



Inv. no. B 237b

JENS FERDINAND WILLUMSEN (1863–1958)
TYIN SØ. STUDY FOR JOTUNHEIM, 1892
WATERCOLOR ON PAPER

31 X 35 CM

In the summer of 1892, J.F. Willumsen embarked on his first trip to Norway. He wished to paint the distinctive Norwegian landscapes, which were so very different from their more cultivated, agricultural Danish counterparts. Willumsen initially stayed in Kristiania (the present-day Oslo). He went on to Trondheim and Lofoten. From here, his journey continued to the large mountainous area of Jotunheimen, where he stayed for approximately three weeks, at a nearby hotel by the Lake Tyin.

Willumsen was captivated by the landscape: *'I immediately did a quantity of studies, both drawings in black and white and watercolours of these characteristic shapes in the landscape with their splashes of snow spots, and of the kaleidoscopic mirror images in the lakes, which were at different levels.'*¹ The locations depicted in several of these studies can be easily identified today because Willumsen was true to the landscape and its outlines.

In this watercolour, Willumsen worked with a largely symmetrical composition. In the middle are the mountains with its snow-capped

peaks, while the deep and expansive waters of Lake Tyin spread out below. Willumsen undoubtedly wished to capture the impressive volume of the mighty lake. Perhaps that is why the perspective comes across as somewhat strange. At the top left, he made a note of his vantage point while painting the subject, i.e. Lake Tyin seen from the beach opposite Uranostind near Framnæs.

Several of the studies from his trip to Norway would later form the basis for Willumsen's painting *Jotunheim*,² now regarded as a masterpiece in Danish art.

¹ *J.F. Willumsen, Jotunheim, 1892–1893, J.F. Willumsens Museum, acc.no. 24.*

² *Ernst Mentze: J.F. Willumsen. Mine erindringer, København 1953, p. 99. Citation translated by René Lauritsen.*

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Willumsen udstillingen, arrangeret af Den frie Udstilling i Anledningen af Kunstnerens 60-Aars Fødselsdag, København 1923, 2. ed., cat.no. 68;

Roald Nasgaard: *Willumsen and symbolist art 1888-1910*, Diss. New York University 1973, printed 1996, fig. 73, p. 203;

Troels Branth Pedersen: "Vildhed og sne: den norske baggrund for J.F. Willumsens *Jotunheim*" in *Billedkunst*, 1, 2002, fig. 1, pp. 22 and 29;

Leila Krogh: *J.F. Willumsen – over grænser*, Ordupgaard and Musée D'Orsay, Paris, Charlottenlund 2006, fig. 27, pp. 103-104;

Troels Branth Pedersen: *Bjergtaget: J.F. Willumsen i Norge 1892*, Århus 2006, fig. 49, p. 69;