

## English

The artist Lars Hertervig was born on a small farm at Hattarvågen on the island of Borgøy in Tysvær on the 16th of February 1830. His parents were followers of the Quaker faith, which was a contentious issue in those times and was the reason why the family moved to Stavanger in 1837.

From an early age Lars Hertervig showed a talent for painting. In 1850 he became a student at the Royal School of Art in Christiania and two years later he started to study under the national romantic artist Hans Grude in Düsseldorf. Grude was very impressed by the young Norwegian and reckoned Hertervig to be his best student. Back in Stavanger family and friends had high expectations that Hertervig would return home as a renowned artist. But after just two years Hertervig returned home due, ostensibly, to illness.

The years 1854 –55 saw Hertervig spending much of his time in Skånevik where study of the surrounding landscape and nature laid the foundation for his first large-scale production of oil paintings. Works such as 'Rullestadjuvet', 'View from Sunnhordland' and 'By The Forge' stem from this period. However, health problems persisted and in 1856 he entered Gaustad Asylum diagnosed with melancholia. Two years later he was discharged with a condition described as "incurable". In the following years (1859 – 65) he lived at Østebøvik on the southern part of Borgøy where he painted some of his most beautiful oil paintings. These works include 'Old Pine Trees', 'View from Tysvær' and 'Forest Star' among others. While paintings from the 1850s were dominated by dark clouds and stormy weather, the paintings from Østebøvik are filled with, serenity, light and the glinting fjords. From these works, Hertervig became known as The Painter of Light. It is therefore very easy to imagine that the source of inspiration for this period is the southerly light by Østebøvik.

Returning to Stavanger, Hertervig worked for the house painters Peder and Salve Aanesen until his employment was terminated in 1867, leading him to spend the rest of his life in poverty. Despite his impoverished circumstances, Hertervig continued to create art over the course of the next 30 years.

Aquarelle and gouache works painted on old newspapers, cigarette papers, wallpaper and packing paper were typical of this period of his life. Hertervig died on the 6th of January 1902 in Stavanger at the age of 71.

In the ensuing years artists, art historians and writers have all lauded Lars Hertervig as a genius for his unique art form. His style departed in many aspects from the contemporary views of the time and his works map out one of Norway's greatest artists of all time.

Most of Hertervig's paintings have today found a home in the Rogaland Museum of Art in Stavanger. The National Gallery in Oslo and Bergen Art Museum also house several of his works.

On Borgøy a plaque to commemorate Hertervig adorns the site believed to be his birthplace. From this point and north



From Tysvær (1867) Belongs to Nasjonalgalleriet



'In Lars Hertervig's Wood'. Here one can learn about the artist and the landscape in which he grew up and the nature that so inspired him.

At Akسدal, the municipal centre of Tysvær, Millennium Place has been renamed Lars Hertervig Place in honour of the artist. By the entrance to the cultural centre stands a sculpture of Hertervig by Svein Magnus Håvårstein commemorating Hertervig's 150 year jubilee in 1980.