

Bror Kronstrand in English

Bror Kronstrand (1875–1950) was a prominent Swedish portrait artist and painter. Renowned as a leading society painter of his generation, he painted portraits for wealthy patrons, royals, and politicians in Sweden, across Europe and the USA and South America.

Bror Kronstrand was born and grew up in a small house in Mariestad, Sweden. His father was a locomotive foreman.

*Kyrkogatan in Mariestad and
Bror Kronstrand's parental home*



In 1895 he enrolled at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Stockholm where he quickly gained attention by winning the Ducal Medal. Shortly after, he moved to England, spending time painting in the artists' colony of Newlyn in Cornwall.

Bror Kronstrand on his bike, Alexandra Road, Newlyn

He was a sociable gentleman with a keen sense of humour and he soon made many friends.

In 1907, his first major break came, a commission to paint Queen Alexandra of England and then later, King Gustaf V of Sweden. This led to a call from the White House and a trip to the USA to produce a portrait of President Howard Taft's wife, Helen Louise Taft.

Queen Alexandra, Bror Kronstrand 1907



Bror Kronstrand had reached a high point in his career and the commissions came flooding in - especially from women who enjoyed his flattering style. He worked quickly and could produce a portrait in a few hours. Generally, he began with a charcoal sketch and layered on semi-transparent colours to allow the drawing to shine through from below. The short sitting time was very much appreciated by his customers.



*Bror Kronstrand's portrait of Helene Taft
He was active in the USA 1910-1913*

Bror Kronstrand was a very productive painter. According to his own notations he made more than 2000 portraits!

He lived and worked in Mariestad 1924 – 1932 and in Stockholm 1932 – 1950.