

## The Sampans from Canton

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*The Sampans from Canton* is a collection of 99 Chinese gouaches from the second half of the 18th century. In minute detail, they depict an entire community afloat on the water, with the various sampan vessels used for everything from the sale of fruit and religious ceremonies to warfare and thievery.

For more than 200 years, the gouaches hung in Skärfva Manor House, the home of shipbuilder and dockyard manager Vice Admiral Fredric Henric af Chapman, on the outskirts of Karlskrona, Sweden. In 2014, the collection was broken up for auction, and Nordstjernen AB bought the gouaches in order to keep them in the country. Today they can be found at the UNESCO World Heritage Site Engelsberg Ironworks and, thanks to their virtually pristine condition, are a unique chronicle of the dream of China and contacts between east and west.

The book is the first detailed account of the collection and examines the gouaches from both an art history and an historical perspective. With this as a foundation, they can continue to serve as an important entry into the 18th century world of ideas and for understanding Fredric Henric af Chapman's great importance as a collector and visionary.

The book dimensions are 36 x 27 cm. 220 pages + 48 pages of stand-alone essays, printed separately as an insert, that place the pictures in their context in terms of art and the history of ideas.

The paintings are printed on 170 gsm uncoated paper. The book has a printed cloth cover and the pages are gilt-edged. The book is available both in **Swedish** – *Sampanerna från Kanton: F H af Chapmans kinesiska gouacher* – and **English** – *The Sampans from Canton: F H af Chapman's Chinese Gouaches*.

*The Sampans of Canton* is a collaboration between the publisher Bokförlaget Stolpe and The Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnsons Foundation for Public Benefit.



### **Bibliophile edition**

*The Sampans from Canton: F H af Chapman's Chinese Gouaches* is also available in a Bibliophile edition of 49 copies signed by the Chairman of Nordstjernan, Viveca Ax:son Johnson.

The limited edition consists of the book, in a silk-clad box, along with a separate print of one of the paintings in a silk-clad portfolio.

### **Detailed facts**

Editor-in-chief, foreword and introduction to the essays:

Kurt Almqvist, President, The Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation for Public Benefit.

Essay writers:

Kenneth Nyberg, university lecturer and associate professor of history at the University of Gothenburg

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