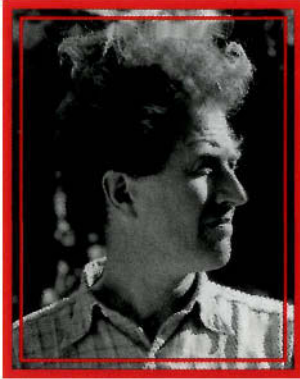


Gustaf Nordahl SWE
*10 August 1903 †1992



Gustaf NORDAHL was from Halsinborg. He began sculpture at the age of seventeen. He was educated at Konsthogskolan in Stockholm (Stockholm School of Art) from 1928 to 1934 where Carl Milles and Nils SJORGEN were teachers.

After finishing his studies he won a scholarship enabling him to make study trips to Belgium, Germany and France. He was fascinated by works of DEGAS, MAILLOT and DESPIAU. NORDAHL got his breakthrough during World War II. His *Homage to Ling* won the competition of Gymnastiklarares llskapet. The movements of the two bodies are intimately shaped and the beam harmony and beauty was the verdict of the jury, of which Carl MILLES was a member.

NORDAHL'S other outstanding sculptures are: *Emanuel Swedenborg on Mariatorget* and *The Spring of Life* in Medborgar House. His works may be found in Stockholm Modern Art Museum and National Gallery in Oslo.

For his sculpture *Homage to Ling* NORDAHL was awarded a golden medal in London 1948.

The jury for the sculpture section of the Olympic art interpreted the competition rules in a liberal fashion because although freedom of expression is allowed, the rules expect some sporting context for the representation of the human form. His medal-winning work *Homage to Ling* is convincing through the modesty of the expression in the characters and all relinquishment of heroic attitude. The two figures portray an almost Greek humility and serenity. The double sculpture shows a young boy and girl who calmly move forward, holding hands. No relation to sport is apparent, but it represents a metaphor of the Olympic ideal of peace and understanding. (WZ)



Gustaf Nordahl - Homage to Ling