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FRITZ SYBERG (1862–1939)
WINTER LANDSCAPE, C. 1919
WATERCOLOUR, REED PEN, PEN ON PAPER

46.6 X 61.7 CM

Alongside fellow painters Johannes Larsen and Peter Hansen, Fritz Syberg was part of the artist group known as the Funen Painters. Born in Faaborg, Syberg studied art at The Artists' Independent Study Schools in Copenhagen and lived on North Funen most of his adult years. Throughout his life, Syberg drew inspiration and subject matter from his immediate surroundings, such as his family life and the various landscapes of Funen.

Syberg found the scene depicted in *Winter Landscape* at his own home, Pilegården, located a little outside Kerteminde. It commanded views of 'Syberg Country', which the authors Otto Gelsted and Johannes V. Jensen named the surrounding landscape with its extensive fields, the sea, poplars lining the fields and roads and the hilly terrain, all of which remained an inexhaustible source of inspiration for Syberg for decades. In *Winter Landscape*, the view of the expansive countryside is interrupted only by the row of pollarded poplars. The effect of their distinctive shape in the landscape clearly fascinated him as he repeatedly returned to this subject.

Up until approximately 1919, Syberg worked mainly with watercolours. Taking an increasingly free approach to form and using very thinly applied layers of watercolour, often accentuated by Indian ink, he veered towards a gradual abstraction of the landscape.¹ The

sketch-like and pared-back qualities persisted when he abandoned watercolour altogether in the early 1920s. Hereafter he devoted himself to oils, with which he continued to work diligently until his death in 1939.

¹ *Erland Porsmose: Fritz Syberg. Kunsten, naturen, kærligheden, Copenhagen 2010, p. 268.*

Published in:

Susanne Thestrup Truelsen in Kjeld von Folsach and Nana Lund (eds.): *Dansk kunst i Davids Samling – fra Philipsen til Saxbo*, Davids Samling, København 1995, cat.no. 50, pp. 128-129;