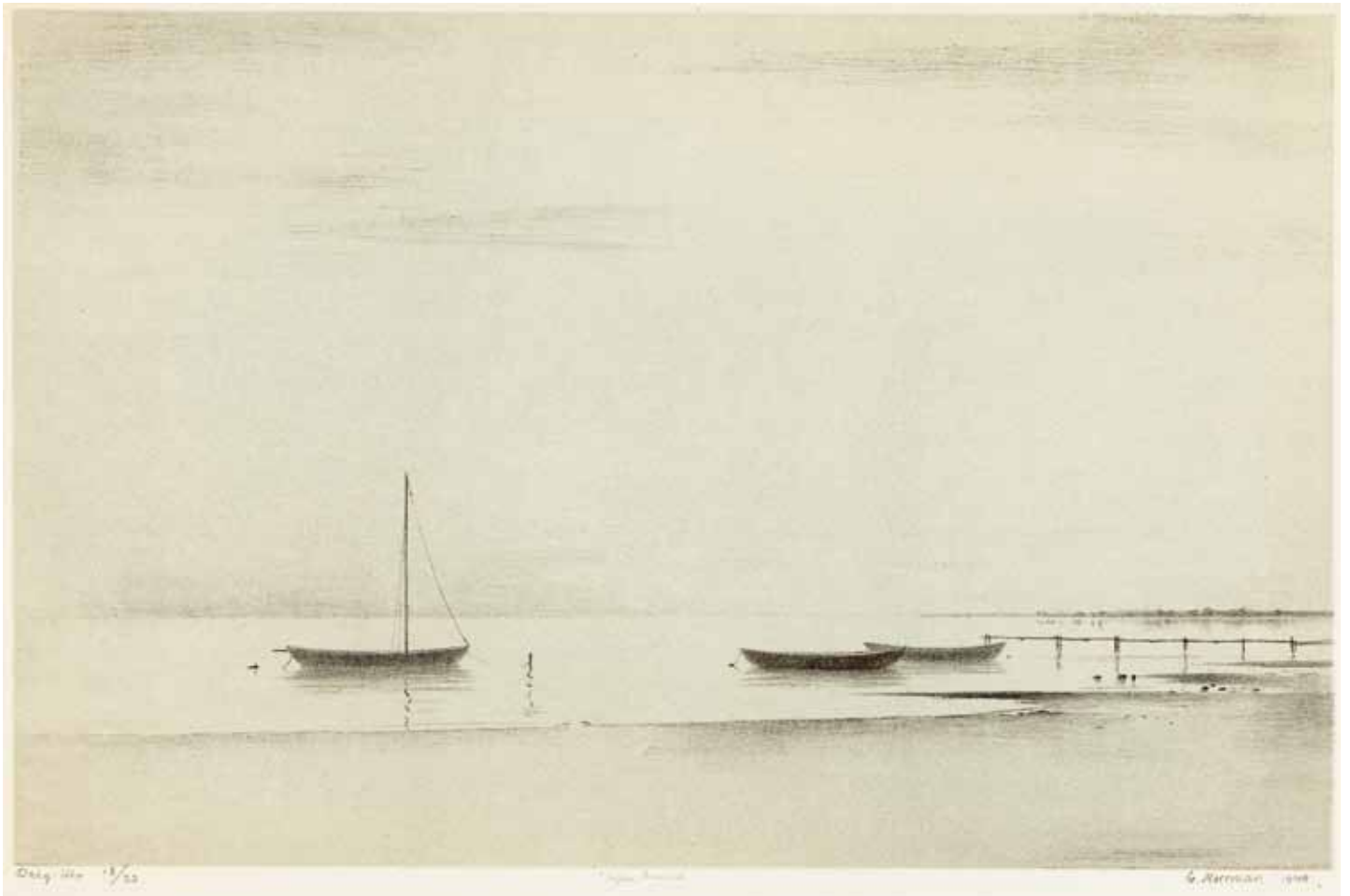


# NATURE AS POETRY

*Gunnar Norrman*



Pucker Gallery • Boston

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*Gunnar Norrman*

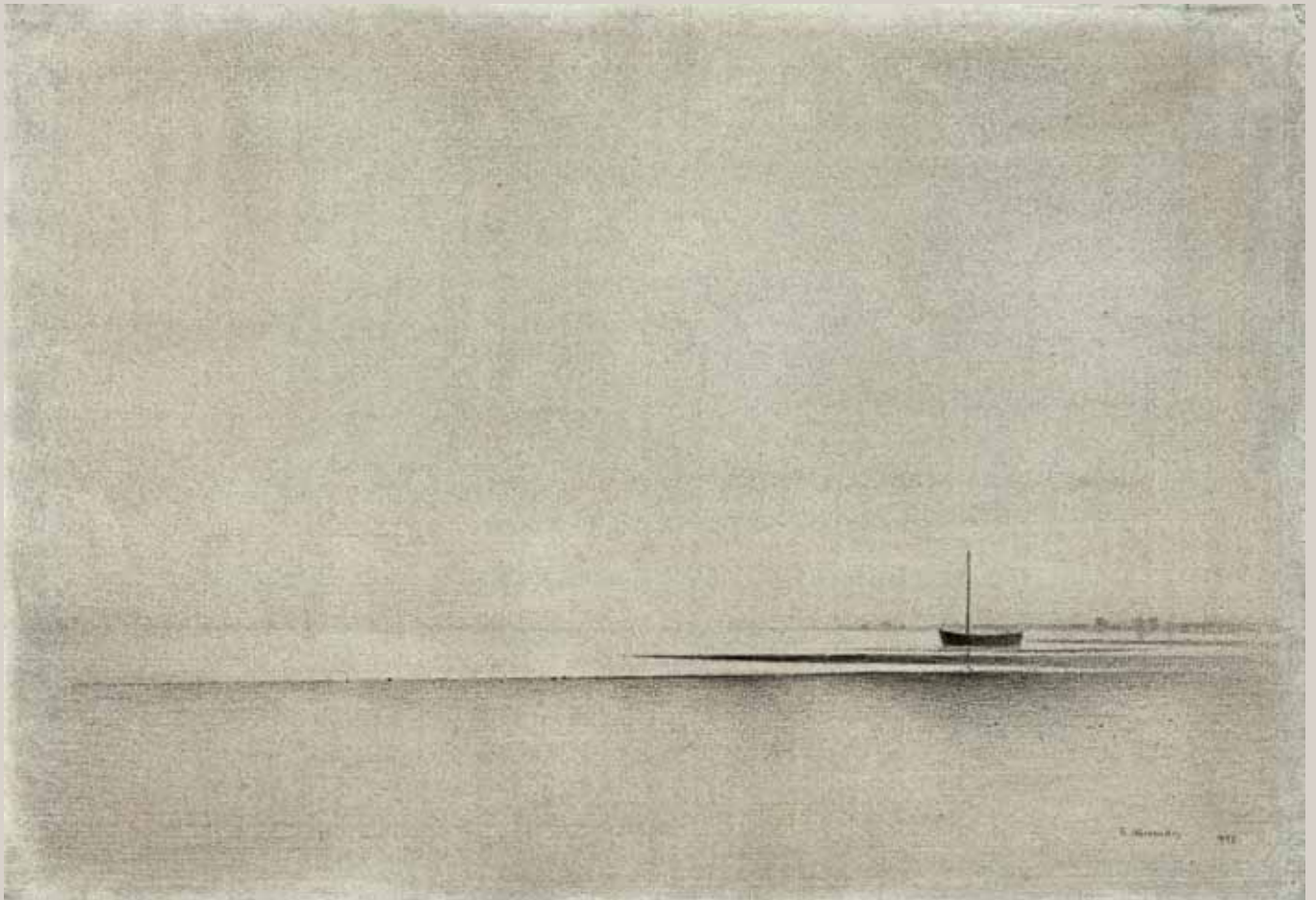
**F**or Gunnar Norrman, nature was simultaneously mysterious and familiar, vast and minute, knowable and unknowable. His black-and-white prints and drawings lovingly depict grand landscapes and individual plant life with the quiet restraint of soft or fine lines and subtle variations in tone. The Swedish artist, inspired by his natural surroundings in his home of Lomma in Skåne, Sweden, imbued his artwork with a sense of wonder and appreciation that stemmed from his own profound kinship with the natural world.

An ardent draughtsman, Gunnar Norrman was also a skilled musician who studied botany and genetics—a combination of interests that can be clearly seen and felt in his artwork. Calm and delicate, his prints and drawings of manmade structures enveloped in natural environments “sing” with a quiet melancholy, suggesting the sorrowful tension between the two realms. Such tension is resolved in Norrman’s application of subtle tonal gradations, which glorifies the shared gentle dignity of man and nature and advocates for their peaceful, harmonious relationship.

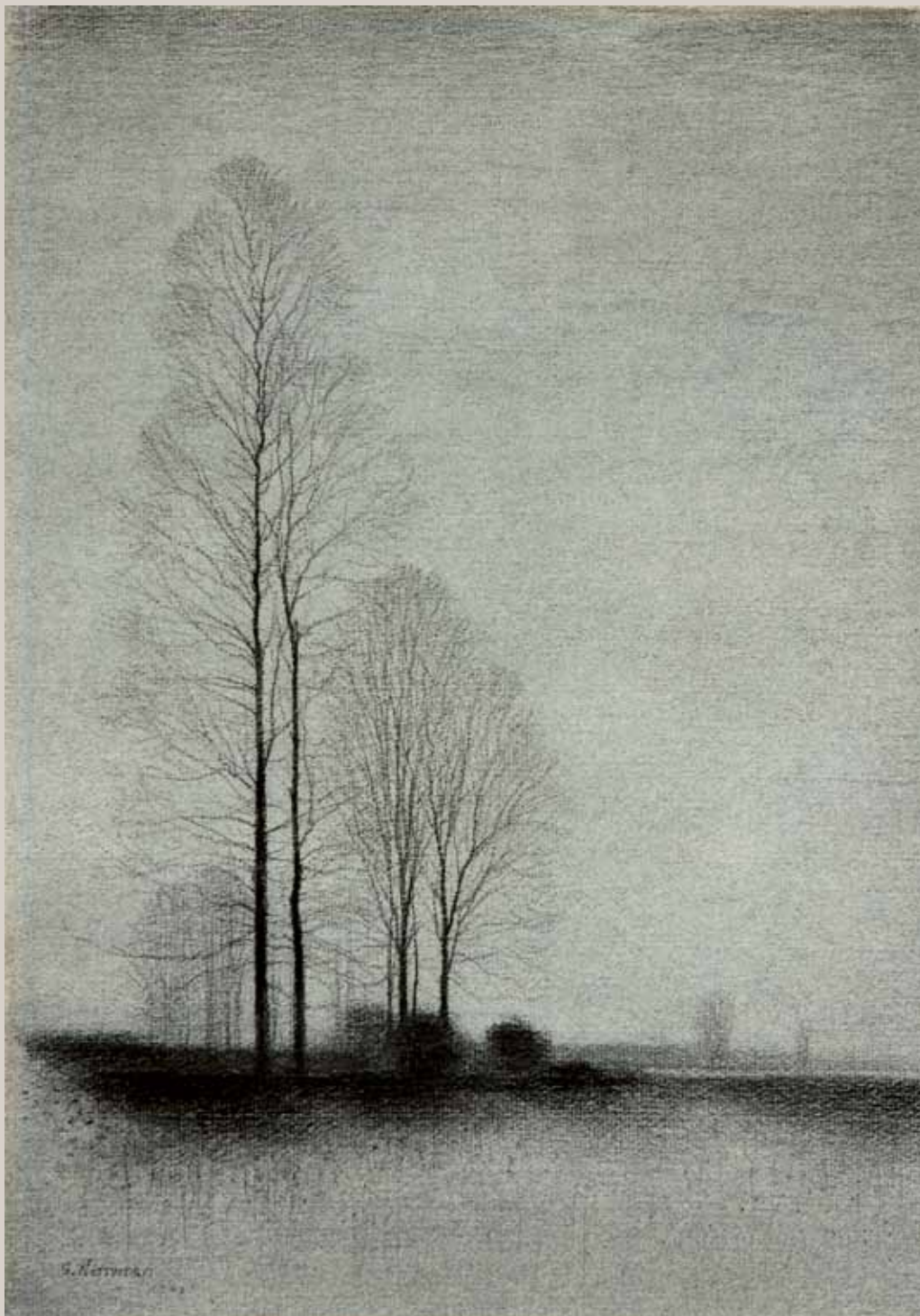
It is through exquisite attention to nature’s subtleties that Gunnar Norrman’s biological training reveals itself with a flourish. Precise depictions of the veins, stems, and buds of plant life such as scraggly branches, reeds, or a cluster of flowers showcase all the beauty that is visible in nature, including the underappreciated and the overlooked. Though Norrman’s individual plant forms are drawn with biological accuracy, his landscapes and seascapes appear as enchantingly ambiguous locales. The hazy, blurred details of these landscapes convey not only the vast distance and scale of these natural lands, but especially our inability to completely comprehend them.

The atmospheric prints and drawings by Gunnar Norrman present nature as stoic, graceful spaces in which humans can humbly coexist. His intricately detailed drawings of plant life narrow our vision toward beautiful biological truths, while at the same time, his breathtakingly hazy landscapes expand our field of wonder for nature’s abundant mysteries.

—*Jacqueline Belfield Gertner*



*Aftonstillhet (Evening Stillness)*, 1955  
Charcoal  
13 x 19"



*Vårkväll (Spring Evening)*, 1969  
Charcoal  
17 x 12.5"



*Vid Dammen (At the Pond)*, 1980  
 Drypoint, 35/50  
 2.25 x 2"  
 #536



*Holme (Islet)*, 1995  
 Drypoint, 15/20  
 3 x 2.25"  
 #913



*Två Träd (Two Trees)*, 1975  
 Conte crayon  
 4 x 5.5"





*Tussilago*, 1977  
Pencil  
5.5 x 4"



*Baskiska Berg (Basque Mountains)*, 1988  
Pencil  
4 x 5.5"



*Låg Strand (Beach at Low Tide)*, 1951  
Lithograph, ed/260  
7 x 12"  
#81



*Calamagrostisstran*, 1946  
Pencil  
9.25 x 5.75"



*Ornithogalum*, 1976  
Drypoint, 2/10  
8 x 5.75"  
#431



*Lågvatten, Lomma (Low Tide, Lomma)*, 1975  
Drypoint, 6/12  
5.5 x 8"  
#408



*Låg Vatten (Low Water)*, 1980  
Pencil  
6.5 x 9.5"

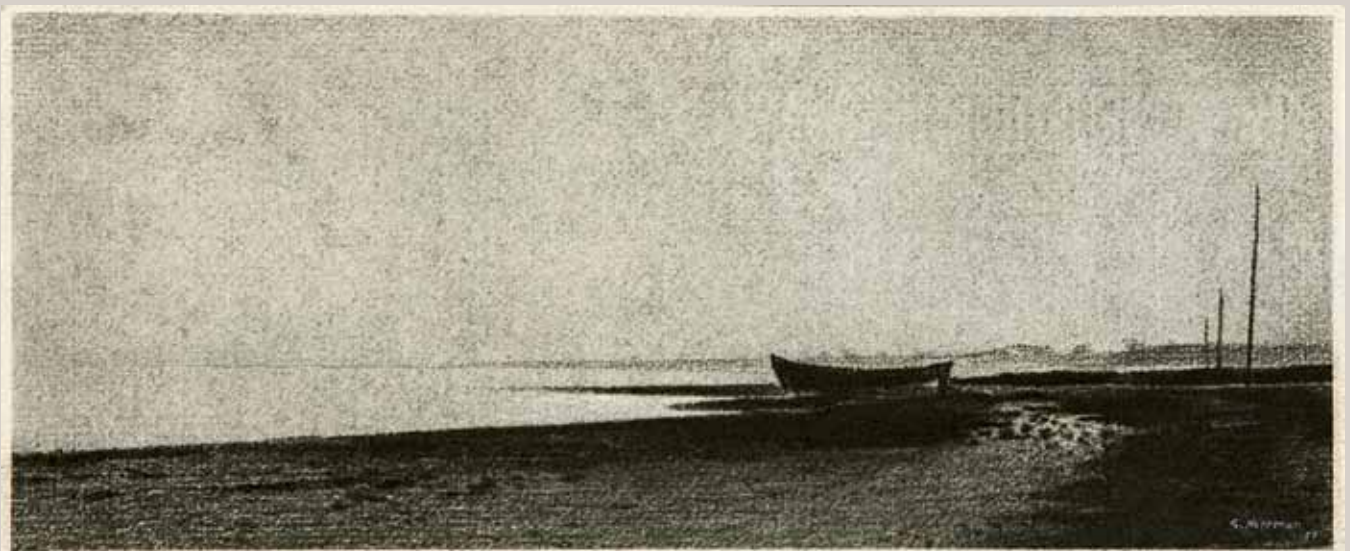


*Kustlinje (Coastline)*, 1956  
Lithograph, 18/20  
7.75 x 11.5"  
#128





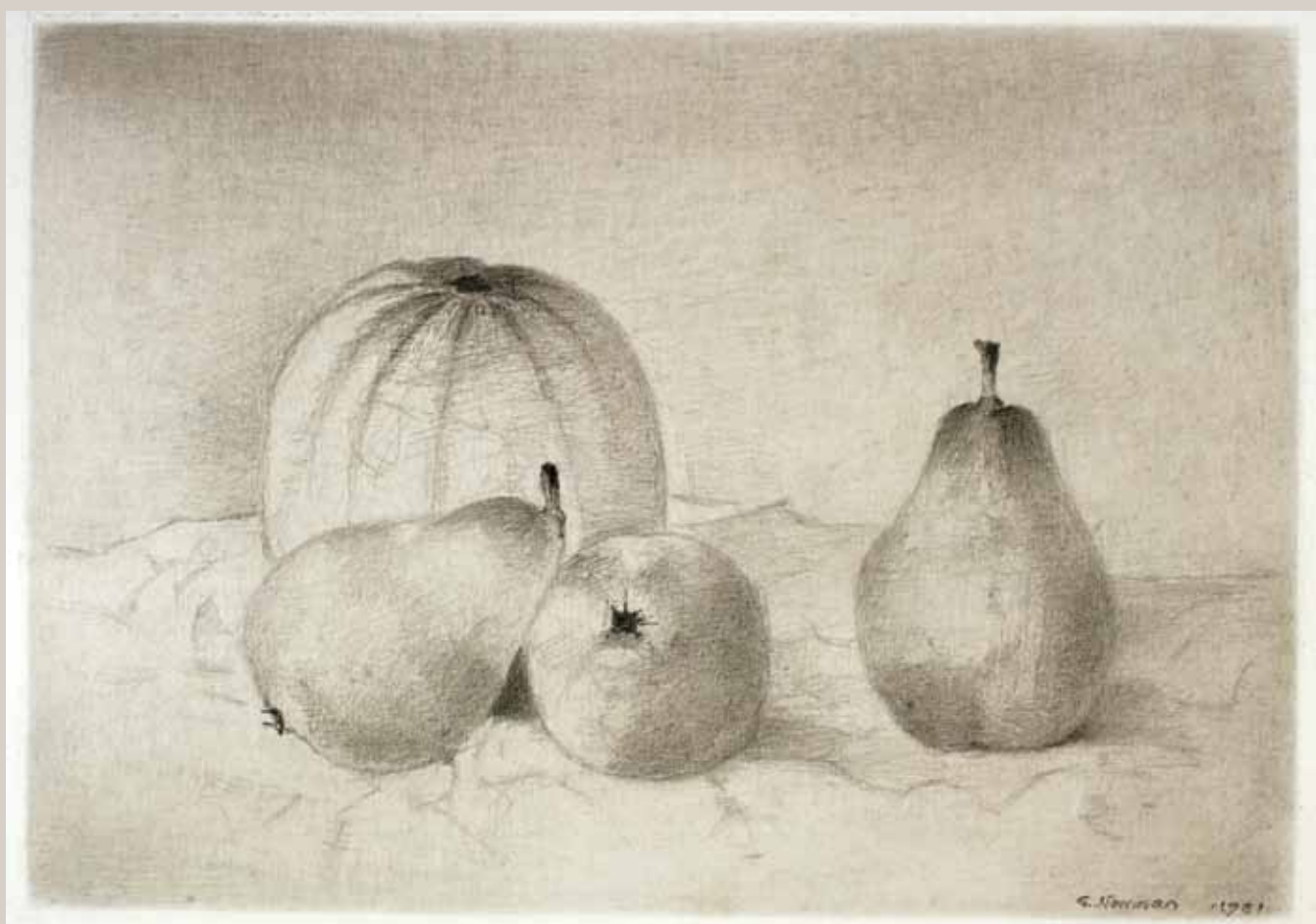
*Hagtornstrad (Hawthorn Tree)*, 1975  
 Drypoint, 11/15  
 5.5 x 8"  
 #407



*Båt på Stranden (Boat on the Beach)*, 1957  
 Charcoal  
 5 x 12"



*Fruktskål (Fruit Bowl)*, 1982  
Pencil  
4.25 x 4.5"



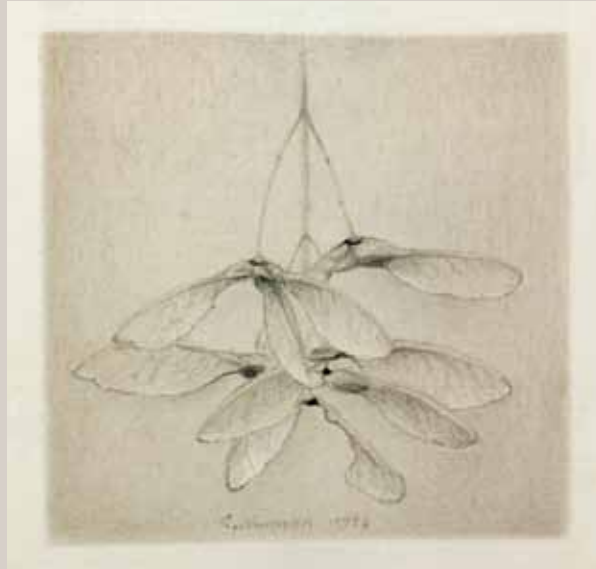
*Frukter (Fruit)*, 1981  
Pencil  
6.5 x 9.25"



*Kyrkomuren (Church Wall)*, 1985  
Pencil  
4 x 5.5"



*Mjolkort (Chamaenerion)*, 1965  
Drypoint, 1/12  
9.25 x 6.25"  
#246



*Lönnfrukter (Maple Fruit)*, 1986  
Pencil  
4 x 4"



*Grenverk (Branches)*, 1972  
Drypoint, 17/20  
5.75 x 7.75"  
#343



*Ulex*, 1974  
 Drypoint, 15/15  
 5.75 x 8"  
 #370

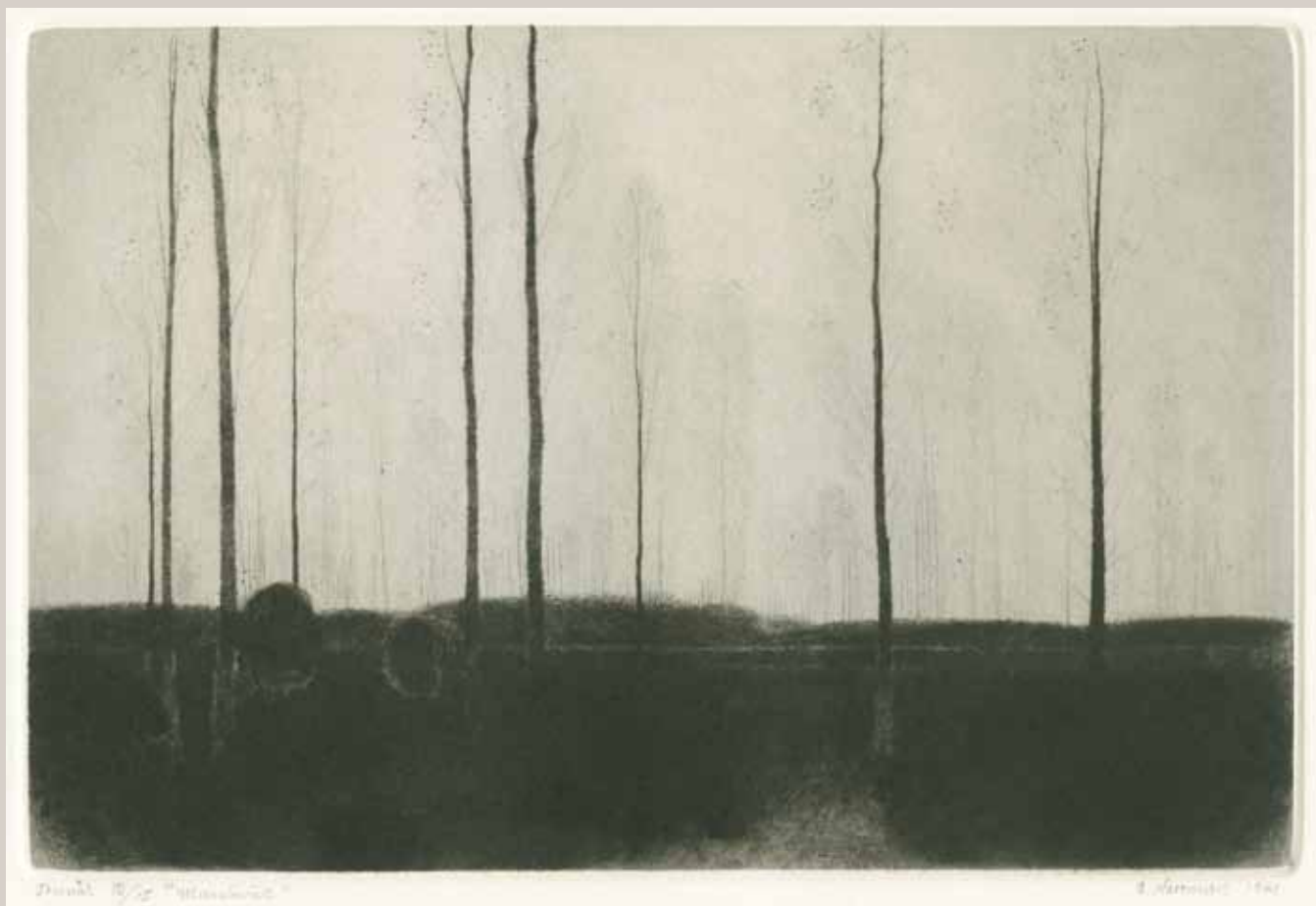


*Slånbuskar (Blackthorn Bushes)*, 1976  
 Drypoint, 41/100  
 6 x 7.75"  
 #445





*I Parken (In the Park)*, 1992  
Charcoal  
18.25 x 14"



*Maraskväll (Evening in March), 1961*  
**Drypoint, 10/15**  
5.5 x 8"  
#192



*Morgon (Morning)*, 1995  
 Drypoint, 22 ex.  
 2.75 x 3"  
 #917



*Värkväll (Evening in Spring)*, 1988  
 Drypoint, 20 ex.  
 2.75 x 3.25"  
 #778



*Kväll (Evening)*, 1984  
 Drypoint, 48 ex.  
 2.5 x 3.25"  
 #679



*Allé (Lane)*, 1995  
 Drypoint, 22 ex.  
 2.25 x 3"  
 #918



*Mot Havet II (Toward the Sea II)*, 1990  
 Drypoint, 35 ex.  
 3.25 x 2.5"  
 #830



*Tallås (Pine Ridge)*, 1985  
 Drypoint, 50 ex.  
 2.5 x 3.25"  
 #707



*Stilla Morgon (Calm Morning)*, 1980  
 Drypoint, 11/18  
 9.25 x 8.75"  
 #544



*Blomsterang (Flower Field)*, 1972  
 Pencil  
 5.5 x 7.75"





*Vass (Reeds)*, 1980  
**Drypoint**, 12/50  
 2.25 x 2"  
 #535



*Hamnpir (Port Pier)*, 1987  
**Drypoint**, 20 ex.  
 2.75 x 3.5"  
 #757



## BIOGRAPHY

Swedish artist Gunnar Norrman's endeavors in art were complemented well by his pursuits of music and botany. He was a skilled draughtsman, musician, and gardener. His delicate and subtle pencil and conté drawings and lithographs and drypoint etchings are like melodic compositions on the simple beauty of nature's gifts. In 1979, he was awarded the Prince Eugen Medal by the King of Sweden for his outstanding illustrations found in *Naturen I Våra Hjärtan*, an anthology of poems. Greatly respected in his native Sweden, Norrman's works were featured in the 1997 exhibition titled *Modern Scandinavian Prints* at the British Museum, London. He has also exhibited in the United States, Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, England, France, Japan and Italy. His works are in the collections of the British Museum (London), the Nationalmuseum (Stockholm), and the Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), among others. In 2003, a catalogue raisonné, *Gunnar Norrman: The Complete Graphic Works, 1941-2001*, was published by the Fitch-Febvrel Gallery in New York. Norrman died in 2005.

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GALLERY

*Pucker Gallery:*

240 Newbury Street, 3rd floor

Boston, MA 02116

Phone: 617.267.9473

E-mail: [contactus@puckergallery.com](mailto:contactus@puckergallery.com)

*Gallery Hours:*

Monday through Saturday

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Sunday 10:30 AM to 5:00 PM

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NATURE  
AS POETRY

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*Dates:*

4 April through 31 May 2020

*Opening Reception:*

4 April 2020, 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

*The public is invited to attend.*



*Skånsk Landskap (Scanian Landscape)*, 1956

Pencil  
4.25 x 7"

*On the cover:*

*Afton, Oresund (Evening, Oresund)*, 1948

Lithograph, 18/20  
12 x 18"  
#50

Please visit [www.puckergallery.com](http://www.puckergallery.com) to view current and past exhibition catalogues  
and subscribe to the *Artwork of the Week* e-mail list.