

"

As a designer, Kay Bojesen had a special ability to bring wood to life, instilling his work with a lighthearted sense of humour. You can hardly resist smiling when your gaze rests on his famous monkey with his insistent black eyes and rounded body ...





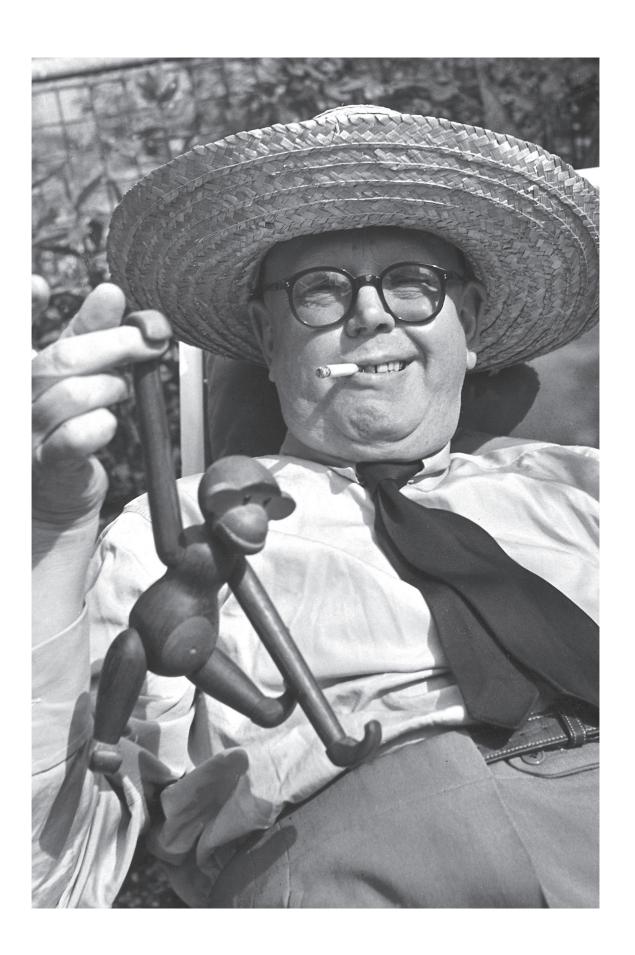
### **KAY BOJESEN**

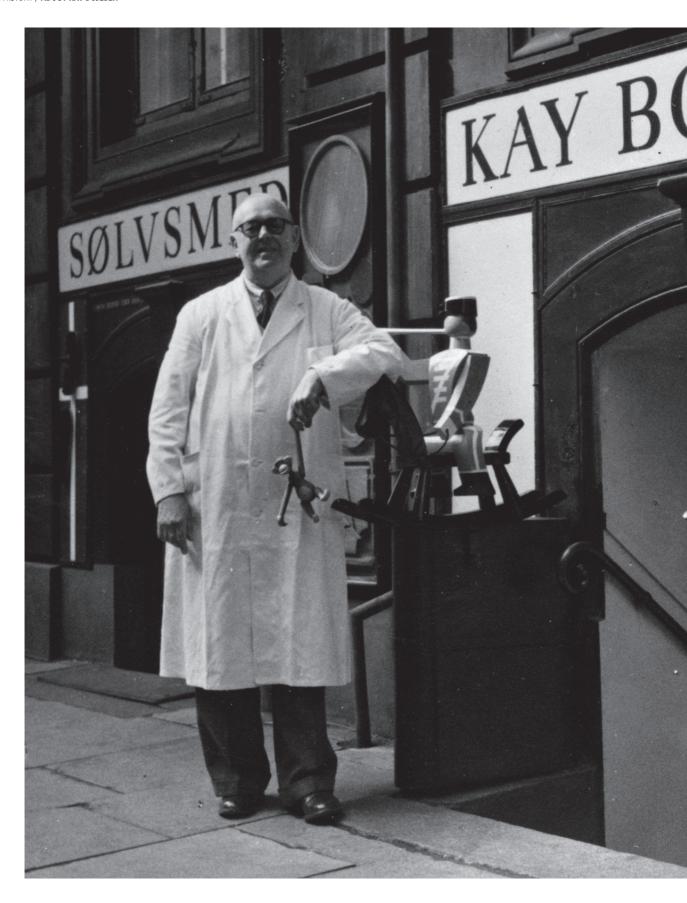
Kay Bojesen graduated as a silversmith in 1910 after completing his apprenticeship with Georg Jensen. He was among the first to enthusiastically embrace functionalism in Danish handcrafts and he co-founded 'Den Permanente' – a showcase retail store that featured the best in Danish design for decades.

In the 1930s, Kay Bojesen began to explore his interest in woodworking in earnest. Among other things, he created a series of wooden animals which fit with his belief that design should be rounded, soft and feel good in your hand. His intention was not to replicate true-to-life animals, but rather to create imaginative designs with a sense of humour.

With the closure of Kay Bojesen's legendary store on Bredgade in Copenhagen in 1990, several of his works stopped being produced. Now, it is a great pleasure to reintroduce a number of Kay Bojesen's wonderful original designs, remaining true to his drawings and respecting his stringent requirements for materials and craftsmanship.

Kay Bojesen died in 1958 at the age of 72, leaving behind a substantial design legacy. Today, his grandchildren proudly carry on his legacy.







Kay Bojesen is born in Copenhagen (15 August 1886).

1930

The Horse figure came into the world at the beginning of the 1930s.

1932

Kay Bojesen opens his store and workshop at Bredgade 47, close to Amalienborg, the Royal Palace.

1932

The Rattle arrives, the first classic children's toy.

1934

Pind, the dachshund dog, comes into being.

1935

Tim, the quirky little terrier, comes to life.

1935

The first exotic animal, the zebra, is created.

1935

The little quirky terrier, Tim, comes to life.

1936

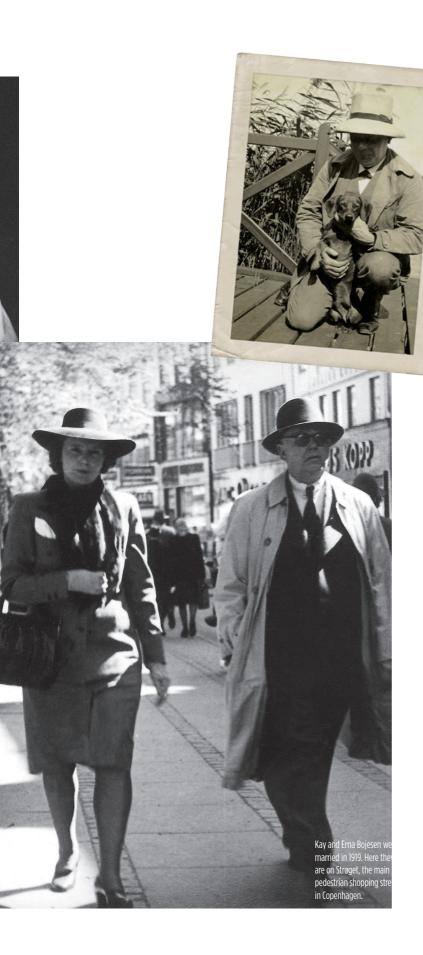
The rocking horse in lacquered beech is designed for playful children.

1937

Sedan, the automobile, is designed.

Kay Bojesen was one of Scandinavia's leading functionalists and his designs are characterised by their simple, architectural forms.





The Royal Guardsmen are fashioned from wood.

1945

The skiers were produced in the 1940s.

1948

Santa Claus first saw the light of day in the late 1940s, inspired by the success of the Guardsmen.

1950

The Songbird came into the world in the 1950s, but was never put into production by Kay Bojesen.

1951

The year in which the beloved Monkey figure was created.

1952

The inquisitive little Bear comes into being and Kay Bojesen is appointed as an official purveyor to the Royal Danish Court.

1953

The Elephant joins the family. Made of oak

— large and thick-set with a movable trunk.

1954

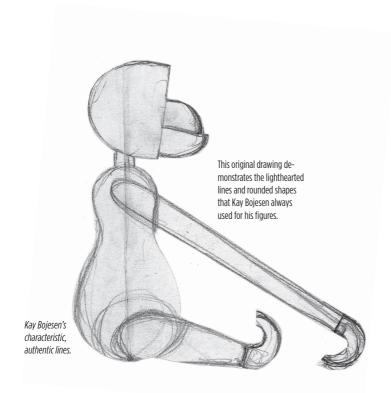
The Seagull is produced for an anniversary exhibition at Snedkerlauget, the Danish Carpentry Guild.

1955

The Hippo comes into being and holds the pencil on Kay Bojesen's desk.

1957

A year prior to Kay Bojesen's death, he designs one of his very last wooden animals – the Rabbit.



# Today, Kay Bojesen is considered one of Denmark's biggest designer names and his work is among the most sought-after in Danish design

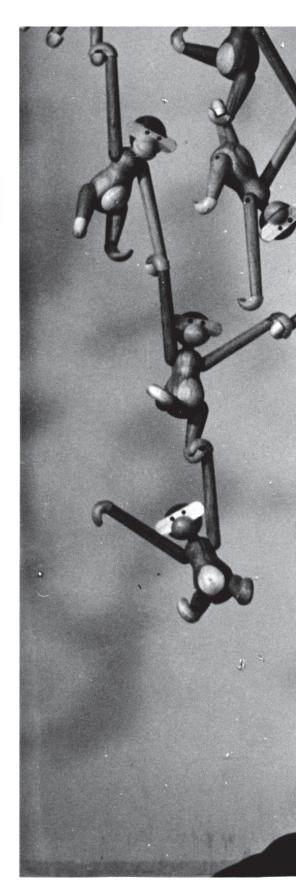
Silversmith and designer Kay Bojesen had a very special talent. He could bring wood to life and he became world-famous for creating wooden animals with soul, a sense of humour and a twinkle in their eyes. One of the most prolific Danish craftsmen of the 20th century, Kay Bojesen has more than 2000 pieces to his name.

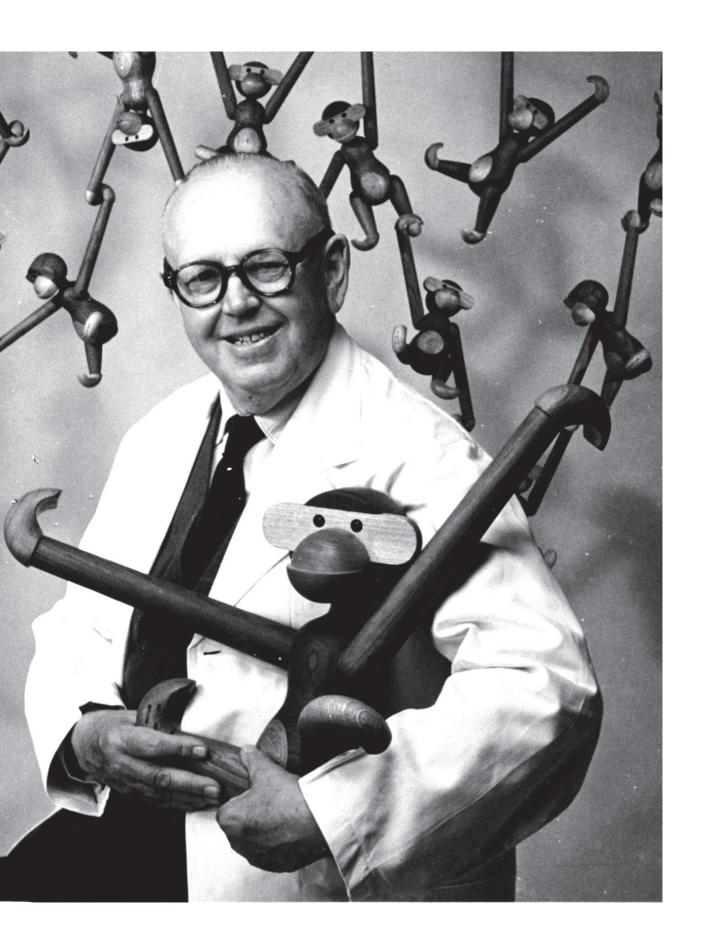
He is best known for his playful and cheerful monkeys, royal guardsmen and other wooden toys, but his wideranging production also includes jewelry, cutlery, teapots and silver cups.

Kay Bojesen graduated as a silversmith in 1910 after completing his apprenticeship with Georg Jensen.

He was among the first Danish artisans to enthusiastically embrace functionalism and he co-founded 'Den Permanente' – a retail store and exhibition space that, for decades, featured the best in Danish and Scandinavian design.

1919 marked the start of a new era for Kay Bojesen, as he became married and his son Otto was born. This sparked Kay Bojesen's fascination with children, toys and wood – and brought back memories of his own childhood, when his father (Ernst Bojesen, publisher of the Danish satirical annual Blæksprutten (The Octopus)) carved wooden figures for him and encouraged his children to be inventive, imaginative and high-spirited.













## TIM THE DOG

Countless dogs were drawn by
Kay Bojesen's hand and Tim is the
name of this quirky little terrier designed
in 1935. With its movable head tilted
alertly to one side and its tail held
high, Tim is one of Kay Bojesen's most
expressive animals. When children would
pass by Kay Bojesen's shop at Bredgade
47 in Copenhagen, they would often
be given a small gift. They may well
have become the lucky owners of this
particular terrier – Tim.

## THE HORSE

Kay Bojesen sketched enough horses to fill an entire stable during his time as a designer. The Horse was first unveiled at the start of the 1930s. With its dignified posture, thick mane and reins at the ready, the Horse invites you to cheerfully gallop away with it on imaginary journeys. The rounded curves and stiff legs give the Horse the playful expression that Kay Bojesen's family of wooden animals are known for.









## PIND THE DOG

Kay Bojesen's intention was never to make true-to-life replicas of animals. His ambition was to create playful variations that were pleasant to hold, while sparking the imagination and celebrating the child within us all. Born in 1934 and still as cheeky as ever, Pind the dachshund dog is made of walnut.







#### MANY WAYS TO ENJOY THE LOVEBIRDS

Lovebirds (or turtle doves) are known for lifelong partnerships with their mates, making them a beautiful symbol of love.







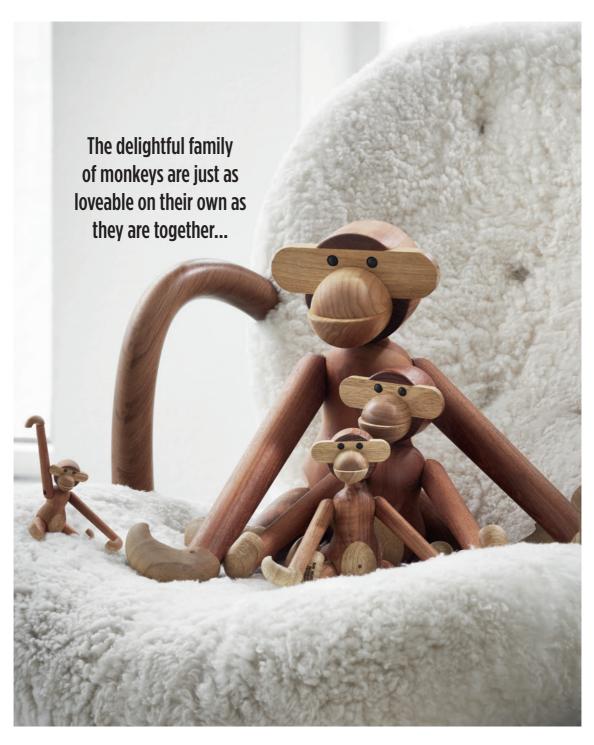
## THE LOVEBIRDS

The Lovebirds bring a touch of romance to Kay Bojesen's magical universe of wooden figures. Made of natural and smoked oak, the Lovebirds were designed by Kay Bojesen in the 1950s. The designer never managed to put the birds into production.

## THE MONKEY

Kay Bojesen's had initially thought that the Monkey would provide his children with an amusing coat hook! Since 1951, this teak and limba-wood monkey has graced the covers of numerous design magazines and rested on countless bookshelves as a cheery greeting. A true Danish design icon with rare charisma.





#### MANY WAYS TO ENJOY THE MONKEY

The Monkey is living proof of Kay Bojesen's conviction that designs should "smile". However you choose to display the Monkey, it creates the base for an enchanting, fun and stylish universe.







The inquisitive little Bear comes into being and Kay Bojesen is appointed as an official purveyor to the Royal Danish Court.





The Elephant joined the family. Made of oak – large and thick-set with a movable trunk.









## THE HIPPO

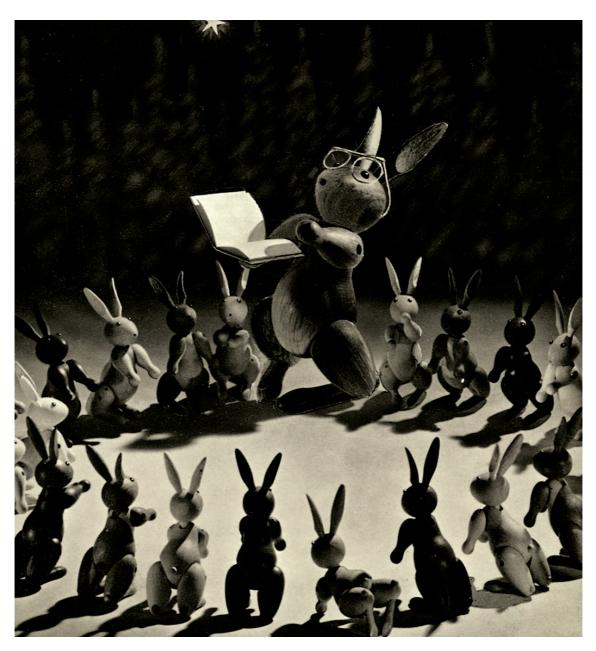
The Hippo was created in 1955 and was a faithful companion to Kay Bojesen. From his place atop Kay Bojesen's desk, the Hippo held a pencil in his broad smile. The Hippo appeals to the child in all of us and his head invites a loving tap.

Painted with blackboard paint, the widely-grinning Hippo can be used with the accompanying piece of chalk to jot down reminders – or for scribbling funny or affectionate messages.





A year prior to Kay Bojesen's death, he designs one of his very last wooden animals – the Rabbit.



## MANY WAYS TO ENJOY THE RABBIT

Use the beautiful Rabbit as a jewellery holder or as a delightful gift for Easter.







## THE RABBIT

Made of oak, the Rabbit was born in 1957 and is the youngest member of Kay Bojesen's family of wooden animals. For decades, both children and adults have created a magical universe through telling stories about animals – allowing the world to slow down just a little and letting daydreams take flight.







## CHILDREN'S PLAID BLANKET

The plaid blanket is illustrated with Kay Bojesen's beloved Monkey and is 100% lambswool. Woven using the jacquard technique, the blanket is reversible, revealing an underside in contrasting colours. Its smooth, soft texture means that the blanket will not scratch sensitive skin if, for example, it's used to keep small children warm in a pram or stroller. The Monkey artwork was created by popular Danish designer and graphic artist Bo Bendixen.





## CHILDREN'S TABLEWARE SET

The melamine tableware set is designed with attention to detail and gentle curves – just perfect for small hands. Kay Bojesen liked to encourage play and creativity and, not least, learning through play. Tell the time on the plate with the knife and fork representing the hour and minute hands of a clock. Move the spoon from letter to letter in the bowl, spelling short words children are likely to recognise. Easily find simple, familiar words among the letters on the cup.

## **ROYAL GUARDS**

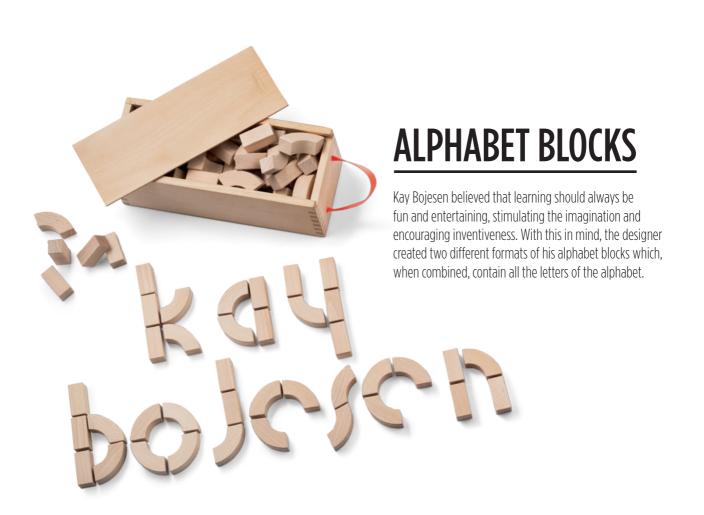
The Royal Danish Guards have protected castles in Denmark since 1658. Kay Bojesen designed his first regiment in 1942, complete with bearskin hats and the red dress uniform with its white cross across the chest.





Throughout the years, Kay Bojesen made blocks in many different







"From this moment on, no child will be bored", said Kay Bojesen one day. And so he sat down and designed the lively Rocking Horse, which nearly jumped off the drawing board! It stands straight-legged and tall, with a friendly face that inspires confidence and trust.





#### KAY BOJESEN IS RENOWNED FOR HIS ABILITY TO BRING LIFE TO WOODEN DESIGNS

 a talent that gives most of the animals, people and automobiles he created a gentle curve, softening the natural hardness of wood.



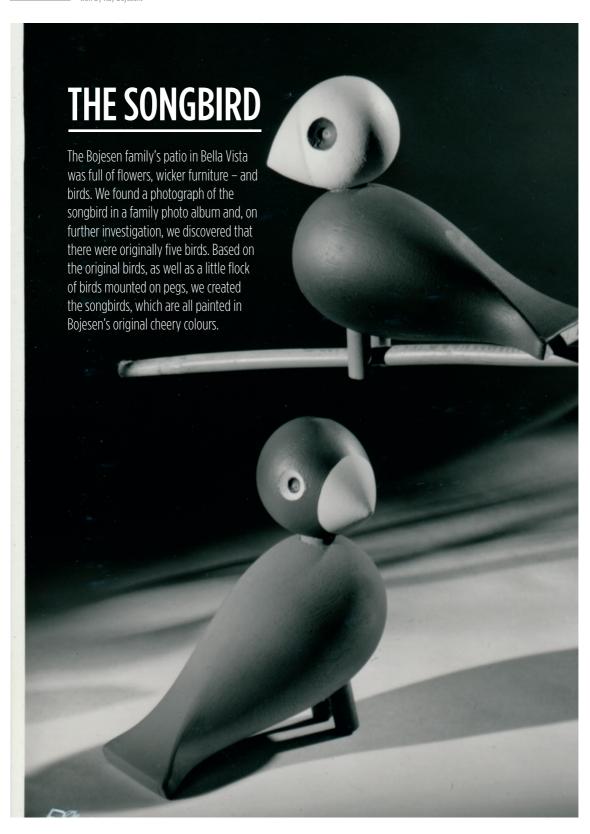




# **SEAGULL MOBILE**

The Seagull, in painted birch, is unique among Kay Bojesen's animals as it was originally produced as 23 one-of-a-kind pieces for an exhibition in 1954. Today, the Seagull comes in three sizes, all of which are suspended by springs, making it a lively feature in any window and corner.

The Songbird came into the world in the 1950s, but was never put into production by Kay Bojesen.





#### **ALFRED**

The name Alfred comes from one of Kay Bojesen's great-grandchildren. This Nordic name embodies the innocence and serenity that has always been a feature of the designer's wooden figures.





Ernst is named after Kay Bojesen's father

– a man of many talents. He was a businessman,
a publisher and editor, a man of culture and, at
the same time, a creative soul. Together with
his wife, Valborg, he inspired his son to create
a menagerie of beloved wooden figures.

#### **PETER**



This songbird is named after Kay Boiesen's eldest grandchild.

P<sub>O</sub>P



A sparkling name inspired by Kay Bojesen's love of soda pop.

#### **SUNSHINE**



This songbird's name is Sunshine, which represents one of the five original colour combinations created by Kay Bojesen.

#### **RUTH**



This songbird bears the name of Kay Bojesen's Swedish daughter-in-law.

#### **RAVN**



With its jet-black plumage, the songbird Ravn provides a stylish, classic contrast to the otherwise playfully colourful flock.

#### KAY



With deep respect, this songbird has been named Kay and the colour is Kay Bojesen's favourite shade of blue.

The charming Sparrows first saw the light of day around 1935, as a flock of six. 1954

The Puffin first sees the light of day.

#### THE PUFFIN

With its colourful beak, the Puffin first greeted the world in 1954. It got off to a flying start, as the Puffin quickly found a place in the hearts of both children and adults. Beautiful to behold and easy to love, its top-heavy body and open, welcoming wings make the Puffin always ready for a hug.







# THE SPARROWS

From his terrace at Bella Vista, Kay Bojesen had a view of the Øresund Sound between Denmark and Sweden, where seagulls and small sparrows fly and cavort. This environment inspired him to create many of his cheeky and lighthearted wooden designs. The charming sparrows came to the world around 1935, in a flock of six. The yellow sparrow was the only one put into production by the designer himself, with colours selected for the others by Kay Bojesen.





The Royal Guardsmen are fashioned from wood. 1967

Postman Einar is produced in connection with the 800th anniversary of Copenhagen.



# ROYAL GUARDSMEN

The Royal Danish Guardsmen have protected castles in Denmark since 1658. Kay Bojesen designed his first regiment in 1942, complete with bearskin hats and the red dress uniform with its white cross across the chest. Each Royal Guardsman is packaged in a cardboard sentry box bearing the Queen of Denmark's monogram.



#### STANDARD BEARER

The upright standard bearer wears the king's colours and stands guard every day, as well as carrying the flag on special days.



#### **POSTMAN**

Come rain or snow, the post must get through. And Kay Bojesen's loyal Postman Einar takes care of that. Complete with uniform and a shoulder bag in which to place small messages and greetings, he brings joy everywhere he travels. Originally created for Copenhagen's 800-year anniversary celebrations in 1967.



Santa Claus first saw the light of day in the late 1940s, inspired by the success of the Guardsmen. 1940

A small collection of two Skiers, one male and one female, were produced.



# THE SKIERS

The male skier, Boje, takes his name from the designer's son Otto, known as Boje among friends and family. The female skier is named after Kay Bojesen's daugher-in-law, whose nickname was Datti. Both skiers are characterised by Kay Bojesen's happy, light-hearted style – and are always ready for a trip to the Norwegian slopes.

#### SANTA'S CAP

# SANTA CLAUS AND MRS. SANTA

Kay Bojesen produced Santa Claus in the 1940s. With his apple cheeks and white beard, he was found throughout Kay Bojesen's shop in Copenhagen and at his home in Bella Vista, ushering in the season to be jolly. Customers passing the shop – particularly children – were often given Santa as a gift. Santa is too jolly to be often alone and, together with his wife, they make a lovely Christmas pair, spreading laughter and Christmas cheer wherever they go.





# MANY WAYS TO ENJOY THE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

They are beautiful together or alone – and help create the perfect Christmas atmosphere.











The first exotic animal from Kay Bojesen - created in 1935 and still just as loved. The Zebra came into the world as a cousin to the Horse and, with its glorious mane and rigid legs, it holds true to Kay Bojesen's idea that the wooden animals should not be replicas of reality, but instead should be themselves with their own charm and personality.



The gallery pieces are printed on canvas, stretched between two wooden profiles and hung by a leather cord – just like old school maps.





## **GALLERY**

Kay Bojesen's Zebra is the centerpiece for the first series of gallery pieces. The unique motifs are reproductions of original drawings by Kay Bojesen and the modern, blackand-white photo is by HageDornHagen. Kay Bojesen's second series of decorative wall hangings includes the popular Monkey in a photo or a sketch, with Kay Bojesen's distinctive, authentic brush strokes on full display. Both the subject matter and the original drawing show the joyful lines and rounded shapes Kay Bojesen could always coax out of his figures.



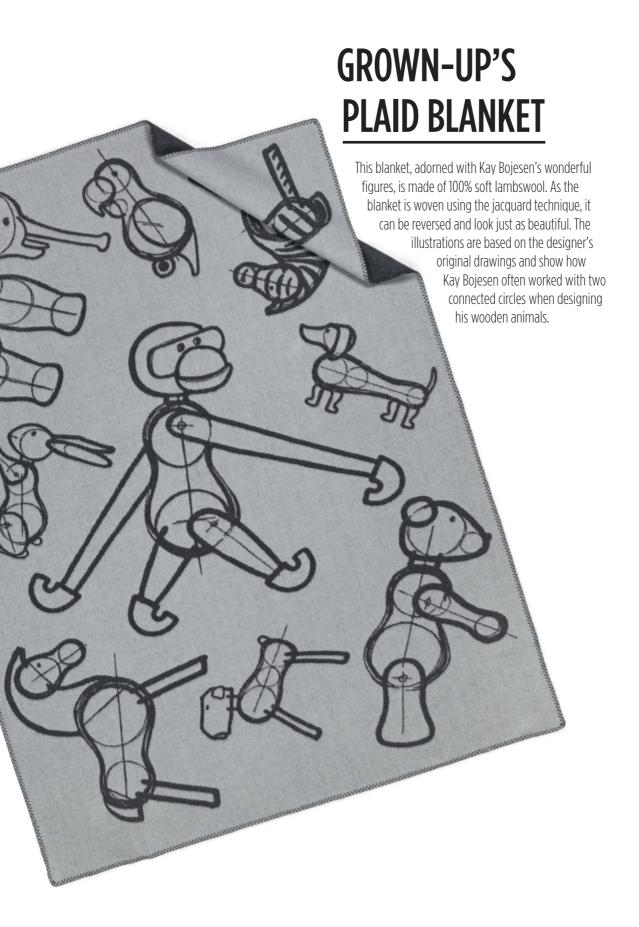
56 x 40 cm



40 x 40 cm



30 x 40 cm





# MANY WAYS TO ENJOY THE BLANKET

With its appealing illustrations and colours, the blanket creates a good mood wherever it is used.





# THE FAMILY



Automobile Sedan 13 cm Painted beech



**Monkey** H 10 / 20 / 28 / 46 cm Teak and limba

Elephant H 12,6 cm

0ak



Automobile Sedan 27 cm 0ak



Monkey H 20 cm Smoked oak and oak



Oak and maple



Bear H 15 cm



Oak and maple



Bear 28 cm

**Hippo** H 8,5 cm

0ak

Rabbit H 16 cm

0ak

Horse H 14 cm Walnut and Beech



Oak and smoked oak



Lovebirds H 8,8 cm Oak and smoked oak



Songbird - Alfred H 15,1 cm Oak and smoked oak



**Dog** H 10,5 cm

Walnut

Oak and smoked oak



Rocking horse H 56 cm Beech



Alphabet blocks L 26 cm Beech



Rattle Ø 8 cm Beech



**Songbird – Ravn** H 15,1 cm Painted beech



**Songbird – Peter** H 15,1 cm Painted beech



**Songbird – Sunshine** H 15,1 cm Painted beech



**Songbird – Ernst** H 15,1 cm Painted beech



**Sparrows on stick** H 17 cm Painted beech



**Songbird – Ruth** H 15,1 cm Painted beech



**Songbird – Pop** H 15,1 cm Painted beech



**Songbird – Kay** H 15,1 cm Painted beech



**Sparrows** H 6,7 cm Painted beech



**Seagull** B 21,2 / 31,8 / 42,4 cm Painted beech



**Zebra** H 14 cm Painted beech



Hippo H 10,4 cm Painted beech



**Datti – The skier** H 15,5 cm Painted beech



**Boje – The skier** H 15,5 cm Painted beech



Mrs Santa H 20 cm Painted beech



Santa Claus H 19,5 cm Painted beech



Santa's cap Ø 2,7 / 4,8 cm Painted beech



**Student graduation cap** Ø 3,5/5,9 cm Painted beech



**Puffin** H 19,6 cm Painted beech

# THE FAMILY



Standard-bearer H 100 cm Painted beech



**Guardsman with gun** H 22 cm Painted beech



**Drummer** H 22 cm Painted beech



Standard-bearer H 22 cm Painted beech



**Standard-bearer** H 50 cm Painted beech



Zebra sketch H 30 cm x W 40 cm Canvas. 100% cotton. Natural wood profile and leather strap



**Zebra study** H 40 cm x W 40 cm Canvas. 100% cotton. Natural wood profiles and leather strap



Zebra herd H 56 cm x W 40 cm Canvas. 100% cotton. Black-painted wood profiles and leather strap



Monkey classroom H 56 cm x W 40 cm Canvas. 100% cotton. Black-painted wood profiles and leather strap



Monkey sketch H 56 cm x W 40 cm Canvas. 100% cotton. Natural wood profile and leather strap



Monkey portrait H 56 cm x W 40 cm Canvas, 100% cotton. Natural wood profiles and leather strap



Monkey reading in bed H 40 cm x W 40 cm Canvas, 100% cotton. Black-painted wood profiles and leather strap



**Children's Tableware Set, 3 pcs.**Plate Ø22 cm, Deep plate Ø18,4 cm, Mug 22 cl
Melamine



Blanket H 120 cm x W 80 cm 100% lambswool

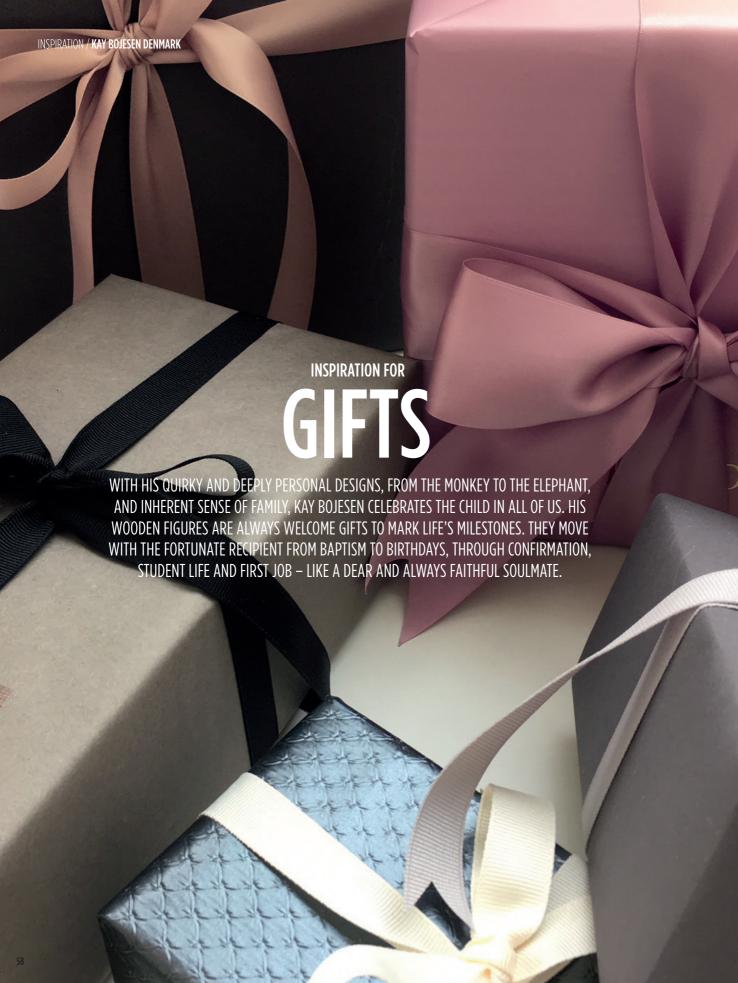


Blanket H 120 cm x W 80 cm 100% lambswool



Blanket H 170 cm x W 130 cm 100% lambswool















# HOW THE MONKEY IS MADE

#### KAY BOJESEN'S MONKEY IS MADE OF UP 31 SEPARATE TEAK AND LIMBA-WOOD PIECES.

Our respect for each design heritage is reflected in our insistence on the overall integrity of our products, particularly when working with beloved design classics. This translates to our focus on using sustainable wood for the production of our Monkey.

Since 1992, we have used plantation teak for the Monkey as a sustainable alternative to rainforest teak and we use only responsibly-produced teak wood from FSC®-certified plantations. By using plantation teak, we contribute to responsible logging, while also helping to preserve rainforests and wildlife.

By its very nature, the teak tree has an uneven, spotted appearance and it is considered a living, natural product. The colour of teak is influenced by the soil conditions where it grows, specifically mineral content that can cause the wood to vary from dark to light and from waxy yellow to gray-green when freshly cut. Colour variations in teak are a natural phenomenon, rather than a sign of poor quality.

After being cut, the wood goes through a dyeing process to make it more uniform over time when it is exposed to light and air.









The pictures below show how, over a two-year period, the dark lines on the legs have faded into light graining marks and the dark patch on the bottom has become less noticeable.



The pictures below show how the dark lines have faded to light graining marks on the torso and legs, becoming less pronounced over a two-year period



LIMBA













#### MANY WAYS TO ENJOY KAY BOJESEN

Get inspiration for making Kay Bojesen figures a part of any celebration. See how the figures can be used to adorn a table setting along with other celebratory decoration ideas.



Follow us on Facebook: Kay Bojesen Denmark



Follow us on Instagram: kaybojesen\_denmark









