The Spoon, the Bowl and the Knife
- a documentary film about the life and career of the renowned Swedish woodworker Wille Sundqvist
Project idea

Wille Sundqvist, from Högland, Västerbotten is widely considered one of Sweden’s living national treasures and is still an active woodworker at age 87.

Wille's traditional carved spoons and ladles; his turned bowls featuring carved inscriptions; and the educational work he has done through numerous international workshops and his book "Swedish Carving Techniques" (Taunton Press), have earned him global recognition and admiration. Wille's generous willingness to share his knowledge and craft philosophy have made him a highly respected and sought-after teacher and role model, and he has played a key role in preserving and developing traditional Swedish woodcraft.

As a professional handicraft consultant during the period 1969 to 1985, Wille made a number of international trips during which he introduced Swedish woodworking traditions to a global audience. In 1978, his first class at the homestead of Drew and Louise Langsner in Western North Carolina effectively launched Country Workshops, a center for traditional woodworking education that has continued to spread Wille’s teachings to students from the U.S. and abroad for more than three decades.

We believe that the history, knowledge and craft tradition exemplified by Wille's life story deserves to be documented in a film.

Goal

Documenting Wille Sundqvist's craft skills and role in the Swedish crafts movement through a film that will be distributed nationally and internationally.

Purpose

To disseminate and communicate traditional Scandinavian woodcraft, with its inherent skills, attitudes, and knowledge of materials and design, to a wider Swedish and international audience. The film will tell the story of traditions, skills, and knowledge that are disappearing in the West.

Target

All cultural and handicraft-interested members of the public, aged 10 years and older.
**Project calendar**

The movie will be recorded over a period of ten days at Wille Sundqvist's home and studio in Högland, Bjurholm, Västerbotten through a collaboration between the companies surolle and handicraft consultant Nisse Stormlod.

Marketing of the film will be conducted primarily through social media. The film is intended to be financed with crowdfunding through the website Kickstarter. ([www.kickstarter.com](http://www.kickstarter.com))

**Production team**

Woodworker Jögge Sundqvist (Umeå) has made and marketed crafts through his company surolle since 1999. Jögge’s work has been acquired by the National Art Council, Röhsska Museum, Västerbotten County Council, CAA, Umeå municipality, the Swedish Church, and others. Jögge is the author of the books "Crafts in Wood" (Natur and Kultur) and "Carve for Kitchen and Garden" (Hemslöjdens förlag) and has produced four instructional videos on DVD (Danska idéellskabet). He is a frequent Course Lecturer in Scandinavia, Europe and the USA. Jögge Sundqvist is the son of Wille Sundqvist.

Bautafilm Ltd is located in Umeå and Tärnaby. The team behind Bautafilm are very experienced on a broad scale in film production, training and project management. In addition to implementing the productions, the company has a expertise in film projects as, project manager, researcher, photographer, editor, etc.

**Content**

The film will have a modern, informative interface with a narrative that captures the listener. The film will show and tell how Wille harvests materials from a tree; carves a spoon with a knife and ax; and turns and decorates a bowl from green wood. Viewers will follow as the projects develop from raw material to the finished article. The film will also include biographical information, with an overview of the Swedish crafts movement and how Wille’s work as an artisan and handicraft consultant has helped to preserve and develop handicraft in Sweden. The film will be subtitled in English. A two-page accompanying booklet will provide general information about the content in Swedish and English.
The mood of the film

The mood and pace of the film will reflect Wille’s experience and knowledge, and the peace he radiates. Nature is important in Wille’s world and is a basis for his creativity, and that will be emphasized throughout the film. The film will convey Wille’s special experience to the viewer, and his teaching skills will inspire people to start their own craft. The film will be inspiring and entertaining and can be appreciated without prior knowledge of crafts or woodworking. The film will convey a positive role model for young people and children, that encourages them to practice crafts.

Technical strategy and work process.

We want to create a film with transitions and scene changes that support a peaceful atmosphere around Wille. We will work with overview images that fade in and out of the work being done. We will alternate between close-ups that show the work processes, and shots where the camera has eye contact with Wille as he explains what he does and why the chosen technique is important. We will emphasize smooth transitions, to create a steady flow of the film, with as many continuous processes as possible in each scene.
Audio

The background music will be contemplative and complement the images and enhance the content. Music will be used in the transitions and the major scenic shots. The sounds of nature (e.g. birds singing through an open window) and the sounds of the work (e.g. tools against wood) will permeate throughout.

Summary of content

- Brief introduction.
- Harvesting material in the woods.
- Splitting.
- Cutting with an ax.
- Carving grasps.
- Spoon shapes and function.
- Turning of a bowl.
- Pattern Chip Carving and finishing.
- Technology and security.
- Historical review.

Wille Sundqvist’s teaching methodologies, design and craft traditions have been taken up by many crafts enthusiasts over the years. We would like to mention the following internationally renowned persons:

**Drew Langsner** (North Carolina, USA). Director, Country Workshops.


**Del Stubbs** (Minnesota, USA). Turner, knife-maker, carver.


**Mike Abbott** (Herefordshire, England). Green Wood Chairs.


**Jan Harm ter Brugge** (Holland). Spoon-maker.

**Professor Khu** (Bridgeport, Connecticut).

**Jon Stromberg** (Minnesota, USA). Woodworker and instructor at North House Folk School.

**Peter Follansbee** (Massachusetts, USA). Woodworker of 1700s furniture. Green crafts.
We are currently seeking sponsors for this important and unique film. Both large and small contributions are of great value in a small professional production like this. If you are interested in providing support, please contact us!

The project has been awarded a grant by The National Swedish Handicraft Council