

1. Parochial handcrafts. In the years 1772 and 1773, Sweden was hit by bad harvests. Gustav III who was then King, signed in 1773 a proclamation encouraging countryfolk to "devote themselves to different types of profitable businesses" such as "all kinds of handicrafts". The farmers were thus directly summoned to develop diverse arts and crafts, which became important secondary sources of income, if not sometimes the main ones.

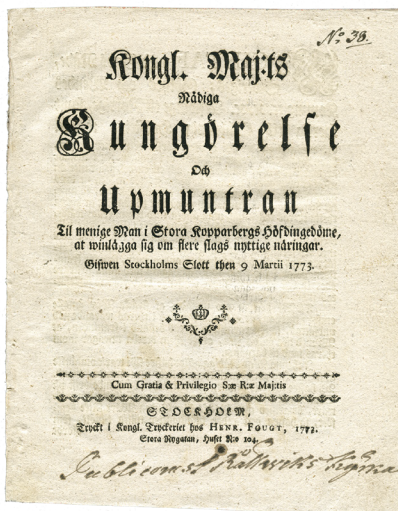


Foto Fredrik Hegert

2. Inspiration and models. Churches, with their stimulating wall and ceiling paintings, were not only used as sources of inspiration but also as training sites for decorative painting during renovation works. The so-called illustrated Bibles often served as models for Dala paintings. The Dutch tiles from the 17th century used in manors' kitchens could also provide inspiration for the kurbits.



3. Even though the majority of the famous Dala painters were men, exceptions are found. A long porch in Gagnef was decorated and signed by Margareta Ivarsdotter.



Foto Pär KOlsson



Foto Pär KOlsson

4. Material from the Dala painter Mats Persson Stadigs' workshop. The walls in the display case were painted with copies of Stadigs' painting stencils.

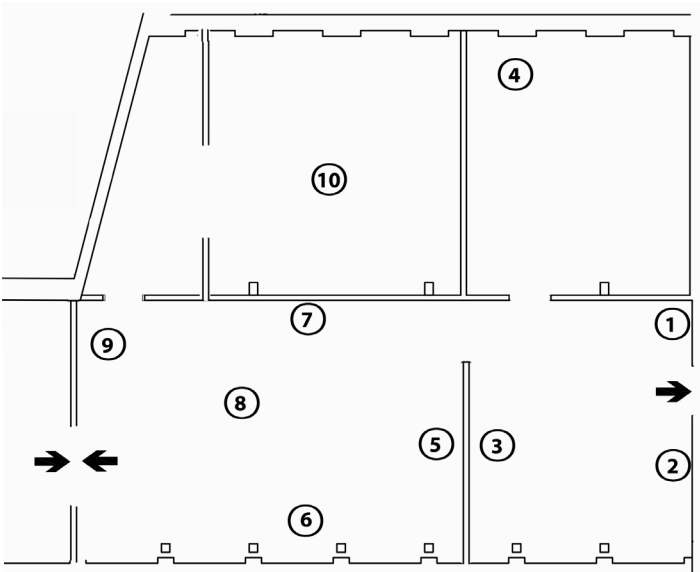


Foto Pär K Olsson



5. Dala paintings most often make up parts of entirely decorated rooms. A wall from Maskargården in Äppelbo, painted by Juwas Anders Ersson in 1827.

6. Biblical narratives were Dala painters most common subjects. The paintings are sometimes straight copies of Biblical illustrations. Even other images from contemporary religious texts were used as models for Dala paintings.

Foto KG Svensson



Foto KG Svensson



7. Profane paintings (non-religious) usually mirror actual events of Dala painters' everyday life and contemporary society.

Foto Pär K Olsson



8. In the 1780s in Dalarna, decorative furniture painting evolved into audacious stylizations. The naturalistic flowers in vases became decorative and almost abstract designs. The color range became more uniform and harmonious.



Foto Pär K Olsson



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Foto Pär K Olsson

9. Folk painting in West Dalarna differs from the rest of the region in several ways. It is possible to trace back

a strong influence from the very similar Norwegian furniture painting. Paintings of biblical illustrations and wall paintings were very rare as painters specialized in furniture painting.



Foto Pär K Olsson

10. Backhansrummet. The whole interior of Backhansgården in Svärdsjö painted by Erik Eliasson in 1781. The room was decorated with ten different illustrations including quotations in Latin blended with Bible references.



Foto Pär K Olsson

11. Towards the end of the 19th century, the Dala painting with its kurbits patterns became increasingly unfashionable and was soon outrivaled by wallpaper. The kurbits however survived as a design element under many different shapes, up until today.



Foto Pär K Olsson