

Welcome to Asker Museum

Where history is fun!

Asker Museum, The Valstad Collections, offers a great variety of attractions. Located in the renowned *Valley of Artists*, the museum provides unique access to a bygone era. A diverse collection of historical buildings and art gives visitors a chance to experience the works of many artists of national importance. The homes and gardens of Tilla and Otto Valstad as well as Hulda and Arne Garborg are the heart of the museum.

Tilla and Otto Valstad were avid collectors and gifted artists. They bought and relocated many of the buildings found on the museum grounds. The old buildings were falling into disrepair in their original locations and founded the museum. Their goal was to preserve as much as possible of Asker and Norway's material history, especially agricultural items. Otto was both a carpenter and a teacher, but his calling in life was fine art in the forms of painting and drawing. His works are on display at the Asker Museum as well as in the Norwegian National Gallery in Oslo. Otto's wife, Tilla, was a teacher and an artist in her own right. Her material of choice was textile and she was a talented weaver. Her products are on display at Asker Museum.

Hulda and Arne Garborg were another extraordinarily creative couple that made their home in the *Valley of Artists* and were close friends of the Valstads. The Garborg homestead, *Labråten*, is open to the public as is the Valstad House. Arne and Hulda were key activists in a movement that sought to revive Norwegian culture and traditions. Arne was a prolific writer and a leader in the struggle to protect and develop the *New Norwegian* written language, based on rural Norwegian dialects as a viable alternative to the Danish-based *Bokmål* which was the more commonly used written language. Hulda had many talents and worked with her husband to promote Norwegian cultural traditions. She is famous for her work with *bunads*, the national costumes of Norway as well as reviving folk dancing and founding a theatre that went on to become *Det Norske Teatret*, The Norwegian Theatre, located in Oslo today. All plays were performed in *New Norwegian* and this tradition The Norwegian Theatre continues.

Guests can also visit the Baroque inspired garden filled with sculptures that surrounds the Valstad House and includes the 'Bookgarden'. The giftshop and Café Gunhild are located on the ground floor of the FUSDAL Barnhouse. There are freeroaming hens, penned goats and a children's play area as well to make a day at Asker Museum a memorable and fun filled experience for the entire family.

Key information

Open year round:

Tuesday – Friday 11AM until 3PM

Sunday 12 Noon until 4PM

General admission is free of charge, donations accepted.

Guided tours of the artist homes given every hour at 60 NKR per person.

To schedule a tour outside regular opening hours or for your group or company contact the museum staff.

Contact information:

Address: Otto Valstads vei 19, N-1395 Hvalstad, Norway

Telephone: + (47) 66 79 00 11
Fax: + (47) 66 78 15 20
E-mail: post@askermuseum.no

How to get there:

By train:

Disembark at Hvalstad station and follow sign towards the museum for a picturesque 1km stroll up the Valley of Artists to the Museum.

By bus:

Use bus service number 706 to our very own bus stop, cross the road carefully and enter through the back entrance with the wrought iron gate.

By car westbound (from Oslo):

Merge onto E18 westbound (towards Drammen)

Follow E18 14,5 km

Exit to the right at Holmen towards Hvalstad

Go Right in the roundabout, take first exit

Follow Kirkeveien 1,7 km

Turn Left onto Otto Valstads vei

Follow Otto Valstads vei 1km

Turn right into Asker Museums parking lot

By car eastbound (from Drammen):

Merge onto E18 eastbound (towards Oslo)

Follow E18 23km

Exit on the left at Holmen towards Hvalstad

Go left in the roundabout, take second exit

Follow Kirkeveien 1,7 km

Turn Left onto Otto Valstads vei

Follow Otto Valstads vei 1km

Turn right into Asker Museums parking lot