101 Bowls

American Swedish Institute

Bowls. Diverse in form, function, and style. Yet part of every life and culture.

Bowls from 101 artists and organizations around Minnesota and the world come together in this installation. Each bowl represents their maker’s commitment to a deeper understanding of the form and use of bowls. Each bowl has a story and an explanation of their significance to their makers and the world of handcraft. Full of personal meaning, they are symbols of tradition and innovation, loss and celebration, raw nature and human influence.

Move through the four sections, exploring ASI’s enduring links to the Nordic region, leadership in the arts and culture community, stewardship of heritage, and promotion of craftsmanship. Celebrate the artistry and diversity of the handmade world through this one shape. Be awed by the extensive connections across material, style, time, and geography that unite each of these artists. Ask “is there a bowl in my own life that has significant meaning to me?”

Nordic + Sweden

Since it began nearly 90 years ago, the American Swedish Institute has been promoting Sweden and the collaborative agenda from the Nordic region.

The vessels included in this section represent ongoing ties to Sweden and the Nordic region.

Through extended partnerships with Nordic artists and organizations, ASI continues to connect audiences globally in an effort to encourage all visitors to discover their roles as neighbors and global citizens.

Art + Culture + Community

Fueled by innovation, creativity, diverse cultural traditions, a strong sense of place and public support, Minnesota is fortunate to have a very dynamic art and culture scene. The American Swedish Institute is fortunate to be connected to these communities.

Originally founded in 1929 in Minneapolis, ASI has evolved into a vibrant arts and cultural center in large part because of the collaborative nature of the arts, culture and history communities.

Bowls in this section reflect the work that just a few organizations and individuals are doing, or have done, to make our communities more vibrant, essential and strong.

Where in your life do you find art and culture and community?

Craft + Maker

Hilma Berglund, a Stillwater, MN native, encouraged the American Swedish Institute to acquire its first foundational collection as a museum—a textile collection that continues to inspire today.

Berglund, along with six other women, founded the Minnesota Weavers Guild in 1940 and kicked off ASI’s long legacy of preserving and promoting the ongoing continuity of Nordic handcraft.

ASI continues to give shape to that handcraft agenda through extended relationships with significant craft based educational organizations and makers.

This collection of bowls represent just a few artists and organizations ASI is connected to.

Culture + Heritage

Cultural heritage is said to shape individual and collective experiences.

This collection of bowls represent different efforts underway that ensure the ongoing continuity of Scandinavian cultural identity and heritage.

For some, the materials ground them in a tradition. For others, the process of making and the forms they take on connect their makers to sheltered pasts that inform the present. And still for others, the bowl is a reflection of important and enduring relationships.

What bowl do you identify with, if any, and how? If you had a pedestal, what bowl would you place on it and why?