



ART TOUR IN THE CHURCHES OF GOTLAND

Bunge, Tingstäde, Garde,
Dalhem, Lau, Visby Cathedral



Visby Cathedral

ART TOUR IN THE CHURCHES OF GOTLAND

This is the title of the art project on Gotland presented by the Church of Sweden during the summer of 2017, from May 14 – September 17.

The Art Tour begins at Visby Cathedral, which is a nave for the five parish churches that are part of the series.

The Cathedral welcomes nearly 150,000 visitors during the summer months, and one of them is You! Through the Art Tour we wish to awaken your curiosity and urge to want to visit more of the many parish churches on the island.

The exhibition here in St Maria will give you a taste of the themes chosen by each participating church, and what they are showing in their art exhibition.

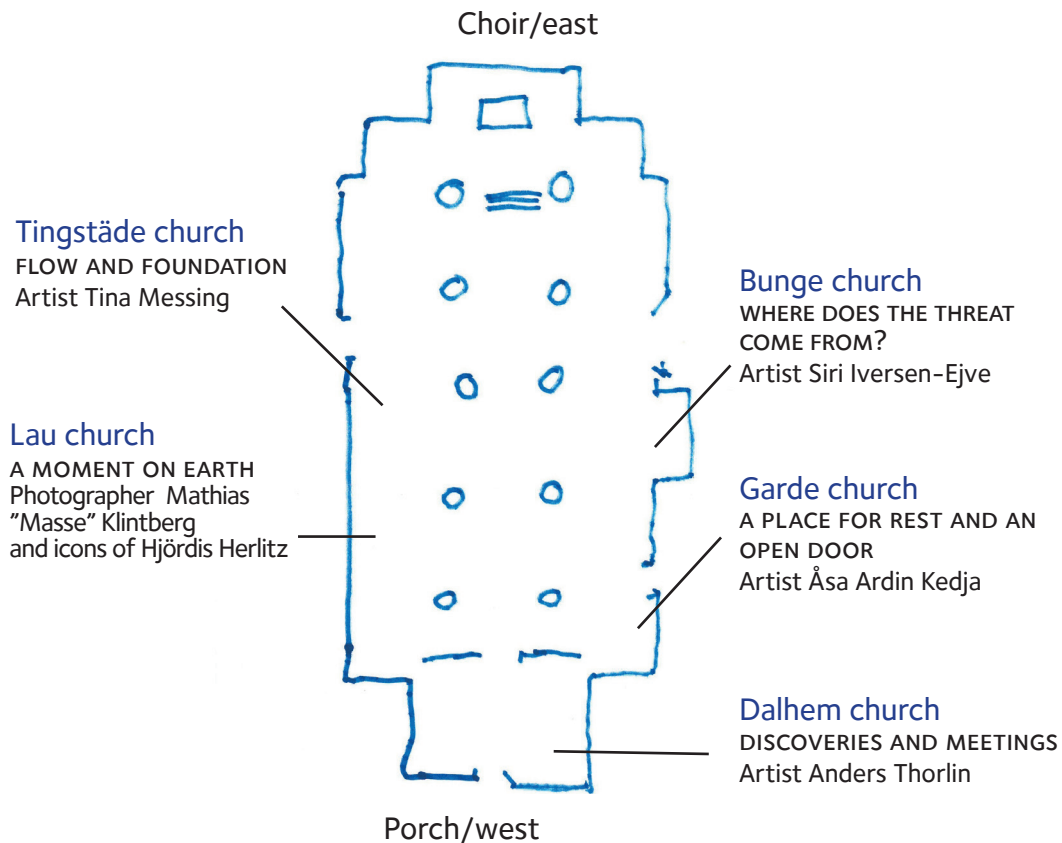
Gotland has a total of 92 medieval churches scattered like white pearls over the island from north to south. Each of them completely unique!

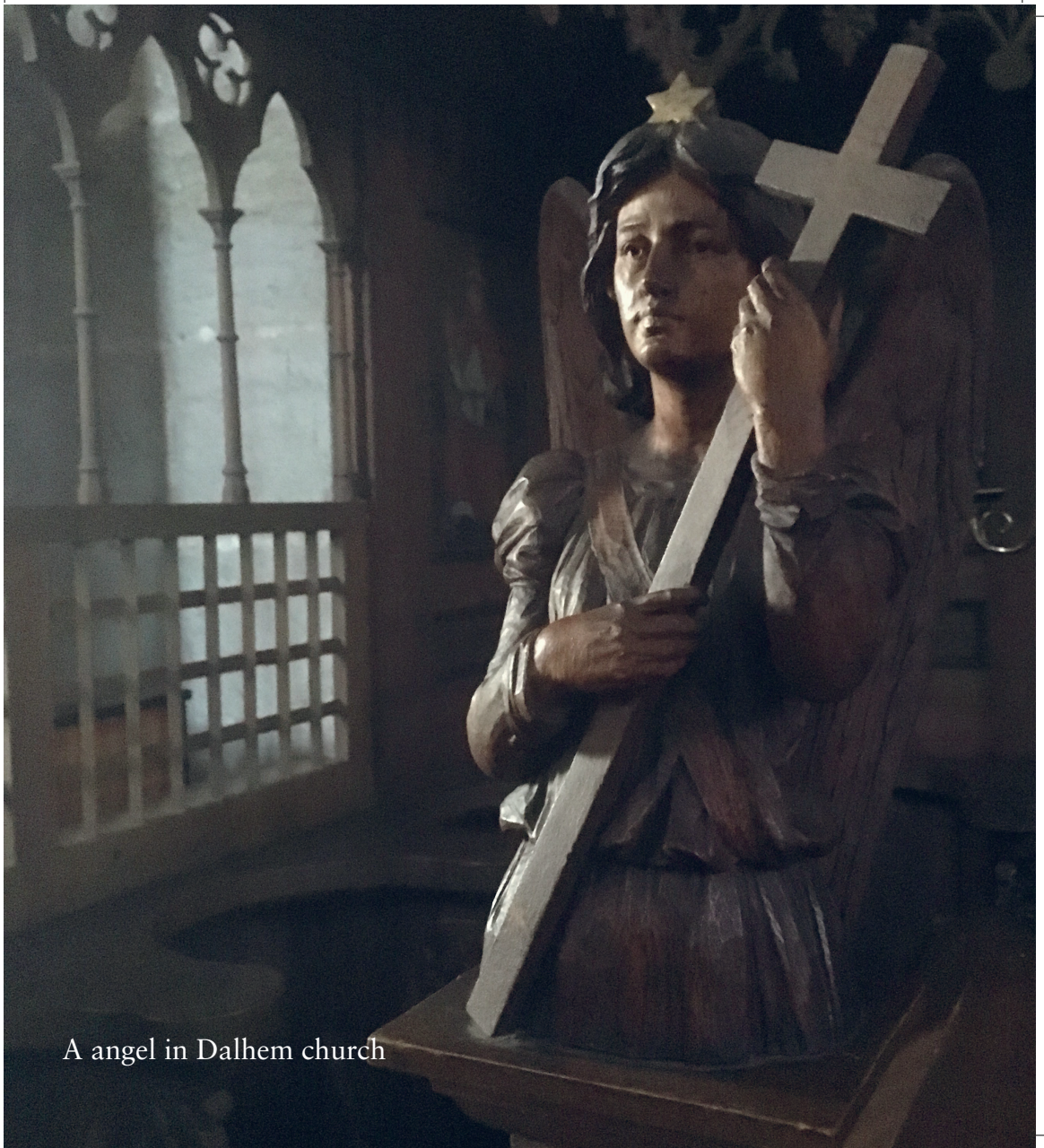
The churches of Bunge, Tingstäde, Dalhem, Garde and Lau all represent a sample of the parish churches, each with their own local artist displaying a unique exhibition.

Welcome to take an art tour to our Gotlandic churches!

THE ART TOUR BEGINS AT VISBY CATHEDRAL

-HERE YOU WILL FIND A PRESENTATION OF EACH CHURCH, THEME AND ARTIST





A angel in Dalhem church

BUNGE CHURCH

Welcome to Bunge's contribution to the ART TOUR IN THE CHURCHES OF GOTLAND.

In Bunge church, which has so obviously served as a defense stronghold, we posed the question: In the 13th century, where did the threats come from? This question also became the title for the Bunge exhibition in the ART TOUR series.

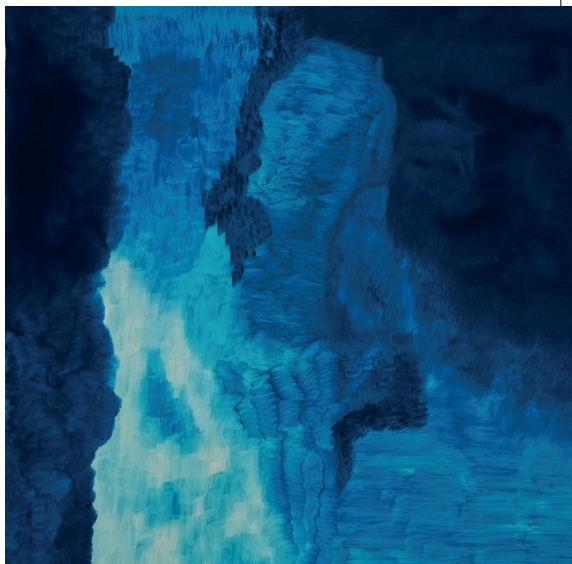
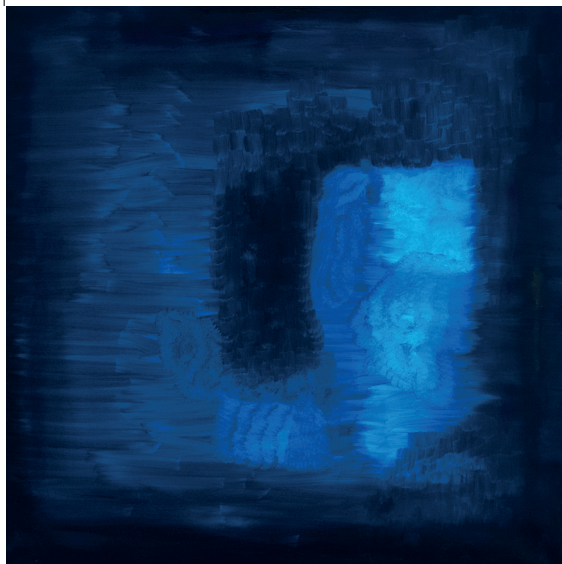
WHERE DOES THE THREAT COME FROM?

Bunge church shows many traces of its former role as a defense stronghold; you will see them and take note of them in the church interior as well as outside the building. Letting your thoughts go to the mid-13th century and pondering on the threats of that time is fascinating. Did the threats come from enemies at sea? Or were there local conflicts with the threats coming from the forests? Perhaps antagonistic Gotlandic brothers? At that point nobody knew of the pending Plague...

In **Siri Iversen-Ejves** exhibition she has based her thoughts on the threats facing today's society. What are the threats of today? Can we draw parallels between those of medieval or 19th century people? Can we compare, understand and relate to them? We humans have constant fears of some sort, and we are surrounded constantly by different kinds of threats. We all have our own demons.

For nearly eight hundred years people have come to Bunge church to seek protection, security and solace. Each with his own problems and fears. Just as the church with its thick stone walls has provided shelter and comfort for the needy, she has also gathered in the happiness and love that has been brought to her throughout the years. Even you with your individuality, become a building stone for Bunge church's history if you choose to pay a visit. She will gather you into her arms if you wish.

Welcome to Bunge!



TINGSTÄDE CHURCH

Welcome to Tingstäde's contribution to the ART TOUR IN THE CHURCHES OF GOTLAND.

In Tingstäde church we have chosen to focus on the theme of flow and foundation. And that is the title of Tingstäde's contribution to the ART TOUR series:

FLOW AND FOUNDATION

It came about so naturally! The title and theme of the exhibition in Tingstäde church was quite obvious right from the start. There on a height she rises, the medieval church of Tingstäde, gazing out over the lake and water. She can be seen for miles around and watches over those who are out on the lake, skating during the winter, and swimming or boating during the summer. She is always standing there, protecting and watching. A foundation of stone and love. And water is just as fundamental to us. Of utmost importance and a precondition for life. On northern Gotland this knowledge and insight is especially important. Our ancestors who tilled the soil were very aware of this, and we need to be reminded of it even nowadays. Water is essential for life.

IN BAPTISM ALL OF THEM MEET, THE CHURCH, WATER AND LOVE.

In **Tina Messing's** exhibition you will encounter water in all forms. Allow yourself to be amazed and carried back to childhood memories, of course you remember swimming at your childhood beach? When you caught minnows? Rowed a boat? Skimming across the ice on skates? We all have memories connected to water.

Tingstäde has one of the oldest baptismal fonts on the island. It is carved in sandstone and was put in its place as early as the middle of the 12 century. How many children have been baptized in it over these near 870 years? The mind boggles, that we are still using the same baptismal font today to baptize our children that they used so long ago. The same place, same baptismal font, and the same water. Together we bear traditions throughout the generations, they become a flow and foundation.

Welcome to Tingstäde church!



GARDE CHURCH

Welcome to Garde's contribution to the ART TOUR IN THE CHURCHES OF GOTLAND.

In Garde church we want to offer you a place for rest and an open door. This is the title of Garde's contribution to the ART TOUR series:

A PLACE FOR REST AND AN OPEN DOOR

This church has been a meeting place for people for hundreds of years. It was built during the 13th century to serve as a meeting place for people, the church in the center of the parish.

For hundreds of years people have sought out the church for solace, answers, peace and rest. Today is no exception. You can sit in Garde church for a while, close your eyes and listen to the stillness or only the sounds we don't have time to recognize otherwise? The experience and thoughts are your own. Let them come to you!

A break from everyday life. Here symbolised by a key and a chair.

There are traces of every century since the 13th century when Garde church was erected. Events and people that are pictured on the walls, additions and alterations can be detected and different masters and artisans have left their imprints. The church follows its time just as the time that has passed can be followed in the church.

Nowadays it is not easy to get permission to leave an imprint or add anything new to a medieval church! They must be preserved in "untouched" state. Perhaps that is fortunate. But at the same time we are breaking a tradition in our churches that is nearly eight hundred years old.

In her exhibition **Åsa Ardin Kedja** wishes to continue the tradition, that happenings and people who have left impressions during the present time should be depicted and preserved for eternity in the church. Painting directly on the walls of the medieval church was completely out of the question, even if we did ask for permission. But with a woman's cunning and an eye for the aesthetic, Åsa Ardin Kedja has managed to give the empty frames in the church some substance and new pictures. Pictures in the same technique and colour range as during the Middle Ages, but the motives are from today. Past and present meet in Åsa's pictures and sculptures.

Welcome to Garde!



DALHEM CHURCH

Welcome to Dalhem's contribution to the ART TOUR IN THE CHURCHES OF GOTLAND.

In Dalhem church we offer you new discoveries and meetings, and that's the title of this exhibition in the ART TOUR series.

DISCOVERIES AND MEETINGS

In the interior of the church you will meet many new faces if you look around, or "new faces"? Many of them are 400 million years old... And perhaps you will encounter them in unexpected places? You will also discover books in the church. Nothing perpetuates knowledge and learning like a book, a book of stone. The contents are what you make it.

In **Anders Thorlin's** exhibition in Dalhem church there are meetings between the unexpected and what we are certain of, stone which is hard, angular and unbendable, has been transformed by the sculptor into something soft, smooth and flexible. Contrast.

Look around, take a voyage of discovery inside the church!

If you visit Dalhem church you will also notice all the painted murals which reach from floor to ceiling. These were painted around the turn of the 20th century and are attributed to Axel Herman Hägg, a well-known architect who came from Katthammarsvik on Gotland.

But Dalhem's church bears evidence of many more masters: stonemasons, wood-carvers, décor painters... Nowadays anonymous and unknown to us. For much time has passed since they laid down their tools, and their names have been forgotten. We will never again know their names, but perhaps your eyes can re-discover their skillful artistry and hard work, and they can once again receive recognition and be remembered for a moment?

In Dalhem church there is even a special mission for the younger generation, take a flashlight, magnifying glass and other tools and investigate all the crooks and crannies in the church.

Welcome to discover Dalhem church!





LAU CHURCH

Welcome to Lau's contribution to the ART TOUR IN THE CHURCHES OF GOTLAND.

In Lau church we want to emphasise time, the time that has passed and the time that is present, and that we really only have our earth on loan for a short time. Quite simply our moment on earth. That became the title to Lau's contribution to the ART TOUR series:

A MOMENT ON EARTH

In Lau, history, traditions and the legacy from earlier generations is always near. This is something characteristic for all of Gotland, but in Lau it becomes almost tangible. It is found in the language, the Lau dialect. It is found in the farmers' agricultural practices, and in the old farms. It is found in the walls of Lau church, and in the pride of the Lau parishioners. And it is found documented in aging black and white photographs.

In **Mattias "Masse" Klintberg's** pictures which make up the exhibition in Lau church, the striving of the people of Lau, their labour, hardships, everyday life, feast days and meetings have been preserved. With his camera, Masse Klintberg has given us glimpses into the future and true moments, from a time that will never come again. He has captured the present in his images. The present as it was then, about a hundred years ago. The people we see in his pictures are no longer with us, but we are still allowed to share a moment of their time on earth, preserved in black and white.
Our time is now.

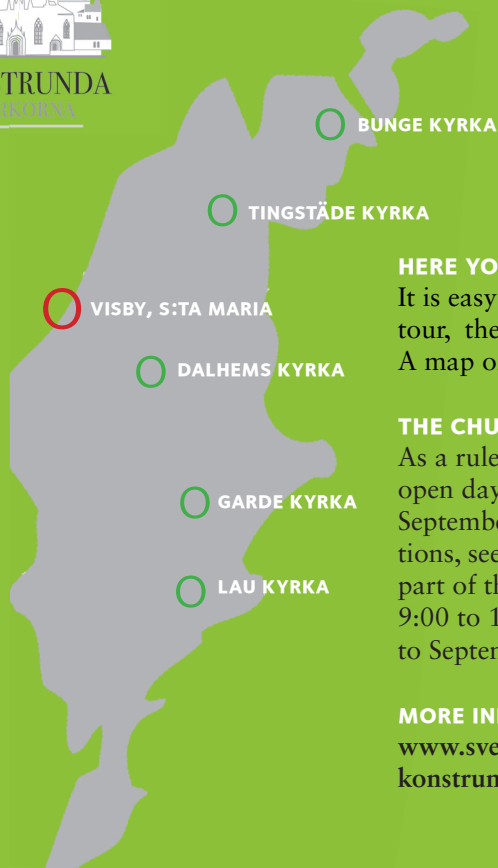
Welcome to share a unique cultural heritage in Lau church!

Between 25 June and 20 August you can also see 14 icons by Hjärdís Herlitz.





KONSTRUNDA
I KYRKORNA



HERE YOU WILL FIND THE CHURCHES

It is easy to find the churches in the art tour, they are seen in the landscape!
A map or a GPS guides you!

THE CHURCHES ON GOTLAND ARE OPEN

As a rule, all churches in Gotland are open daytime between May 15th and September 15th, but there may be exceptions, see our web. The churches that are part of the art exhibition are open from 9:00 to 17:00 every day from May 14th to September 17th.

MORE INFORMATION

[www.svenskakyrkan.se/
konstrunda-gotland](http://www.svenskakyrkan.se/konstrunda-gotland)

Svenska kyrkan 