tilsyneladende ingen skrupler i forhold til menneskehandel i koloniene. Her ser vi ham foran landstedet Frederiksgabe på Fyn med svigerdatteren Engelke og hans eneste son, Johan Christian. Rybergs andet barn, Fridericus, døde som ganske lille i 1767 efter en så kaldt variolation, en tidlig vaccine mod sygdommen kopper.

Kopper var skyld i en ekstrem overdædighed, især blandt børn, i 1700-tallet, men for en europæisk storkebmand var sygdommen også en allieret. Kopper havde banet vejen for koloniseringen af Især Sydamerika i 1500-tallet og dermed sikret europæerne store rigdomme. Gang på gang blev kopper bragt til Caribbean fra Europa og Afrika. De første tilrejsende europæere var immune, men for civilisationerne i den såkaldte "Nye verden" var det fatal. Med blot 900 soldater og en hær af sygdomsmikrober, lykkedes det fx i 1521 de spanske *conquistadores* at underkaste sig Aztekerrigets befolkning på ca. 25 mill. mennesker. Denne form for biologisk krigsførelse blev senere benyttet over for nordamerikanske indianere. Koppesmitte var også årsag til, at Canada aldrig blev amerikansk.

Historikeren N.D. Cook har udøvnt "Den nye verdens" mede med pandemier fra øst som den største humanitære katastrofe i historien. Sygdommen vendte senere voldsomt tilbage til Europa. Koppevirus ændrede sig og forte til nye epidemier i 16- og 1700-tallet. Det satte gang i den moderne lægevidenskab. Fra Kina og Indien via Persien og osmannerne, lærte europæerne at inficere raskt med væske eller knuste sårskorper fra milde tilfælde. Variolation, som metoden altså kaldtes, blev moderne i England, men kunne gå helt galt, som det gjorde for Rybergs son. Det store genmembrud kom i 1798. En bonde havde bemærket, at malkning tilsyneladende forebyggede smitte med menneskekopper og variolerede sin familie med kokopper. Indgrebet virkede, men det var dog lægen Edward Jenner, der fik æren for opdagelsen. Den nye behandling fik navnet vaccine, affledt af det latinske ord for ko: *vaccina*.



1700-sælige England blev maleddige og skønhedsidet, kendt for deres malehvede hår, rosinerheder og gode hænder. *The English Rose* er udendørs, vedhavende kvindesymbolet at opnæ med kosmetik, som kom ud i 1700-tallet. Det er et portræt af en lidelse som kopierede efter spageti. Mange ansatte i den engelske hof og højadel var portrættet på hovedet, da de brugte seværlige millioner. Disse stærkt giftige farver fik kvinder til at tabe hår, tænder, skin og fed. Flere døde. Ofte for denne menneskesheds dedbringer blev kaldt "The victims of cosmetics".



In eighteenth-century England, milkmaids became regarded as ideals of feminine beauty due to their milky-white complexion and rosy cheeks and good health. Wealthy women sought to achieve the same look by using cosmetics. This practice first marketed in the eighteenth century. Distrusting doctors' advice, they used the cheapest dyes for such products. Many would mix them with oil, just like the portrait artist of the time. They used the same pigments, too: lead white and vermilion red. Sadly, these substances are highly toxic, causing wrinkles, loss of hair, teeth and skin. Those who fell prey to this human-made killer were known as 'the victims of cosmetics'.

← The merchant Niels Ryberg seen to the left in the painting was a highly upwardly mobile man. His father was a tenant farmer, but Ryberg himself reached the very pinnacle of the Danish business community and became wealthy from myriad business interests, including the overseas triangular trade in sugar and enslaved people. Despite his upbringing and his fight against adscription, a form of serfdom where peasants were owned by their local landowners, he appeared to have no qualms about human trafficking in the colonies. Here we see him in front of the country house Frederiksgabe on Funen with his daughter-in-law and his only son. Ryberg's first child died very young in 1767 after a so-called variolation, an early vaccine against smallpox.

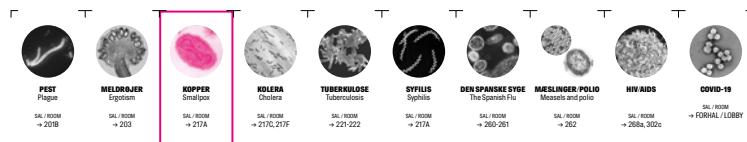
In the eighteenth century, smallpox caused extreme excess mortality rates, especially among children, but for a European merchant it had a silver lining: smallpox had paved the way for colonisation in the sixteenth century, especially in South America, thereby securing great riches for the Europeans. Time and time again, smallpox was brought to the Caribbean from Europe and Africa. Most Europeans were immune, but for the civilisations of the so-called 'New World', the encounter was fatal. In 1521, for example, the Spanish *conquistadors* succeeded in subduing the population of the Aztec Empire, totalling approx. 25 million people, with no more than 900 soldiers and an army of infectious microbes. This form of biological warfare was later used against the Native Americans of North America. Smallpox was also one of the reasons why Canada never became American.

The historian N.D. Cook has proclaimed the encounter between the 'New World' and pandemics from the East to be the greatest humanitarian disaster in history. The disease would later make a virulent return in Europe. The smallpox virus changed, causing new epidemics in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. These events prompted the launch of modern medical science. From China and India the Europeans learned about inoculating healthy individuals with powdered scabs or fluid from pustules taken from patients who were only mildly affected. Known as variolation, the method became fashionable in England, but could go disastrously wrong, as it did for Ryberg's son. The great breakthrough came in 1798: a farmer successfully variolated his own family with cowpox when he noticed that milking seemed to prevent infection with human smallpox. However, the medical doctor Edward Jenner got the credit for the discovery. The new treatment was named 'vaccine' after the Latin word for cow: *vaccina*.



Det Florence Codex er et velbevaret, stiftigt antropologisk værk om Sydtyperne, som kolonister stod i land halvt af 1500-tallet. I 12. bind følger man leprosernes udvikelse af den artikulære lepramal, der er en blåsort, der smider over hele kroppen. Denne syge vanvist er død. Dette sidste bind blev til under en epidemibølle. Man er påfaldende lidt bort fra farver undervejs.

A depiction of how smallpox annihilated the Aztec people. The smallpox virus creates pus-filled blisters all over the body, disfiguring or killing the patient. *The Florence Codex* was an early anthropological work on the indigenous peoples of Mexico in the second half of the sixteenth century. This final volume was created during an epidemic; notably, the coloured inks ran out as the work progressed.





Jens Juel (1745-1802)
*Niels Ryberg med sin søn Johan Christian
og svigerdatter Engelke, f. Falbe*
1797

Maleri
Olie på lærred
253cm (h) x 336.5cm (b)
SMK. KMS6251
Udstillet på SMK i Sal 217A

(Værket omtales på planchen til venstre)

Kolera og Eckersberg

Cholera and Eckersberg

VIBRIO CHOLERAE

FORTÆLLINGER OM HVORDAN EPIDEMIER HAR FORMET
HISTORIEN, KUNSTEN OG DET ENKELE Menneskes Liv
LÆSETID: 2 MINUTTER

STORIES ABOUT HOW EPIDEMICS HAVE SHAPED
HISTORY, ART AND THE LIFE OF THE INDIVIDUAL
READ TIME: 2 MINUTES

Sygdommen kolera forårsages af bakterien *Vibrio cholerae*, der kan smitte via forurenet drikkevand eller madvarer. I 1853 udbrød en epidemi i Danmark særligt i de større byer, hvor i alt 6688 mennesker døde, heraf $\frac{2}{3}$ i København. På det tidspunkt kendte man ikke årsagen til sygdommen. Bakterien blev opdaget året efter af en italiensk læge, men officielt først i 1883 af en tysk læge. Manglende behandling, uvidenhed om smitteveje og politiske interesser betød, at sygdommen spredte sig hurtigt.

Da koleraepidemien hærgede i 1853 i Danmark blev gulddaler-kunstneren Christoffer Wilhelm Eckersberg (1783–1853) en af dens mest prominente ofre. Eckersberg var en flittig dagbogs-skriver og skrev negternt om sin hverdag med fokus på vejr, udflugter og helbred. Som professor på akademiet boede han med sin familie på Charlottenborg i hjertet af København. Herfra rapporterede han også i sin dagbog om de skæbnesvange dage i sommeren 1853:

Den 26. juni skrev han "Igaar havde vi da den Nyhed at Coleraen var udbrudt her i Kjøbenhavn". Den 12. juli noterede han: "Coleraen var desverre i Tiltagende. Fra den 11te til den 12te var anmeldt 84 Syge og 46 Døde. I det hele er saaledes anmeldt 560 Syge, hvorfra 310 ere døde." Den 15. juli konstaterer han, at sygdommen er kommet indenfor på Akademiet: "Vor Portør Hansen blev syg i Eftm." Og al-lerede næste dag: "16. Leverdag. Portør Hansen døde laftes kl 10½ af Coleraen. Sygdommen tiltog i en meget høj Grad. Af Syge var anmeldt 350 Syge og 137 Døde. Til dato var anmeldt, 1232 Syge og 632 Døde." Den 19. juli diktrede Eckersberg sin sidste optegnelse i dagbogen, som en af hans døtre skrev ned: "19. Tirsdag. Inat befandt jeg mig ei synderlig bedre. Diaræ havde jeg hele Dagen. Professor Christensen havde igaard opskrevne en Mixtur som jeg hver Time skulde tage en Skefuld af." Eckersberg døde tre dage senere den 22. juli 1853.

Datteren Julie Eckersberg har i en erindringsbog skrevet om kolera-året: "Saa kom det uendeligt sorgelige Aar 1853, da Koleran holdt sit Indtog i København. Paa Charlottenborg slog den særlig ned. Mange af Bjetjentene og deres Børn døde, og Fader gik imellem Familierne og tristede dem, hvor han kunde. Man gøs næsten ved at se ud over Kongens Nytorv, hvor det sorgeligt Syn stadig viste sig med Ligtog og Vognmandslæs med Lighyster, der førtes bort". Om farens begravelsesdag skriver hun: "I højeste Grad uhyligeligt var det, at ingen af Lighysterne turde vove sig ind i Huset. Selv Presten og de faa, der fulgte den kjære Afdøde ud til Kirkegården, samledes udenfor paa gaden".

Eckersberg blev begravet på Assistens Kirkegård, der var blevet oprettet i 1760 som assistenterne gravplads, da man slejfe-de Københavns overfyldte og sundhedsfarlige pestkirkegårde.

Cholera is a disease caused by the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*, which can be transmitted through contaminated drinking water or food. In 1853, an epidemic broke out in Denmark, especially in the larger cities. A total of 6,688 people died, of which $\frac{2}{3}$ lived in Copenhagen. At that time, the cause of the disease was not known. The bacterium was discovered the following year by an Italian doctor, but the discovery is officially attributed to a German scholar and dated 1883. Lack of treatment, ignorance regarding transmission routes and political interests all meant that the disease spread rapidly.

When the cholera epidemic ravaged Denmark in 1853, Danish Golden Age artist Christoffer Wilhelm Eckersberg (1783–1853) became one of its most prominent victims. A diligent diary writer, Eckersberg wrote soberly about his everyday life, focusing on weather, excursions and health. Being a professor at the art academy, he and his family lived at Charlottenborg in the heart of Copenhagen. From here, he reported on those fateful days in the summer of 1853:

On 26 June, he wrote, 'Yesterday we had the news that Cholera had broken out here in Copenhagen'. On 12 July he noted: 'Sadly, cholera is on the rise. From the 11th to the 12th, reports were made of 84 sick and 46 dead. All in all, 560 patients have been reported, of whom 310 have died'. On 15 July, he states that the disease has entered the Academy:

"Our porter, Hansen, was taken ill this afternoon". And the very next day: "16 July Saturday. Hansen, our porter, died last night at 10½ of cholera. The disease progressed very rapidly. Reports were made of 350 sick and 137 dead. To this day, a total of 1232 sick and 632 dead have been reported". On 19 July, Eckersberg made his last entry in his diary: "19. Tuesday. Last night I didn't feel better. I had diarrhoea all day. Yesterday, Professor Christensen prescribed a mixture of which I was to take one spoonful every hour". Eckersberg died three days later on 22 July 1853.

Eckersberg's daughter, Julie Eckersberg, wrote about the cholera outbreak: 'Then came the infinitely sad year of 1853, when cholera swept across the city of Copenhagen. At Charlottenborg it struck with particular severity. Many of the officers and their children died, and Father went among the families, comforting them wherever he could. One almost shuddered at looking out across the square outside, where the saddest sight imaginable could still be seen, with hearses and hauliers carrying coffins away'. Regarding her father's funeral, she writes: 'It was eerie in the extreme that none of the bearers dared to venture into the house. Even the priest and the few who accompanied the dear deceased out to the cemetery gathered outside in the street'.

Eckersberg was buried in Assistens Cemetery, which had been established in 1760 as an auxiliary ('assistant') burial ground when Copenhagen's overcrowded and hazardous plague cemeteries were abolished.



Sider fra Eckersbergs dagbog fra februar 1853 med hans egen optegnelser. De sidste måneder han levede diktrede han på grund af dårligt syn til sine døtre, derskrev ned.

Pages from Eckersberg's diary from February 1853, featuring entries done in his own hand. Due to failing eyesight, the last months of his life saw him dictating to his daughters instead.



Illustration af en ung kvinde fra Wien, som døde af kolera. Hun er afhåndet døds som rank, og som hun så ud fire timer før hun døde.

A young woman of Vienna who died of cholera, depicted when healthy and four hours before death.



INTET SOM FØR
FØLD EPIDEMIERNES SPOR GENMED LANDETS STØRSTE KUNSTSAMLING

A CHANGED WORLD
TRACKING EPIDEMICS IN DENMARK'S LARGEST ART COLLECTION

Christoffer Wilhelm Eckersberg (1783–1853)
Parti ved Fontana Acetosa
 View from the Fontana Acetosa, Rome
 1814–1816



KOLERA
Cholera

Vi kender mest dannelsesrejsernes Rom fra idylliske og satiriske folkelivsscener af gyder, osteriaer og vingårde, malef af de mange unge, danske kunstnere, der mellem 1810erne og -40erne boede i Rom. Men billede af det romantske Rom kan hurtigt sættes i perspektiv. De små landskabsstudier af Eckersberg viser et mere karskt og øde landskab. De afslører en flig af et andet Rom og den romerske Campagnas enorme øde, som lå uden om bykernen. Hård afgrænsning med kreaturer havde fort til jordflugt. Vandet samledes i lavninger, hvor den frygtede malaria trivedes. Reverne lå på lur på vejen til og fra Den evige stad. Landskabet var praktisk taget ubeboliget mange kilometer uden for Rom. Inde i Rom hærgede koleraen i lange perioder, med nedlukninger og fremmedangst til følge. Byen blev samtidig styret ganske brutalt af den katolske kirke.

Wilhelm Marstrand beskriver situationen i Rom i et brev til sin mor, den 29. august 1837:

"Choleraen er i Rom og har nu været her i 6 Uger. Naar man ikke søger at erkynndige sig om hvordan det gaaer, mærker man imidlertid intet til den Isaa stor en By, i hvis sundeste Deel, på monte Pincio, vi Fremmede næsten alle boe; men den fordums Lysthed, Glads og Pragt er forsvundet. I Begyndelsen troede Folket, ledet af det nedrige Pak, Præsterne, at de Fremmede havde bragt Sygdommen ved at forgifte Vandet og der forefaldt adskillige Excesser. En Englænder, som i Trastevere gav et Barn en Kringle blev F.eks. saaledes paa det ynkligste myrdet. Paven er angst og har sendt bud efter øster rigske Regimenter."

Cecilie Høgsbro Østergaard, SMK

In Denmark, the general image of Rome in the days of the Grand Tours was mostly formed by idyllic and satirical scenes set in alleys, osterias and vineyards, painted and sent home to Denmark by the many young artists who settled in the city between the 1810s and 1840s. But this romantic idea of Rome can easily be contrasted and put into a wider context: the small landscape studies done by Eckersberg show a harsher, more desolate landscape. They reveal a glimpse of another Rome and of the vast, barren Roman Campagna outside the city centre. Overgrazing with cattle had caused the soil to erode and disappear. Water gathered in low-lying areas where the dreaded malaria thrived. Robbers laid in wait on the roads leading to and from the Eternal City. The countryside was practically uninhabitable for many kilometres outside Rome. Inside Rome, cholera raged for long periods at a time, resulting in shutdowns and xenophobia. At the same time, the city was quite brutally ruled by the Catholic Church.

Wilhelm Marstrand described the situation in Rome in a letter to his mother, 29 August 1837:

'The cholera has entered Rome and been here for 6 weeks now. However, unless one deliberately seeks to find out how things are faring, one feels virtually no pangs of the disease itself, which tends to disappear in this vast city, where almost all of us foreigners live in its healthiest part, on Monte Pincio; but the merriment, lustre and splendour previously found here have disappeared. At first the people, led by those vile ruffians, the priests, believed that foreigners had brought in the disease by poisoning the water, prompting several painful incidents. For example, an Englishman who gave a cake to a child in Trastevere was most horribly and pitifully murdered. The pope is greatly afraid and has sent for Austrian regiments.'

Cecilie Høgsbro Østergaard, SMK



Christoffer Wilhelm Eckersberg (1783–1853)
Parti ved Fontana Acetosa
 1814–1816
 Maleri
 Olie på lærred
 25.5cm (h) x 44.5cm (b)
 SMK. KMS2099
 Udstillet på SMK i Sal 217C

Kolera – et nyt København

Cholera – a new Copenhagen

VIBRIO CHOLERAE

FORTÆLLINGER OM HVORDAN EPIDEMIER HAR FORMET
HISTORIEN, KUNSTEN OG DET ENKELTE Menneskes Liv
LÆSETID: 3 MINUTTER

STORIES ABOUT HOW EPIDEMICS HAVE SHAPED
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Da koleraepidemien hærgede i det overbefolkede København i 1853, havde lægerne kun ringe viden om sygdommens årsager. Man var uenige om hvorvidt sygdommen var "kontagios", altså smittede fra person til person, eller om den var "miasmatisk", dvs. smittede gennem "dårlig luft" og urenhed. En voldsom strid udspillede sig mellem "miasmatikerne" og "kontagionisterne". Et nyt liberalt borgerskab var kritisk over for ideen om at forhindre borgernes og handelens frie bevægelighed gennem de karantæneforanstaltninger, som eneveldskongen havde haft stort succes med at indføre under den voldsomme pest i 1711. Under koleraen vandt den miasmatistiske teori derfor i første omgang over den kontagionistiske. Sandheden lå et sted midt imellem: både afstand og en god hygiene var uomgängelig, hvis epidemien skulle indeddemes og smittespredning undgås. Epidemien afsloredede de elendige hygiejiske forhold i byen, hvor bl.a. hospitalerne ikke havde kapacitet til de mange patienter, og man blev derfor nødt til at oprette teltleje uden for voldene.

Erfaringerne fra koleraepidemien førte i årtierne efter til mange ændringer i samfundet. Der blev opført nye hospitaler som fx Kommunehospitalet i København fra 1863, et moderne hospital med vandklosetter. Her kunne man modtage mange patienter i tilfældet af nye epidemiudbrud. Man kloakerede, så spildevand ikke forurenede driftevandsforsyningerne, nedlagde voldene og opførte sundere boliger og rekreative områder uden for bykerne, i København fx Brumleby og Østre Anlæg med et nyt nationalt galleri, SMK. Udviklingen gik dog langsomt, da mange borgere havde været imod kloakering lige siden de første planer blev fremlagt i 1840'erne. Langt op i 1800-tallet var der en stor industri omkring salg, køb og transport af indholdet fra københavnernes latriner (løkummer), ligesom grund ejere mente, at kloakering på deres jord var et indgreb i den private ejendomsret.



Konstateren, der blev kaldt "Fattig-Holm", har malet et bilde af et teltleje uden for voldene under koleraepidemien.

The artist, colloquially known as 'Poor-Man-Holm', has painted a picture of a camp outside the Copenhagen ramparts during the cholera epidemic.

Forfatteren Vilhelm Bergsøe var ung i 1853 og oplevede koleraepidemien på nært hold, da han var blevet i København med sin far, mens resten af familien var taget på landet for at undgå smitten:

“Sommeren kom i al sin Pragt og Hellighed med Varme, Sol og duftende Blomster. Skoven stod i sin fejreste Pragt, over alt smykkede Naturen sig til Fest, men midt under disse straalende Omgivelser, midt under Natrens spændte, fremrydrende Liv luredes den snigende Død, og dens rangløgne Benrådsikkelse tog sig dobbelt forfærdelig ud ved Solskin, Al Glæde og Frejdighed var som puslet bort af Dagens Kande [...] Ligt efter lidt kom København til at ligne en belejret By, hvor man kampede mod en usynlig Fjende, som skæd med fregtede Pil. Man frystede tilslids Aft, selv Dagens Sol og Aftens Taage, ja Steenstrup [Japetus Steenstrup] sikk endog saa vidt, at han mente at kunne se Smitsstoffet flimre i Luften ved Solnedgang. Man holdt sig derfor hjemme saa meget som muligt, og som et Eksempel paa, hvor folketomme Gaderne lidt efter lidt blevne, især i Byens østre Del, staal i leg anfore, at jeg en Dag vendrede fra Toldboden gennem Amaliagade til Kongens Nytorv, uden at møde Andet end Garnisons Kirkes Ligvogn.”

Fra Vilhelm Bergsøes erindringer, 1900.

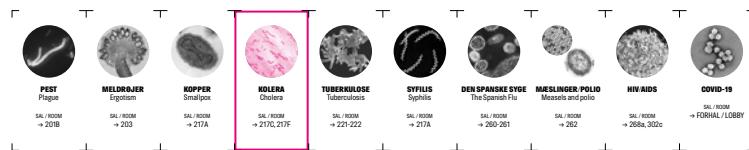
When the cholera epidemic ravaged the overcrowded city of Copenhagen 1853, doctors had little knowledge of the causes of the disease. There was disagreement about whether the disease was 'contagious', meaning that it was transmitted from person to person, or 'miasmatic', i.e. transmitted through 'bad air' and lack of cleanliness. A fierce struggle ensued between the 'miasmatists' and the 'contagionists'. The new, liberal bourgeoisie class disliked the idea of preventing the free movement of citizens and trade by using the kind of quarantine measures that had been so successfully introduced by the Danish king during the ferocious plague of 1711. Hence, the miasmatist theory initially prevailed over the contagionist camp. The truth lay somewhere in between: social distancing and good hygiene were both essential if the epidemic was to be contained and the spread of infection avoided. The epidemic clearly revealed the miserable hygienic conditions in the city; for example, the hospitals did not have adequate capacity for the many patients, which meant that tent camps had to be set up outside the city ramparts.

The lessons learnt from the cholera epidemic prompted many changes in society from the mid-nineteenth century onwards. New hospitals were built, such as the Municipal Hospital in Copenhagen from 1863 – a modern hospital equipped with facilities such as water closets, and one which could receive many patients in the event of new epidemics. Sewage systems were installed to prevent wastewater from contaminating the drinking water supplies, the ramparts were removed, and healthier homes and recreational areas were built outside the city centres; in Copenhagen, these projects included Brumleby and the Østre Anlæg Park, which was also the site of a new national gallery, SMK. However, development was slow, as many citizens had opposed the building of sewers ever since the first plans were presented in the 1840s. Up until the nineteenth century, the sale, purchase and transport of the contents of the Copenhagen latrines was a major industry, and many landowners believed that running sewers under their property was an encroachment on private property rights.

The author Vilhelm Bergsøe, who was a young man in 1853, saw the results of the cholera epidemic first hand when he remained in Copenhagen with his father while the rest of the family set out for the countryside to avoid infection:

“Summer came in all its splendour and glory, bringing warmth, sun and fragrant flowers. The forest stood in its most festive finery, everywhere nature adorned itself for celebration, but in the midst of these radiant surroundings, in the midst of nature's budding, teeming life lurked the creeping death, and its rattling skeletal figure looked doubly awful in the sunshine. All joy and gladness were as if purged away by the foetid breath of Death [...] Little by little, Copenhagen came to resemble a city under siege, fighting an invisible enemy who fired poisoned arrows. In the end, everything was seen as something to be feared, even the sun of the day and the fog of the evening, and Steenstrup [Japetus Steenstrup] even went so far as to think that he could see the infectious substance flickering in the air at sunset. Accordingly, all folk stayed at home as much as possible, and as an example of how empty the streets gradually became, especially in the eastern part of the city, I can say that one day I walked from Toldboden through Amaliagade to Kongens Nytorv, without meeting anyone other than the Garrison Church hearse”.

From the memoirs of Vilhelm Bergsøe, 1900.





Vilhelm Kyhn (1819-1903)

I lysthuset

1858-1859

Maleri

Olie på lærred

188cm (h) x 182cm (b)

SMK. KMS4287

Ikke udstillet p.t.

INTET SOM FØR
FØLG EPIDEMIERNES SPOR GENNEM LANDETS STØRSTE KUNSTSAMLING

A CHANGED WORLD
TRACKING EPIDEMICS IN DENMARK'S LARGEST ART COLLECTION

Vilhelm Kyhn (1819–1903)

I lysthuset

In the Arbour

1858-59



Da koleraepidemien hærgede i det overbefolkede København, trak borgerskabet sig tilbage til landsteder uden for byen, hvor luften var bedre, befolkningstætheden mindre og tempoet lavere. Kyhn brugte venner og familie som modeller i denne landlige fantasi om et sundt, lystfyldt og ubekymret liv viet til kærligheden: kærlighed mellem mand og kvinde, kærlighed til naturen, kærlighed til fædrelandet.

Engareaerne ud til Sankt Jergens Sø ved kunstnerens egen bolig og atelier på Farimagsvej blev nogle år efter dette maleris tilblivelse inddraget i forbindelse med anlæggelse af fem store vandrensningsfilter, som medvirkede til at forsyne københavnerne med renere vand, belært af koleraen. Kyhn ærgrede sig til det sidste over tabet af det smukke, næsten arkadiske landskab ned til søen, som han havde brugt i flere af sine malerier.

When the cholera epidemic ravaged the overcrowded city of Copenhagen, the bourgeoisie withdrew to country houses outside the city where the air was better, the population density lower and the pace of life slower. Kyhn used friends and family as models in this rural fantasy of a healthy, joyful and carefree life devoted to love: love between man and woman, love of nature, love of one's nation.

A few years after this painting was created, the meadows leading down to the lake by the artist's own home and his studio on Farimagsvej were commandeered for the installation of five large water purification filters which helped to provide Copenhagen with cleaner water – a necessity made clear by the cholera. To his dying day, Kyhn regretted the loss of the beautiful, almost Arcadian landscape leading down to the lake, portrayed in several of his paintings.

Tuberkulose og det moderne gennembrud

Tuberculosis and the Modern Breakthrough

MYCOBACTERIUM TUBERCULOSIS

FORTÆLLINGER OM HVORDAN EPIDEMIER HAR FORMET HISTORIEN, KUNSTEN OG DET ENKELTE Menneskes Liv
LÆSETID: 2 MINUTTER

STORIES ABOUT HOW EPIDEMICS HAVE SHAPED HISTORY, ART AND THE LIFE OF THE INDIVIDUAL
READ TIME: 2 MINUTES

Mange millioner mennesker døde af tuberkulose mellem 1700- og 1900-tallet. Trods sin ekstreme dodelighed var tuberkulosen fra starten af 1800-tallet omgårdet af romantik. Kunstnere gav "den hvide død" et godt ry, og sygdommen skabte mode. Poeten Lord Byron drømte ligefrem om at die tuberkulosededen: "For da vil alle kvinder sige: Se på stakkels Byron, så interessant han ser ud, når han der." Mange prominente kunstnere omkom af tuberkulose. De blev mytologiseret som genier, som "de unge døde".

I kunsten begyndte man at dyrke den blege drømmer med slanke lemmer og melankolske øjne frem for den klassiske, kraftfulde atlet. Man mente, tuberkulose, eller tæring, forfinede den syge træk, og at ofrene var særligt åndfulde og erotiske. Dertil kom, at sygdommen kunne dulmes med opium og dyre ophold på sanatorier. Det var den "gode død", hvor man ikke blev vanskært eller omkom indsmurt i uhumiske kropsvasker. I sin mest udbrude form, lungetuberkulose, var sygdommen dog langt fra skøn, men en tit mangeårig lidelse, der endte med, at patienten druknede i sit eget blod. "Blodstyrtingen" gav i senromantikken anledning til dyrkelse af vampyrer, der suger ungts blod for at opnå udedelighed.

Sidst i 1800-tallet ændrede opfattelsen af tuberkulose sig fuldstændigt: man opdagede tuberkulosebakterien og nu blev sygdommen forbundet med dårlig hygiejne og fattigdom i de industrialiserede storbyer. I tiden omkring 1900 var tuberkulose stadig en stor dræber, og kunsten begyndte at beskæftige sig med sygdommens hæsighed og sociale slagsider frem for en idealiseret "nerveade", som digteren August Strindberg kaldte de sygelige genier. Nerveadelene levede dog videre som kunstnertype langt op i 1900-tallet, med en kulmination i 1980'ernes punk og sorte, nyromantiske digtning.



Lord Byron døde som 36-årig i 1824 af uspecifisk infektion, formentlig af tæring. Han bemande den tuberkulose digter John Keats, der dømtes i Rom i 1821, blot 26 år gammel.

Lord Byron died at the age of 36 in 1824 of an unspecified fever, likely worsened by bloodletting. He admired the tuberculosis poet John Keats, who died in Rome in 1821, just 26 years old.



Som barn mistede Edvard Munch sin mor og søster, der begge døde af tuberkulose. Han var mestisk præget af denne familiær tragedie gennem hele sin produktion. Den maleriske fræs fra 1894 viser broderen og søster, who both died of tuberculosis. His art remains highly influenced by this family tragedy throughout his career. Find this painting at SMK in room 270B.

As a child, Edvard Munch lost his mother and sister, who both died of tuberculosis. His art remains highly influenced by this family tragedy throughout his career. Find this painting at SMK in room 270B.

Millions of people died of tuberculosis between the eighteenth and twentieth centuries. Despite its extreme mortality, tuberculosis was veiled in a sheen of romance from the outset. Artists gave 'the White Death', also known as 'the White Plague', a good reputation, and the disease influenced fashion. The poet Lord Byron even dreamed of dying of tuberculosis, also known as consumption: 'For then all women will say: See that poor Byron - how interesting he looks in dying!' Many prominent artists died of tuberculosis. They were mythologised as geniuses, as 'the young dead'.

Artists began to cultivate the figure of the pale dreamer with slender limbs and melancholy eyes rather than the classic, powerful athlete. It was believed that consumption refined the features of the patient and that the victims were particularly spiritual and erotic. In addition, the disease could only be alleviated with opium and expensive stays in sanatoriums. It was the 'good death', one which did not leave one disfigured or dying covered in unsightly bodily fluids. However, in its most prevalent form, pulmonary tuberculosis, this disease was far from lovely; often lasting many years, the affliction ultimately ended with the patient drowning in their own blood. In the late Romantic period, such pulmonary haemorrhages gave rise to the widespread interest in vampires who suck the blood of the young to achieve immortality.

In the late nineteenth century, the outlook on consumption changed completely: the tuberculosis bacterium was discovered, and now the disease became associated with the poor hygiene and poverty found in the industrialised cities. Around 1900, tuberculosis was still a major killer, and art began to address the squalor and social inequality associated with the disease rather than an idealized 'nobility of nerve', as the poet August Strindberg called the sickly, consumptive geniuses. However, such 'nobles of nerve' continued to live on as an artist type well into the twentieth century, culminating in 1980s punk and dark, neo-Romantic poetry.



Luftbad på et kursted i Davos i de schweiziske alper, hvor Thomas Mann opstod sin berømte tuberculosis-roman fra 1924, *Trældomssjælens udspiller* sig.

Hans Mann beskrives som en af de bedste, inden da gennemlevende leverede liv på den ene side er normal, ukonflikteret og tapper; den anden er endog færd gennem dedet; det er genet.

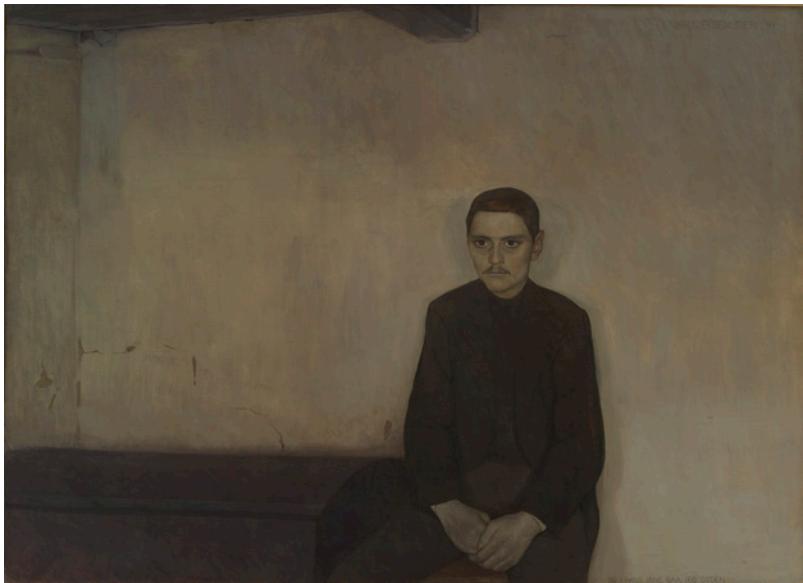
Air bath at a health resort in Davos in the Swiss Alps, the setting of Thomas Mann's spectacular tuberculosis novel from 1924, *The Magic Mountain*. As Mann describes it, there are two very different ways of living: one is normal, straightforward and brave, the other is evil and leads through death: it is the path of genius.



Op på fortærringen Herman Bangs mor døde af tuberkulose, da hun var en lille pige af tre år. Som barn var han også udygtig og svag, men efter at tuberkulosen slæshedede ham, havde han i 1890'erne del af det mere eller mindre eksentriske bohemiet, der holdt til på Café Bernica på Vesterbrogade i København.

The author Hermann Bang's mother died of tuberculosis when he was a child, an event which made a deep imprint on his work. For his own part, he public persona seemed to be modelled on a tuberculosis bacterium. In the 1890s, he was part of a more or less eccentric bohemian scene centred on Café Bernica on Vesterbrogade in Copenhagen.





Ejnar Nielsen (1872 – 1956)
Og i hans øjne så jeg døden
1897
Maleri
olie på lærred
137cm (h) x 188cm (b)
SMK. KMS1832
© Ejnar Nielsen / VISDA
Udstillet på SMK i Sal 221

INTET SOM FØR
FØLG EPIDEMIERNES SPOR GENNEM LANDETS STØRSTE KUNSTSAMMLING

A CHANGED WORLD
TRACKING EPIDEMICS IN DENMARK'S LARGEST ART COLLECTION

Ejnar Nielsen (1872–1956)
Og i hans øjne så jeg døden
And in His Eyes I Saw Death
1897

Erik Kjærsgaard var en af de mange, som i 1890'erne blev ramt af lungetuberkulose. Ejnar Nielsen mødte ham i 1897 i den midtjyske by Gjern. Året efter tegnede Nielsen den unge mand på dødslejet.

Blandt Ejnar Nielsens dystre skæbefortællinger fra årene i Gjern 1894-1900, som også omfatter *Den syge pige*, der hænger til venstre, er dette maleri det mest uafrystelige. Som beskuer kan man ikke lade blikket og tanker vandre. Man fastholder i en dialog om det uundgåelige, om døden. Hvis blikket seger væk, standses det af den mørke lådkiste, og bag den unge mand breder lungeskyggen sig. Alt er sat ind på at understrege og formidle den totale afmagtsfejelse i dette dødens venteværelse. Men samtidig vækker Kjærsgaard med sine smukke træk og melankolske kunstnerskikkelse, som man havde fremelsket tidligere i århundredet.

Peter Nørgaard Larsen, SMK

TUBERKULOSE
Tuberculosis

Erik Kjærsgaard was among the many Danes who contracted pulmonary tuberculosis in the 1890s. Ejnar Nielsen met him in 1897 in the central Jutland town of Gjern. The following year, Nielsen drew the young man on his deathbed.

Among Ejnar Nielsen's gloomy portrayals of dark fates from his years in Gjern 1894–1900, which also includes *The Sick Girl* to the left, this painting is the most haunting of them all. It holds our gaze and thoughts, never allowing them to wander. Here we are locked into a conversation about the inevitable, about death. If the eye seeks to escape, it is stopped by the dark lid of the coffin-like chest, and lung-like shadows fan out behind the young man. Every effort goes towards conveying the feeling of utter powerlessness in this waiting room of death. But at the same time, the sitter's beautiful features and melancholy eyes evokes memories of the Romantic artist ravaged by tuberculosis, a figure that had been much cultivated earlier in the century.

Peter Nørgaard Larsen, SMK

Den spanske syge og 1. verdenskrig

The Spanish Flu and World War I

H1N1 INFLUENZA A

FORTÆLLINGER OM HVORDAN EPIDEMIER HAR FORMET
HISTORIEN, KUNSTEN OG DET ENKELTE Menneskes Liv

LÆSETID: 3:30 MINUTTER

STORIES ABOUT HOW EPIDEMICS HAVE SHAPED
HISTORY, ART AND THE LIFE OF THE INDIVIDUAL

READ TIME: 3:30 MINUTES

Det er 100 år siden, Danmark sidst blev ramt af en mystisk influenzapandemi. Fra sommeren 1918 til foråret 1920 hærgede "den spanske syge", der trods navnet stammede fra Asien eller USA. Sygdommen gik hårdest ud over unge, børn og gravide. Ca. 50 millioner døde på verdensplan, i Danmark 15.000 – 18.000. Den spanske syge er blevet kaldt "den glemtte epidemি", selvom den krævede langt flere ofre end den verdenskrig, den kom i kelvandet på. I Danmark gav epidemiloven politikere og myndigheder beføjelser til omfattende indgreb, men det gik langsomt, og ansvaret blev overladt til befolkningen. Pandemien sande helte siges i dag at være de sygeplejersker og frivillige, mest kvinder, der tog sig af den syge og efterladte. De fik aldrig stemme i historiebøgerne. Pandemien satte alligevel dybe spor, især i litteraturen. Selvom Danmark var neutralt under krigen og kom glat igennem, er årene efter blevet kaldt "angstens år".

I romanen *Jørgen Stein* (1937) indkasper Jacob Paludan tiden således: "Som en høj, sort bolgering havde den spanske syge pludselig rojet sig sig skydele, sydtra op mod Danmark; en panik greb i disse dage alle. Om dens sammentraften med krig og umattelte var en tilfældighed ej, vidste man ikke, men den havde lighed med en gudsdom, sendt for at lære både de sunde og de neutrale skrek, føre dem, at ingen skal tro sig sikker."

Forfatteren Harald Kidde omkom, mens fx Karin Michaëlis, Henrik Pontoppidan og Tom Kristensen skrev indgående om sygen. I det krigsmærkte Wien døde kunstneren Egon Schiele, hans hustru og deres ufedte barn i løbet af en uge. Ser man på dansk billedkunst i årene 1918 til 1920 er det nærliggende, at sygdomsangst og de samfunds-mæssige ændringer, som pandemien medførte, også har haft sin indflydelse. Vilhelm Lundstrøm formulerede på denne tid sit program om simpelhed og materisk orden hen imod et mere "hygiejinsk" formsprog. Han fik betydelig indflydelse på udsmynkningen af funktionalismens sundhedsfremmede byggerier, med Frederiksberg svømmehal som et hovedværk. Olaf Rude havde i pandemiaråene en intens kubistisk periode, der lever op til Lundstrøms program. Og i Jais Nielsens malerier sporer man i særlig grad en hektisk og nerves uro i denne periode. Men især kunstdebatten var bemærkelsesværdig på dette tidspunkt. Mens pandemien rasede, lancerede bakteriologen C.J. Salomonsen sin teori om en smitsom psykose: dysmorfismen. Han mente, at moderne malere, der arbejdede i et formsprog langt fra det guldaldermaleri, han foretrak, var smittet. Det rejste en massiv debat om moderne kunst og dens samfunds-mæssige betydning. Læs mere om den historie ved sal 270 A på denne etage.



Den spanske syge ramte i første omgang soldaterne, der kompede i værelserne med sygeplejerske og døde før sygeplejerske Mathilde Nielsen, som arbejdede ved Frederiksberg Svømmehal. Den spanske syge var altså ikke under kontrollen. Det skete, at 25% af alle landets sygeplejerske døde under pandemien, som ellers blev beskrevet som en hærskende influenza.

The Spanish flu initially hit soldiers who brought it back from the front. The first Danish victim to die from the disease was the nurse Mathilde Nielsen, who worked at the Frederiksberg Swimming Pool. The Spanish flu was not under control. It was estimated that 25% of all the nurses in Denmark died from the flu, which the press and authorities were keen to describe as harmless.



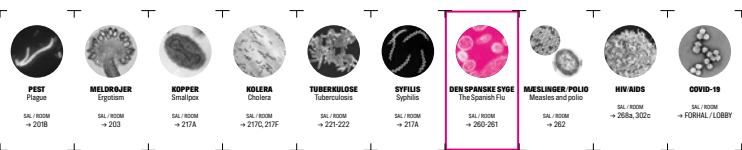
Danmarks første kvindelige kirurg Anna Sabroe (1889-1933) udviklede en teknik til at trække ud af lungene, som i modsætning til legernes ofteffekte kure med purvur, brænde og aspirin var vigtig for at redde patienter.

Danmarkens første kvindelige kirurg, Anna Sabroe (1889-1933), developed a technique for draining lungs which, in contrast to the often ineffective cures of physicians with purgatives, fire and aspirin, actually proved life-saving for the most seriously affected.



Egon Schiele døde få dage efter, at han havde fremstillet dette bilde for en hærvækkende avis om, hvordan hans hustru og ungebarn omkommet. Der hersker i dag usikrhed om hvem han havde i billede. Nogle mener, at det er Edith Hamm, og den infant der omkom, men andre mener, at billedet er blevet set som en forudsigelse af familienes udestyrke.

Egon Schiele died a few days after having painted this portrait for a sensational newspaper about how his wife and unborn child perished shortly before. Today scholars disagree about whether the woman in the painting is Edith Hamm or her infant child, but the painting has been read as an omen heralding the family's end.



A hundred years have gone by since Denmark was last hit by a mysterious flu pandemic. From the summer of 1918 to the spring of 1920, the Spanish flu swept through the land. Despite its name, the disease originated in Asia or the United States, and it hit young people, children and pregnant women the hardest. App. 50 million died worldwide; in Denmark the death toll was 15,000–18,000. The Spanish flu has been called 'the forgotten epidemic' even though it claimed far more victims than the war in whose wake it followed. In Denmark, the Epidemic Act gave politicians and authorities the power to make extensive interventions, but things happened only very slowly, leaving the people to assume responsibility for the situation themselves. The true heroes of the pandemic are those nurses and volunteers, mostly women, who cared for the sick and the bereaved. And they never got a voice in the history books. The pandemic nevertheless left deep traces, especially in literature. Although Denmark remained neutral during the war and came out on the other side unscathed, the years that followed have been called the 'years of anxiety'.

In his novel *Jørgen Stein* (1937), Jacob Paludan sums up the era as follows:

"Like a tall, black ring of waves, the Spanish flu had suddenly risen and surged up towards Denmark from the south; a panic took hold of everyone in those days. Whether its arrival in the immediate wake of war and exhaustion was a coincidence or not, we do not know, but it was akin to a judgment of God, sent to teach the healthy and the neutral the meaning of terror, to let them know that no-one should believe themselves safe".

The author Harald Kidde died from the disease, while fellow writers such as Karin Michaëlis, Henrik Pontoppidan and Tom Kristensen wrote detailed accounts of the illness. In Vienna, the artist Egon Schiele, his wife and their unborn child all died within a week. Looking at Danish art from the years 1918 to 1920, it appears that anxiety about the disease and the various changes brought about by the pandemic had an impact on the visual arts, too. Vilhelm Lundstrøm formulated a programme of simplicity and painterly order, aiming for a more 'hygienic' idiom. He had a significant influence on the decoration of the various new modernist buildings created to promote public health, with the Frederiksberg swimming pool as a main masterpiece. Olaf Rude went through an intense Cubist period during the pandemic years, tying in well with Lundstrøm's programme. Jais Nielsen's paintings from this period have a particularly hectic and nervous sense of restlessness. However, perhaps the most remarkable tendency on the art scene around this time concerns the issue of art theory. While the pandemic was raging, the bacteriologist C.J. Salomonsen launched his theory of an infectious psychosis, dysmorphism. He believed that modern painters working with an aesthetic far removed from the Golden Age-style painting he preferred were infected by this contagious disease. The theory prompted massive debate about modern art and its societal significance. For more about that story, visit the areas next to room 270 A on this floor.



Olaf Rude (1886-1957)

Komposition 2

1918

Maleri

Olie på lærred

100.2cm (h) x 125.3cm (b)

SMK. KMS7641

© Olaf Rude / VISDA

Udstillet på SMK i Sal 260

(Værket understøtter plancheteksten til venstre
samtid fortællingen om dysformisme)

Carl Julius Salomonsen (1847–1924)

Dysmorfisme

Dysmorphism

Midt under den spanske syge udgav den stærkt kunstinteresserede læge, Carl Julius Salomonsen, bogen *De nyeste kunstretninger og smitsomme sindssidelser* (1919). Heri argumenterede han for, at samtidens moderne kunst var sygligt van-skabt, "dysmorph", og at moderne kunstnere led af en "epidemisk Psykose", der bl.a. forvrængede synet. Han samlede alle tiden kunstretninger – ekspressionisme, cubisme og futurisme – under én helt ny -isme: "Dysmorphisme".

Salomonsen talte med særlig autoritet. Som forsker og læge var han ansvarlig for mange af epidemiologiens største fremskridt. Han havde i 1878 været med til at påvise, at tuberkulose er en bakteriel infektions-sygd og han blev verdens første universitetslektor i bakteriologi. I 1895 oprettede han *Serotherapeutisk Laboratorium*, hvor man påbegyndte fremstilling af difteriserum til udvikling af en vaccine mod denne dodelige halsinfektion. Laboratoriet blev i 1901 om-dannet til Statens Serum Institut med Salomonsen som direktør 1902-09. I 1907 var han medstifter af Medicin-Historisk Museum, der i dag kaldes Medicinsk Museion og er beliggende i Kirurgisk Akademis tidligere bygning i Bredgade.

Man kan forestille sig, at influenzapandemien i 1918-20 sammen med Salomonsens forskerstatus må have givet teorien om en smitsom sindssidelse medvind i befolkningen. Men Salomonsens påståede forte især til en af Danmarkshistoriens mest ophedede kunst-debatter med kritisk deltagelse af Poul Henningsen, Otto Gelsted og mange billedkunstnere, som man kan læse citater af i rummet her. Psykiatrien var heller ikke begejstret. Den fremtrædende psykiater, Knud H. Krabbe var enig med Salomonsen i hans æstetiske kritik, men han opfordrede til, at andre lager ville undlade at misbruge hans fag, som Salomonsen gjorde. Psykiatrien havde problemer nok endda som »den Disciplin indenfor Medicinen, der har de vanskelig-ste Kaar som Videnskab, fordi dens Metoder er de ufuldkomneste«.

While the Spanish flu epidemic raged, the Danish doctor Carl Julius Salomonsen, who was keenly interested in art, published the book *De nyeste kunstretninger og smitsomme sindssidelser* (*Concerning the Most Recent Art Movements and Contagious Mental Illnesses*, 1919). In it, he argued that contemporary modern art was morbidly deformed, 'dysmorphic', and that modern artists suffered from an 'epidemic psychosis', the symptoms of which included distorted eyesight. He combined all the art forms of the time – Expressionism, Cubism and Futurism – under a single, completely new -ism, which he called 'Dysmorphism'.

Salomonsen spoke from a position of special authority. As a researcher and physician, he was responsible for many of the greatest advances in epidemiology. In 1878 he had helped prove that tuberculosis is a bacterial infectious disease, and he became the world's first university lecturer in bacteriology. In 1895 he set up the *Serotherapeutic Laboratory*, which launched the manufacture of diphtheria serum in order to develop a vaccine against this deadly throat infection. In 1901, the laboratory was transformed into the *Statens Serum Institut* (SSI) with Salomonsen as director from 1902 to 1909. In 1907 he was co-founder of the Museum of Medical History, now known as the Medical Museion in the former building of the Surgical Academy in Bredgade.

One can well imagine that the flu pandemic of 1918-20, together with Salomonsen's status as a leading man of science, made the Danish population receptive to his theory of a contagious mental illness. However, Salomonsen's claims most prominently prompted one of the most heated art debates ever seen in Danish history, involving prominent Danish figures such as Poul Henningsen, Otto Gelsted and many artists; quotes from the discussion can be found in this room. The psychiatric community was not thrilled either. The prominent psychiatrist Knud H. Krabbe agreed with Salomonsen's aesthetic critique, but at the same time urged other doctors to refrain from abusing their profession the way Salomonsen did. Psychiatry had enough problems of its own already, being 'the one discipline within medicine which faces the most difficult conditions as a science, because its methods are less complete'.

Børnesygdomme Mæslinger og Polio

Childhood illnesses Measles and Polio

MORBILI + POLIOMYELITIS

FORTÆLLINGER OM HVORDAN EPIDEMIER HAR FORMET
HISTORIEN, KUNSTEN OG DET ENKELTE Menneskes Liv
LÆSETID: 2:30 MINUTTER

STORIES ABOUT HOW EPIDEMICS HAVE SHAPED
HISTORY, ART AND THE LIFE OF THE INDIVIDUAL
READ TIME: 2:30 MINUTES

Betegnelsen "børnesygdomme" dækkede ferhen over en række infektionssygdomme, som man mente børn måtte igennem som en del af deres fysiske og psykiske modning. Moderne vaccinationsprogrammer har imidlertid gjort flere af de oprindelige børnesygdomme som røde hunde og mæslinger til en sjældenhed, og kun et fåtal mener i dag, at sygdom er direkte vigtig for børns udvikling.

Der er de sidste 150 år til gengæld gjort en kolossal indsats for at sænke børnedødeligheden, som frem til 2. verdenskrig var forfærdende høj i Danmark. Epidemier af mæslinger og difteri ledte til smertelige tab af børn, som skildret indirekte hos Astrid Noack eller direkte hos Harald Slott-Møller (sal 222). I 1846 kortlagde den danske læge, Peter Panum, mæslingers smitteveje under systematiske og i dag verdensberømte studier på Færøerne, i 1954 blev selve virus opdaget, og i 1963 blev en egentlig vaccine tilgængelig. Børnesygdomme, som vi i Vesten mener er under kontrol, slår dog stadig mange ihjel på verdensplan.

En anden frygtet sygdom, der ramte især børn i større epidemier, var polio. En virusygdom, der kan medføre total lammelse i løbet af få timer. En af de kendteste poliotrænter i kunsten er mexicanske Frida Kahlo, der i sit værk skildrede senfølgerne af sin sygdom, som yderligere blev kompliceret af en trafikulykke. Den sidste store policepidemi ramte Danmark, specielt København, i 1952 og er blevet internationalt kendt, fordi det var her, man begyndte at "ventilere" de lammede patienter og eksperimentere med de første respiratorer, som også har haft betydning i behandlingen af COVID-19-patienter. "Københavner-epidemien" blev starten på et helt nyt medicinsk speciale, anæstesiologi, det følelige speciale, der tager sig af bedøvelse og intensiv behandling. En vaccine blev tilgængelig i 1955.

Vacciner har, trods deres generelle succes altid været omdiskuteret. Fremmer eller ødelægger de helbredet? Skal vi bekæmpe sygdomme eller alliere os med dem? Vaccinationsscener med børn udgør ikke desto mindre en hel genre i billedkunsten og popularkulturen fra 1700-1900, hvor lægen blev dyrket som en af fremskridtets store hælte. Anna Anchors *En vaccination* fra 1899 fremstillet et festligt sceneri, hvor otte glade mødre er medt op med deres børn for at lade dem vaccinere mod kopper. Lægen, som Anna Anchors mand, Michael, sad model til, fordi lægen i Skagen angiveligt havde for travit, skal ligge til at skære i en lille buttet overarm på en pige, der kigger mistroisk op på ham. Lyset, der varter ind i rummet, understregte stemningen af fremskridt og medicinsk triumf.

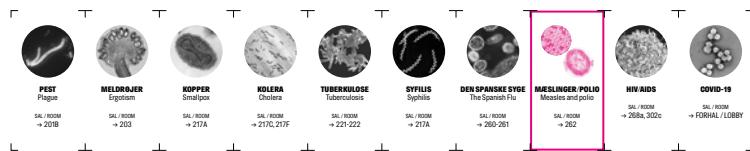


The term 'childhood illnesses' previously covered a number of infectious illnesses which were generally believed to be a necessary part of childhood, something children had to go through as part of their physical and mental maturation. However, modern vaccination programmes have made several of the original childhood illnesses, such as rubella and measles, very rare, and today only few believe that having such illnesses is important for children's development.

In the last 150 years, colossal efforts have been made to reduce child mortality, which until World War I was appallingly high in Denmark. Epidemics of measles and diphtheria led to painful losses of children, as depicted indirectly by Astrid Noack and directly by Harald Slott-Møller (room 222). In 1846, the Danish doctor Peter Panum mapped the transmission routes of measles in a range of systematic and now world-famous studies conducted in the Faroe Islands. In 1954 the virus itself was discovered, and in 1963 an actual vaccine became available. However, the childhood illnesses which we in the West believe are under control continue to kill many people worldwide today.

Another dreaded disease that particularly affected children in major epidemics was polio; a viral disease that can cause total paralysis in a matter of hours. One of the most famous polio patients in the world of art is Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. In her work she portrayed the aftereffects of her illness, which were further complicated by a traffic accident. The last major polio epidemic hit Denmark, especially Copenhagen, in 1952 and has become internationally renowned: Copenhagen was the first city where medical staff 'ventilate the paralysed patients by hand and experiment with the first machine ventilators (then known as respirators); a piece of equipment which has taken on renewed significance in the treatment of COVID-19 patients. The 'Copenhagen epidemic' marked the beginning of a completely new medical speciality, anaesthesiology – the branch of medicine that deals with anaesthesia and intensive care. A polio vaccine became available in 1955.

Vaccinations have always been debated despite their general success. Do they promote or damage health? Should we fight diseases or ally ourselves with them? Vaccination scenes featuring children constitute an entire sub-genre in the visual arts and popular culture from 1700 to 1900, a time when the figure of the doctor was celebrated as one of the great heroes of progress. In *A Vaccination* from 1899, Anna Ancher has depicted a cheerful scene in which eight happy mothers have turned up with their children to have them vaccinated against smallpox. The doctor – shown here in the guise of Anna Ancher's husband, Michael, who served as a stand-in because the doctor in Skagen was too busy to sit for her – is about to make an incision in the small, chubby upper arm of a girl who eyes him suspiciously. The light pouring into the room emphasises the overall mood of progress and medical triumphs.





INTEL SOM FØR
FOLK EPIDEMIERNES SPOR GENNEM LANDETS STØRSTE KUNSTSAMLING

A CHANGED WORLD
TRACKING EPIDEMICS IN DENMARK'S LARGEST ART COLLECTION

Astrid Noack (1888-1954)
Spædbarn
1933
Friskulptur
Cement
54.2cm (h) x 24cm (b) x 15.5cm (d)
SMK. KMS6104
© Astrid Noack / VISDA
Ikke udstillet p.t.

Astrid Noack (1888–1954)

Spædbarn

Infant

1933

Cement



MÆSLINGER
Measles

Spædbarn er en skulptur, som er tænkt til at hænge på en væg. Noack rækker det lille barn frem, som stod hun med det i sine arme og var somt ville overdrage det til mig. Selvom barnet ikke er opmærksomt på mig, så skaber tanken om, at jeg selv står med den lille krop i min favn en følelse af omsorg. Noack selv havde en son, som hun mistede i 1923, da han i en alder af halvandet år døde af mæslinger.

Noack var humanist; hun gennemlevede to verdenskrige og i sine skulpturer skildrede hun almen-menneskelige vilkår. Som i *Stående kvinde*, hvor jeg ikke får noget at vide om den unge kvinde. Derimod møder jeg et menneske, der indtager verden målrettet og modigt. I *Spædbarn* oplever jeg også enkelhed i formen. Noack udstillede skulpturen på Grønningen i 1933. To år senere blev hun optaget i kunstnersammenslutningen som den første kvinde.

Charlotte Præstegaard Schwartz, SMK

Infant is a sculpture intended to be hung on a wall. Noack presents the little child as if she were holding it in her arms, about to gently hand it over to me. Even though the child is not aware of me, the thought of actually holding this tiny body in my arms evokes a feeling of tenderness. Noack herself had a son, whom she lost in 1923 when he died of measles at the age of one and a half.

Noack was a humanitarian; she lived through two world wars, and in her sculptures she depicted universal human conditions. A poignant example is *Standing Woman*, where I am told nothing about the young woman herself. Rather, I find myself facing a human being who occupies the world purposefully and bravely. In *Infant*, I also find a distinctive simplicity of form. Noack exhibited the sculpture at the artists' association Grønningen's annual exhibition in 1933. Two years later, she was the first woman to be admitted as a full member of the group.

Charlotte Præstegaard Schwartz, SMK

Vacciner og humanisme Efter 2. verdenskrig

Vaccines and humanism After World War II

MYCOBACTERIUM TUBERCULOSIS

FORTÆLLINGER OM HVORDAN EPIDEMIER HAR FORMET
HISTORIEN, KUNSTEN OG DET ENKELE Menneskes Liv
LÆSETID: 3 MINUTTER

STORIES ABOUT HOW EPIDEMICS HAVE SHAPED
HISTORY, ART AND THE LIFE OF THE INDIVIDUAL
READ TIME: 3 MINUTES

Tuberkulose (TB) blev i starten af 1900-tallet forbundet med fattigdom. Velstandsstigning betød da også, at TB frem til 2. verdenskrig blev et mindre problem i Europa og USA. Efter 2. verdenskrig var et nedbrudt Europa dog efter truet af TB-epidemier. Kunstneren Asger Jorn var en af dem, der blev ramt. Danmark var imidlertid langt fremme med udviklingen af en vaccine (BCG / Calmette), som man tilbed til resten af Europa. I takt med at Europa kom på føde, begyndte man at betræte TB som et problem, der mest fandtes i de såkaldte ulande. De nye humanitære verdensorganisationer, som Unicef og WHO, stiftet i 1946 og 1948, ville bekæmpe TB og malaria gennem store vaccinationsprogrammer, ledet af bl.a. Danmark.

Den massive indsats for folkesundheden kunne dog alt fra synsvinkel betragtes enten som velgørenhed eller som et omfattende menneskeeksperiment i de tidlige kolonier. Som Albert Camus skrev i *Pesten*, der udkom i 1947: "Den ondskab der findes i verden, stammer næsten altid fra uvidenhed, men den gode vilje kan gøre lige så meget ondt, hvis den ikke er oplyst." "Den gode vilje" kan også forstås som den humanisme, der bred sammen under 2. verdenskrig og genopstod lige efter. For Camus såvel som for flere af CoBrA-kunstnerne i rummer her, var europæisk humanisme smuk på overfladen, men brutal underneden. Den favoriserede en højkulturnel og selvhedelige tradition med mennesket, den europæiske mand, i centrum. Andre civilisationer og andre livsformer blev derfor betragtet som tilbagetænkte og blev dermed genstand for både udbytning og velgørenhed.

Camus var syg af tuberkulose, da han sad i fransk bjergluft og skrev *Pesten* under 2. verdenskrig. Romanen, der handler om en pestepidemi i Nordafrika, plejer man at se som en allegori over krigen mod "den brune pest", som man i Frankrig kaldte nazismen. Hos Camus kunne pesten dog antage mange former. Dødssinstinktet findes lige så vel i fascismen, i liberalismens kyndisme, i humanismens gode vilje som i vores mede med ukendte mikrober. Psychoanalyse og surrealisme havde banet vej for denne tankegang. Et eksempel fra SMK er Wilhelm Freddie's *Dagen D* (1944), hvor krigen fremstilles som ren dødsdrift uden klare vindere og tabere. CoBrA-kunstnerne havde rødder i denne surrealsisme, men anså den for littører og symboltug, uden malerisk udtrykskraft. De arbejdede for en kunst, hvor billedet kom for sproget, udtrykket for betydningen i et spontan maleri, der for alvor kunne sætte dyret i mennesket fri frem for at dressere det. Det var det menneskelige, ikke det dyriske, i mennesket, der gjorde verden syg.

In the early 1900s, tuberculosis (TB) was associated with poverty. A general increase in prosperity meant that TB gradually became less of a problem in Europe and the United States in the years leading up to World War II. A few years later, however, war-torn Europe was once again threatened by TB epidemics. Danish artist Asger Jorn was among those afflicted. However, Denmark had come far in the development of a vaccine (BCG / Calmette), which was offered to the rest of Europe. As Europe recovered, TB began to be considered a problem mostly associated with the so-called developing countries. The new humanitarian world organisations, such as

Unicef and WHO, founded in 1946 and 1948, wanted to fight TB and malaria through major vaccination programmes, with Denmark as one of the leaders.

However, depending on your point of view, the massive efforts to promote public health could be regarded either as charity or as a comprehensive human experiment in the former colonies. As Albert Camus wrote in *The Plague*, published in 1947: "The evil that is in the world always comes of ignorance, and good intentions may do as much harm as malevolence, if they lack understanding". This idea of 'good intentions' can be applied to the humanism that collapsed during World War II and re-emerged shortly after. For Camus and for several of the CoBrA artists shown in this room, European humanism was beautiful on the surface, but brutal underneath. It favoured a highbrow, self-righteous tradition that placed man, the European male, at the centre of all. Other civilisations and other ways of living were automatically considered inferior and thus subject to both exploitation and charity.

Camus was ill with tuberculosis while writing *The Plague* during World War II, taking the mountain air in France. The novel, which is about a plague epidemic in North Africa, is generally seen as an allegory of the war against 'the brown plague', as Nazism was known as in France. However, the idea of the plague could take many forms in Camus. The death instinct can equally well be found in fascism, in the cynicism of liberalism and in the good intentions of humanism as in our encounter with unknown microbes. Psychoanalysis and Surrealism had paved the way for this mindset. An example from SMK is Wilhelm Freddie's *The Day D* (1944), where the war appears as a pure manifestation of the death drive without clear winners and losers. The CoBrA artists had their roots in such Surrealism, but considered it too literary in nature, overly laden with symbolism and lacking in painterly vibrancy. They wanted an art that favoured image over language, expression over meaning in a spontaneous vein of painting that would unleash the animal in man rather than tame it. It was the human, not the animal, aspects of man that made the world sick.



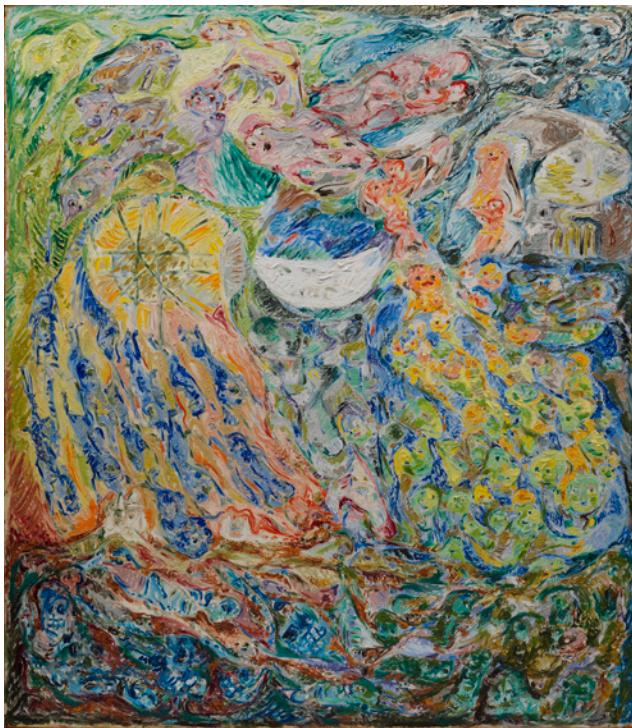
Wilhelm Freddie's Herren. Hieronymus Bosch-inspired painting is on display in room 300A.



Medlemmer af CoBrA-gruppen samlet foran Zooligisk Have i København i 1948. Fra venstre ses: Constant, Vilhelm Alfelt, Ejler Bille, Cornelius, Knud Nielsen, Sørensen, Carl-Henning Pedersen, Agnete Therkildsen, Erik Orsvad, Ernest Mancocha, Else Alfelt, Carl-Henning Pedersen og Agnete Therkildsen. CoBrA-gruppen blev dannet og en bevaredes i 1948. Navnet sat sammen af fornyede teknikker i maleriet i Bruxelles og Amsterdam, hvorfra kunstnerne på havn af grunden indgik i et kritisk og kreativ fællesskab med den eksperimentelle frihed som omdreningspunkt.

Members of the CoBrA group gathered in front of the Copenhagen Zoo in 1948. L to R: Constant, Vilhelm Alfelt, Ejler Bille, Cornelius, Knud Nielsen, Sørensen, Carl-Henning Pedersen, Agnete Therkildsen, Erik Orsvad, Ernest Mancocha, Else Alfelt, Carl-Henning Pedersen and Agnete Therkildsen. The CoBrA movement was formed in 1948. The name is composed of the names of some of these artists, from where they entered into a critical and creative community that cut across borders, always focusing on the freedom to experiment.





Asger Jorn (1914-1973)
Livshjulet. Januarbilledet af årstidssuitten
1953
Maleri
Olie på masonit
183cm (h) x 160cm (b)
SMK. KMS4767
© Asger Jorn / VISDA
Udstillet på SMK i Sal 269A

INTET SOM FØR

FOLK EPIDEMIERNES SPOR GENNEM LANDETS STØRSTE KUNSTSAMLING

A CHANGED WORLD

TRACKING EPIDEMICS IN DENMARK'S LARGEST ART COLLECTION

Asger Jorn (1914–1973)

Livshjulet. Januarbilledet af årstidssuitten

The Wheel of Life: January Picture of the Seasons Cycle

1953

TUBERKULOSE
Tuberculosis

I maj 1951 fik Asger Jorn konstateret tuberkulose og blev indlagt på sanatorium i Silkeborg. Årene forud havde været præget af stor kunstnerisk produktivitet, men en trang økonomi, dårlige boligforhold og knaphed på mad havde slidt på helbredet. Da han i slutningen af 1951 var rask nok til at male, blev et lille rum ved siden af sanatoriets ligkapel stillet til rådighed for ham.

"Det er som om jeg på min side af muren skal slås imod den kraft, der sejrer på den anden side", skrev Jorn i et brev. Det var her, han malede sin første version af *Livshjulet*. Han så selv billedet som vendt imod døden. Her er det livskredslebet, det drejer sig om: livets dannelse, opstigning mod solen og månen og endelig en nedfalden til Jorden og døden igen, hvorfralivetetteropstår.

In May 1951, Asger Jorn was diagnosed with tuberculosis and admitted to a sanatorium in Silkeborg. The preceding years had been characterised by great artistic productivity, but lack of money, poor housing conditions and scarcity of food had taken a toll on his health. When, at the end of 1951, he had recovered sufficiently to be able to paint, a small room adjacent to the sanatorium's morgue was made available to him.

'It is as if I, on my side of the wall, must fight against the force that is currently winning on the other side,' said Jorn in a letter. It was here he painted his first version of *The Wheel of Life*. He himself saw it as a rejection of death. It is all about the cycle of life: the creation of life, its ascension to the sun and the moon and finally a fall back down to Earth and death, from which life arises anew.

Dorthe Aagesen, SMK

Dorthe Aagesen, SMK

Kronisk sygdom. Dansk kunst i 1980erne

Chronic diseases. Danish 1980s art

Tuberkulose og andre epidemiske sygdomme førte stadig mange dødsfald på verdensplan. Men i Vesten så pandemier for alvor ud til at komme under kontrol med vaccinationsprogrammer og udbredelsen af antibiotika efter 2. verdenskrig. Sygdomsbilledet og sundhedsvæsenet ændrede sig markant derefter. Nu var det i stedet for forekomsten af kroniske lidelser, der blev udfordringen. Levealderen steg, men det gjorde væksten af kræfttilfælde, rygerlunger og hjertesygdom også. Disse sygdomme blev set som udtryk for velstand. I Danmark bliver de derfor kaldt livsstils- eller civilisationssygdomme. Andre steder i verden har de blot betegnelsen ikke-smitsomme sygdomme (*non-communicable diseases*). Med andre ord har der siden 1960erne hersket en ide om, at kroniske sygdomme er udtryk for graden af "civilisation" og rigdom, mens alvorlige epidemier med infektions-sygdomme er noget, der rammer de fattigste dele af verden og velstandssamfundets minoriteter. Uanset hvad, så har kronisk sygdom ændret vilkårene for millioner af mennesker de sidste 60 år, også for organiseringen af sundhedsvæsenet.

I kunsten syntes dødsangsten i samme periode at rette sig mere og mere mod individets oplevelse af kronisk fysisk eller psykisk sygdom end mod pandemisk massedad. I dansk kunst skete det med en særlig intensitet i 1980er-generationen. Kunstnerne Berit Heggenhougen-Jensen, Peter Bonde, Christian Lemmerz og Michael Kvium præsenteres her i rummet med værker, der kredser om foruroligende symptomer, kropsfornemmelser, dødsangst med et vist element af hypokondri.

Om Michael Kviums maleri *Korsiger museumsinspektør Birgitte Anderberg*:

"For mig står billedet som en diagnose på et sygt samfund i en syg verden. Som flere af 1980er-generationens kunstnere bruger Kvium sygdom og symptomer metaforisk. Sygdomsmetaforen og dødsangsten var bl.a. forbundet med frygten for atomkrig frem mod Berlinmurens fald i 1989 og med den omfattende økonomiske krise, som man politisk søgte at helbrede med kartoffelkuren."

Tuberculosis and other epidemic diseases continue to cause many deaths worldwide today. But in the West, pandemics got increasingly under control after World War II with the advent of vaccination programmes and the spread of antibiotics. This brought about a massive change to public health and the healthcare sector. From this point on, chronic conditions became the main challenge. Life expectancy increased, but so too did the number of cancer cases, smoker's lungs and heart disease. Such diseases were seen as an expression of prosperity, becoming known in Denmark as 'civilisation diseases' or 'lifestyle diseases'. Elsewhere, they have simply been known as *non-communicable diseases*. In other words, since the 1960s, chronic diseases have been seen as a reflection of a country's degree of 'civilisation' and wealth, while serious epidemics of infectious diseases have become something that affects the poorest parts of the world and the minorities of more prosperous communities. In any case, chronic illness has changed the living conditions for millions of people over the last 60 years, including the organisation of health care.

In the art of this period, the fear of death seemed to increasingly orient itself towards the individual's experience of chronic physical or mental illness rather than towards the fear of pandemic mass death. In Danish art, this trait took on a special intensity in the 1980s generation. This room presents works by artists Berit Heggenhougen-Jensen, Peter Bonde, Christian Lemmerz and Michael Kvium, revolving around disturbing symptoms, bodily sensations, a fear of death and a certain element of hypochondria.

Concerning Michael Kvium's painting *Choir*, curator Birgitte Anderberg says:

'For me, the picture constitutes a diagnosis of a sick society in a sick world. Like several artists of the 1980s generation, Kvium uses disease and symptoms metaphorically. The metaphor of illness and the fear of death were associated with many different aspects, including anxieties about nuclear war right up to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the extensive economic crisis in Denmark, which was to be remedied using strong austerity measures popularly known as "the potato cure".'

Peter Bonde, *Uden titel / Untitled*, 1988.
SMK Foto © Peter Bonde
© Peter Bonde / VISDA



AIDS og 90erkunsten

AIDS and 1990s art

HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV) + ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)

FØRDELINGER OM HVORDAN EPIDEMIER HAR FORMET HISTORIEN, KUNSTEN OG DET ENKELTE Menneskes LIV
LESETID: 3 MINUTTER

STORIES ABOUT HOW EPIDEMICS HAVE SHAPED HISTORY, ART AND THE LIFE OF THE INDIVIDUAL
READ TIME: 3 MINUTES

HIV-virus er en retrovirus, der angriber immunforsvaret. AIDS dækker de dødbringende sygdomme, der opstår, når forsvarer er tilstrækkelig svækket. Den ældste blodprøve med konstateret hiv-virus er fra 1959, men en egentlig epidemi opstod først i 1981, efter man i New York og Californien havde lagttaget nogle usædvanlige kraftformer og lungesymptomer, særligt hos mænd. To år senere var en række kvinder i Tanzania smittet. Man fandt ud af, at sygdommen hyppigt var sekssat overført. I USA var ofrene især homoseksuelle mænd og transkønede; i Afrika blev mange heteroseksuelle smittet, ikke mindst kvinder.

I takt med medicinsk behandling har gjort det muligt at leve med hiv-smitte uden at udvikle aids, har sygdommen i den vestlige del af verden ændret sig fra at være en dødbringende infektion til at blive en kronisk sygdom. Dermed mener mange også, at opmærksomheden omkring sygdommen er forsuntet, selvom smitten stadig er udbredt. I Afrika lever over halvdelen af verden ca. 40 mill. hiv-smittede og en endnu større andel af de aids-syge.

Da aids-epidemien var på sit hejeste i USA i 1980erne og de tidlige '90ere, var den til gengæld et stort tema i samfundsdebatten, bl.a. takket være en række amerikanske kunstnere, som var uhyre aktive omkring aids-bevægelsen ACT UP! (*AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power*). Kunstnere som Robert Gober, Jenny Holzer, Roni Horn, Félix González-Torres og trioen General Idea udviklede en ny form for kunstaktivisme. Kunstnerne brugte deres værk til at gøre opmærksom på aids som et samfundsproblem og startede en på gang poetisk og politisk diskussion om homoseksualitet, sygdom og død, der var langt mere øbend end et højreorienteret og homofobt USA havde været vant til. Debatten satte pres på den medicinske forskning, men blev lige så meget startskudet til at diskutere rettigheder og samfundsmaßsig ligestilling i forhold til seksuel orientering og i forhold til et sundhedssystem, som de fleste amerikanske kunstnere og kulturarbejdere stod uden for. Det var karakteristisk nok en kunstteoretiker, Douglas Crimp, der skrev historien om ACT UP!

I starten af 80'erne var 1960ernes pop art og 1950ernes ekspressive maleri stadig dominerende i amerikansk kunst, men den nye generation genopdagede minimalismen og konceptkunsten fra 1960'erne. De tilførte denne kunstretning en helt ny politisk og personlig dimension og gjorde installationskunst synonymt med 90'erkunst. De danske 90'erkunstnere var stærkt inspireret af den amerikanske 'neoconceptualisme'. Ikke mindst kunstnerduoen Elmgreen & Dragset, der i installationen på SMK, *Please, keep quiet!* (2003), netop indkapsler hele problemstillingen omkring aids som en i dag fortid pandemi.

(SMK fik ikke tilladelse af The Félix González-Torres Foundation til at vise værket på planchen. Værket består af to ens vægter.)

Dette værk blev til kort efter González-Torres' partner havde fået diagnosed med aids. Urne måden hidan heldt oplyst, indtil det var til højre for værket, hvilket betyder, at værket ikke kan se ud til at være et stykke. "Id er nøgt, der skræmmer mig [...] Værket med to er uret til det styggelegste, jeg nogensinde har lavet. Men jeg vilde se det i øjene. Jeg ville se, om de to ikke havde forsvundet."

This work was created shortly after Gonzalez-Torres' partner had been diagnosed with AIDS. The urn held a light until it was to the right of the artwork, which means the artwork cannot be seen as a whole. "It's not nice, it's frightening [...] The artwork with two is uglier than anything I've ever made. But I wanted to see it in the eyes. I wanted to see if they had disappeared."

HIV is a retrovirus that attacks the immune system. The term AIDS covers the deadly diseases that occur when the body's defences have been sufficiently weakened. The oldest blood test known to contain HIV dates from 1959, but an actual epidemic did not occur until 1981, by which point some unusual forms of cancer and pneumonia had been observed in New York and California, especially in men. Two years later, a number of women in Tanzania were infected. It was discovered that the disease was frequently sexually transmitted. In the United States, the victims were mainly gay men and transgender people; in Africa, many heterosexuals were infected, not least women.

As new medical treatments have made it possible to live with HIV without developing AIDS, the affluent parts of the world have seen the disease change from being a deadly infection to becoming a chronic disease. This has caused a downturn in awareness of the disease, even though the infection is still widespread. Africa is home to more than half of the world's approximately 40 million people with HIV, and the proportion of AIDS sufferers is even greater.

When the AIDS epidemic was at its height in the United States in the 1980s and early '90s, it was a major theme in the public debate, not least thanks to a number of American artists who were extremely active in the AIDS movement ACT UP! (*AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power*). They used their works to raise awareness of AIDS as a societal problem and started a simultaneously poetic and political discussion of homosexuality, illness and death that was far more open than a right-wing, homophobic United States had been accustomed to. The debate put pressure on medical research, but also served as the starting point for discussing rights and social equality as regards sexual orientation and in relation to the American health system – a system which most American artists and cultural workers stood outside of. Tellingly, it was an art theorist, Douglas Crimp, who wrote the story of ACT UP!

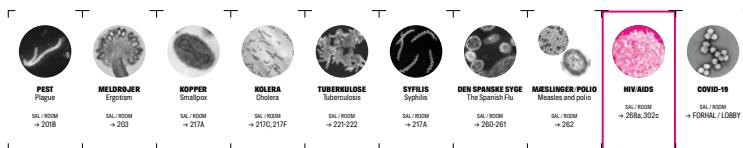
In the early '80s, 1960s pop art and 1950s expressive painting were still dominant tendencies in American art, but the new generation rediscovered minimalism and concept art from the 1960s. Adding a whole new political and personal dimension to this art form, they made installation art synonymous with '90s art. The Danish '90s artists were strongly inspired by this American 'neo-conceptualism'. Not least the artist duo Elmgreen & Dragset, whose installation at SMK, *Please, keep quiet!* (2003), encapsulates the entire issue of AIDS as a pandemic that has now become hushed up and ignored.

Holzer opstalte disse "inflammatoriske" essays som plakater i NYC's subway og opgraderede dem med anonyme politiske tekster til at fremhæve, hvordan aids var et globalt problem, der ikke var omstændeligt for dem, der havde det. Aktiviteten og den ideologiske værdi af denne installation er i øjeblikket ikke længere tilgængelig, men den har alligevel bidraget til at øge opmærksomheden om aids i New York City.

Holzer posted these "inflammatory" essays as posters on the NYC subway, thereby disseminating anonymous political texts to large audiences. Holzer was active in the ACT UP movement and has since gone on to create a major AIDS memorial in New York City.

Jenny Holzer, Information Army, 1993-1994, © Jenny Holzer 2008

Jenny Holzer, Information Army, 1993-1994, © Jenny Holzer 2008



Ingar Dragset (1969-)

Michael Elmgreen (1961-)

Please, keep quiet!

2003

Installation

Fire hospitalssenge med lined,

to hospitalssengeborde, tre voksne klædt i pyjamas, et par hjemmesko, to hospitalsvær, to bører, et par briller, et lommespejl, en kam, en porcelænsvask, et spejl, panel med elektriske stik og armatur, to svindgøre

SMK. KMS8324/1

© Elmgreen & Dragset / VISDA

Ikke udstillet p.t.

(Værket omtales på planchen til venstre)

Litteratur brugt i formidlingen

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