

Bus Riders visit Jan Widlund's private collection

Bus Riders' most recent gathering took place at **Jan Widlund's** beautiful home in central Stockholm. Jan has combined a successful career as a corporate lawyer with a long track-record of collecting a wide a range of artists, **building one of Scandinavia's finest corporate as well as private art collections.**

Jan began the evening by clarifying what his ground rules for collecting art has been over the years. **"I buy with my gut instinct. I never buy from auctions but only from galleries directly. It is easier to identify and pick out what's truly good pieces of work when you see the entire collection hanging together and much harder if you only have one painting at an auction".**



Jan went on to explain that sometimes buying what you truly like rather than guessing and predicting what's a smart investment pays off. Jan told us that he had recently acquired a few pieces from **gallery Loyal** by to him unknown American artists including a painting **Katherine Bernhardt** which to his surprise he had later spotted in a Philipp's auction magazine.



(Katherine Bernhardt)

Jan was also clear with the fact that he does not collect for life but rather sells off pieces along the way, which have either grown out of the collection or risen dramatically in value. **"I decided early on not to become friends with the artists as it makes the entire process too emotional. If you are too friendly, it limits your ability to buy or not to buy freely as well as selling the pieces which has proven to stir up emotional reactions from artists over the years".**



A question from the audience was whether Jan collected any particular artist, medium or style and the answer was no. **Jan has collected approximately 500 collected pieces from around 350 different artists.** Jan was asked if he has a favorite piece of work which he was particularly attached to and the answer was no. **There were however a few pieces which he now with the benefit of hindsight regrets parting ways with such as Gunnel Wählstrand and an early iconic Linn Fernström.**



(Dan Wolger's dogs stood discreetly in a corner)



(Jack Pierson's Angry Young Men originally hung at Jan Widlund's former law firm Vinge)

Karolina Bertorp then pointed out that Jan's way of collecting was in vast contrast to another one of Bus Riders members also present during the evening Tom Böttiger who grows and develops with his favorite artists. As Tom told Bus Riders last fall during our viewing of his private collection, he never sells his art and becomes close friends with his favorite artists, which are predominantly present in his collection.

There was a video installation by Natalie Djurberg playing in the sitting room, which caught many people's eyes. Jan explained that when they bought the piece Natalie's Italian based gallerist, Marconi, had sent up around 30 different video which Jan together with his wife has watched and picked the least "disturbing one of the videos". When asked if Jan would consider collecting video installation on a larger scale, he responded; **"Video is tricky both in terms of how you display and enjoy them as well as from a collector's point of view with ensuring their value given how easy it is to make pirate copies today"**.





Jan closed the evening's talk by mentioning that he was particularly proud of the fact that museums and institutions over the years had borrowed many of his pieces. Pointing to Charlotte Gyllenhammar's sculpture "Knäveck" as one of his most travelled works that currently rested on a Jan's desk whilst he worked up the energy to hang it on its trapeze.

