

Olivia Holm-Møller (1875-1970) mødte sit store idol, J.F. Willumsen (1863-1958), i hvert fald en enkelt gang i sin levetid og lagde aldrig skjul på, hvor meget hun beundrede hans arbejde. Man måtte ikke tale dårligt om ham – så forlod hun selskabet! Hendes kunstneriske mod er gået i arv fra Willumsen. Hun har evnen til at male stort og lade hånt om detaljer for at lade helheden leve. I tilgift er der et vildt farvesprog, fælles med mesteren, og rent figurativt går ingen af dem af vejen for at fortælle store historier om liv og død, både på det jordiske og kosmiske plan.

Olivia Holm-Møller (1875-1970) met her great idol, J.F. Willumsen (1863-1958), at least once in her lifetime, and she never hid how much she admired his work. One was not allowed to speak ill of him – if anyone did, she would leave the company! Her artistic courage was inherited from Willumsen. She had the ability to paint on a grand scale, disregarding details to let the whole picture come alive. Additionally, she shared a wild colour palette with the master, and figuratively, neither of them shied away from telling grand stories of life and death, both on the earthly and cosmic planes.

Per Kirkeby (1938-2018) var optaget af J.F. Willumsen og hans storladne billedunivers, som det for eksempel sker i billedet *Himmelgården* (1938), et af utallige selvportrætter, hvor menneske og dyr, helt og antihelt, ja, i det hele taget myte og virkelighed mødes. Per Kirkeby kunne spejle sig i Willumsens maleriske og skulpturelle udfordringer; begge stræbte efter de store afgørende ting i kunsten at række ud over tiden gennem værket, og for begges vedkommende må det siges at være lykkedes – endda i levende live. Landskaber og figurer udgør altid komplekse værker, der rummer utrolig skønhed og kejtet menneskelig attitude.

Per Kirkeby (1938-2018) was fascinated by J.F. Willumsen and his grand visual universe, as seen, for example, in the painting *Himmelgården* (1938), one of countless self-portraits where human and animal, hero and anti-hero, indeed myth and reality, come together. Per Kirkeby could relate to Willumsen's painterly and sculptural challenges; both sought the great, decisive elements in art, striving to transcend time through their work. For both of them, it can be said to have been a success – even during their lifetimes. Landscapes and figures always form complex works that encompass incredible beauty and awkward human attitude.

// Erik Steffensen