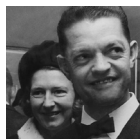


## About Anni & Bent Knudsen



Mr. Bent Knudsen (1924-1997), Kolding, Denmark, made his first famous paper craft design when he was only 14 years old. It was "Maren the milking cow" – a design which has become a classic masterpiece and sold in thousands of units and is still a popular model today.

With his great interest in decorative art Mr. Knudsen was educated as a silversmith. Mr. Knudsen made his apprenticeship and graduation with the renowned silversmith Hans Hansen's Silversmith A/S in Kolding and continued working there until 1956.

Already in 1952 Mr. Knudsen established his own company with paper craft and mobiles together with his wife Mrs. Anni Knudsen. Bent Knudsen started experimenting with paper, card board, wood, metal, glass, plas-

tic and other materials – even fish bone. Anni & Bent Knudsen's designs soon became state of the art and their reputable brand held a great share in the marketing of Danish design abroad. Many companies have copied their designs and made a good living on their creativity.

Jewelry remained an important part of the activities in the company from 1956 until the beginning of the seventies. Since the early seventies paper craft has been the major activity in the company.

Anni & Bent Knudsen received several design awards regarding their work with both jewelry and paper craft. To name a few, they received an award from the Danish Trade Council in the seventies for their card board version of the guardsman from the Royal Danish Life Guards. In 1987 Anni & Bent

Knudsen received a design award. The jury's motivation was that Bent Knudsen's importance to the craft of paper cuts and mobiles was to be compared to Hans Christian Andersen's importance to the fairytales. In 1988 they furthermore received the European Gold Star for Quality.

The Danish royal family has through the years paid Anni & Bent Knudsen several visits and shown a great interest in the products. Among their assignments they have been hired to create official gifts for and from the royal family, silverware to Danish churches, and the mayor's chain for the city of Aarhus.

Privately as well as professionally Anni and Bent Knudsen were mingling with the royal family as well as famous actors, artists and other celebrities. To name a few

friends of the Knudsen's there was Piet Hein, Ghita Nørby, Robert Jacobsen, and Nanna Ditzel. Anni & Bent Knudsen used ballerinas from the Royal Danish Theatre as models to promote their products.

After Bent Knudsen's death in 1997 the family continued the company in the same spirit as Anni & Bent Knudsen did for nearly half a century. In 2008 Anni Knudsen decided to sell the paper craft and mobile activities to its present owners – the married couple Mrs. Louise Helmersen and Mr. Kent Sejdelin. Their company, Livingly, continues to create simple and sophisticated designs in the same spirit as Mr. Knudsen. As an example Livingly continues Anni & Bent Knudsen's old tradition of an annual season's design.