



„In the shadow of..“

Chapel in the
Hospital Nordlandssykehuset
Vesterålen, Norwegen

ESPEN TOLLEFSEN

in Collaboration with GLASMALEREI PETERS

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ESPEN TOLLEFSEN

born 1963 in Narvik, and lives in Oslo, Norway.

Educated as a photographer in Trondheim.

Works with art projects based on photography and photographic illustration. The starting point for much of his artwork can be found in his origins by the rugged seashores within the Arctic circle. His affinity with landscape is evident in his work.

He works to commission and independently, with architects, designers and art directors using a wide range of techniques. His clients list includes schools, churches, hospitals, shipping companies, hurtigruta, railways, hotels and company headquarters.

In Oslo, he is a member of Lavetthuset Artists' Studios on Hovedøya, an island in the Oslo fjord. And the Tollefsen family runs Atelier Nøss, a summer gallery and artists' studio on Andøya, Vesterålen, Norway. Member of NBK-Norwegian association of visual artists.



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The landscapes of Vesterålen have a strong presence in Tollefsen's work. The minutely observed and interpreted landscape appears repeatedly in his oeuvre. The sense of seeing 'the great in the small and the small in the great' gives an entry into the reading of his photography.

In his large scale work on glass, Tollefsen is concerned with the sense of a landscape, the appreciation of weather and the feeling of light. Scaling up the small details of a landscape that is so familiar to him into a large format creates potential for new interpretations. Further layers are created through the translation of these details and motifs onto glass, using printing techniques combined with traditional craft skills such as sandblasting and hand enamelling.

Tollefsen has produced two large scale works so far with Glasmalerei Peters in Paderborn. The first is installed in the St. Konrad Pfarrkirche in Falkensee near Berlin, where Tollefsen won a competition to complete a new glass wall in the renovated church. The second project is the glass recently installed in the new hospital chapel in the North of Norway.

In the later work, Tollefsen has developed a technique with Peters which combines digital print photography with enamelling, sandblast and etching. In this project they have worked with three layers of glass to create extra depth and dimensionality. The enamel colour, applied with airbrush, adds further intensity to the colours. Sandblast and etching applied to details strengthens the highlights in the motifs, and is particularly effective as the light through the glass changes.

The motifs in the design include small details of branches, straw and heather, photographed backlit, with minimal depth. These are again enlarged several thousand percent. The blurred areas and reflections suggest new landscapes and abstractions. These abstract landscapes are perfectly served by the new combined techniques.