



Bernt Tunold was the son of a farmer and tailor. As the youngest of nine siblings, he grew up on the Island of Selje, by one of the roughest parts of the Norwegian coastline.

When Bernt was a child, his father died and his mother and siblings had to take care of him. Life was difficult on the small farm. His mother was an intelligent woman and tried to awaken her children's interest in literature and music, and she encouraged Bernt in his eagerness to draw. He moved to Bergen at the age of 18, where several of his siblings had already settled. Bergen was in tremendous development before and after the turn of the century. For example, the tram arrived in 1897 and by 1900 the city had electric lighting. After two years in officer school and some time as a secretary at the Court of Appeal, Tunold came in contact with artists and modelled for the painter Olav Rusti. Tunold attended Asor Hansen's

art school and was strongly influenced by Rusti and his efforts to preserve rural culture.

Tunold painted several early self-portraits and some good landscapes, but crucial to his art was his meeting with Nikolai Astrup in 1909. He made numerous paintings of the villages of the Nordfjord, Sunnfjord and Voss regions. He struggled economically, selling far too few paintings; Tunold was viewed as "not modern enough" for many people's taste. While his artist friends travelled to the capital or abroad for inspiration, Tunold preferred to be close to his roots and rural traditions. Countless times Tunold painted his father's farm and home, in varied weather conditions. Tunold's images are often dark, even gloomy, with countless hues and shades of green – always overcast, never sunny with a blue sky. This in contrast to Hans Dahl's eternal sunshine and smiling people. It is only in the paintings from Vesterålen in

northern Norway, where Tunold stayed for a year between 1912–13, that he uses lighter colours and even some reds. From 1916 to 1920, Tunold and his family lived in Hyen in Nordfjord, where he painted some of his first outdoor works. After he and his family moved to Bergen, Tunold painted a number of still-lives and interiors.

Unfortunately, he struggled with alcohol addiction while trying to make ends meet. My parents brought several paintings from him in order to help; he lived not far from them.

Tunold is considered the best depicter of the landscape Western Norway, second only to Astrup, and he is perhaps one of our region's best painters from the first half of the 20th century. Tunold has delighted countless numbers of people with his work. Einar Wiig has written an excellent biography of Bernt Tunold's life.

Represented in NG, BB/BKM, Os-ena in Os, near Bergen etc.



Fra hjemstedet på Selje

050/3 Olje på plate 44 x 62 sign. n.t.v.