Danish Art, Craft & Design

In Justus Lipsius

Presentation of the Danish Decoration of Justus Lipsius Building during the Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Go to www.eu2012.dk/culturalcalendar to see the full program of cultural events during the Danish Presidency.
The Justus Lipsius Building in Brussels is home to the Council of the European Union. Over the years the artistic decoration of the building has become an established tradition for the country holding the rotating EU-Presidency.

The Danish Presidency wishes to highlight modern and innovative Danish art, craft and design. In order to achieve this objective a partnership was entered between the Danish Presidency and the Danish Arts Foundation and Danish Crafts, both official organizations under the Danish Ministry of Culture. The outcome of this cooperation is the exhibition in Justus Lipsius from January to end of June 2012.

In selecting the various works of art on the fifth floor, consideration has been paid to the characteristics of each room. Follow this line of thinking, the Delegates Bar features a colourful, joyous, nonfigurative painting by Lars Nørgard, a fusion of objects and space.

The Danish decoration of the Justus Lipsius building presents examples of main characteristics of Danish art and design: Nature, minimalism, fantasy and innovation.

The more secluded premises, the Presidency Salon and the adjoining foyer, are adorned by two art photographs by Thomas Bangsted presenting sea- and landscapes from the Nordic hemisphere, thus letting nature flow into the room. These two rooms serve as meeting rooms and the casual set up of groups of chairs (design by Danish architect Arne Jacobsen) and small tables invites informal discussions.

In the corridor space outside the Presidency Salon an art video by Pernille With Madsen on the relationship between surface and physical space is screened.

In the adjoining hallway, also with no natural light, two huge paintings by Søren Martinsen featuring typical motives from Danish landscapes are presented.

In high quality Danish furniture design is on display in the Atrium (entrance hall, ground floor). The main feature is a lounge sofa group created by two young Danish designers. In the Atrium the surrounding walls are decorated with banners carrying the Danish EU-Presidency Logo.

The Foyer behind the Atrium presents a mix of Danish craft and design. The room is furnished with three separate modern lounge settings blending young and classic furniture alongside works by some of the finest Danish ceramists representing the best of Danish design and craft. Soft lighting – a prominent live feature of Danish interior design – is used to create a relaxed and inviting atmosphere. The exhibition is curated and arranged by architect Dorte Mandrup.
The artists represented in the building are from the youngest generations of Danish artists.

Pernille With Madsen

Central to the art of Pernille With Madsen is the relationship between dimensions. The art video on the low lit wall outside the Presidency Rooms shows a room in a variety of movements and angles. Various stages of experiments are displayed on screen, each of which produces a confusion of space and scale with the observer resulting in a retreat from fixed perceptions and unlocking the possibilities of fantasy.

What is inside and what is outside?
Lars Nørgaard

Lars Nørgaards work of art in The Delegates Bar illustrates a fusion of figure and space, an image stripped to ready explanations and fixed points as such, an energetic idiom with both abstract and surreal elements. The surreal elements are taken from the artist’s many minimalist line drawings.

Lars Nørgaard: Born 1956, trained at the School of Decorative Art in Copenhagen and the Academy of Art College in San Francisco, USA. His work can be found in the National Gallery of Denmark and many other museums. Recently has a solo exhibition of his works has opened in Aalborg’s Museum of Modern Art.
Thomas Bangsted

Thomas Bangsted’s works of art in the Presidency Room and its foyer are two art-photos where beautiful nature is contrasted with manmade industrial landscapes. His works of art show us land- and seascapes from the Northern hemisphere, endless horizons combined with buildings and maritime motives. The strong focus on nature in its pure form contrasted with objects of human civilisation – like buildings and ships - provides visions of a possible better world.
Søren Martinsen

Søren Martinsens two paintings outside the Presidency Rooms vis-a-vis the art video of Pernille With Madsen have both motive from typical Danish landscapes, respectively winter and summer season. They bring nature into the window-less rooms. They appear realistic and documentary, but through the artists interventions they also direct attention to a fictive interior space.

Søren Martinsen: born 1966, trained at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts and Goldsmiths College at the University of London. He has participated in a large number of exhibitions in Denmark and abroad.
CRAFT AND DESIGN

Danish craft and design has a proud history and is well known for the masters of the 1950’s and 1960’s. The next generation of designers are also highly innovative. Still firmly grounded in the Danish design tradition they have taken up the mantle creating new craft and design based on quality, function and material awareness.

Examples of Arne Jacobsen design is on display in the Foyer (ground floor) and in the Presidency rooms (fifth floor). The next generation is presented in the Atrium where new furniture design by Ernst & Jensen is on display, in the Foyer with designs by Louise Campbell and Thomas Pedersen and in the Presidency rooms where the furnishing by Republic of Fritz Hansen mixes classic design icons like Arne Jacobsen with contemporary designers like Kasper Salto.
JUSTUS LIPSIUS

In Duplo designed by Ernst & Jensen Design Studio from Erik Jørgensen

Special floor design by egecarpets
CRAFT AND DESIGN

Craft is a precursor for good design and the presentation of furniture is a mix of modern and classic Danish craftsmanship and design. In the Foyer (first floor) the curator Dorte Mandrup has chosen to juxtapose some of the best Danish ceramics with both traditional and new Danish furniture design.

Karen Bennicke

Karen Bennicke’s works are spatial visions. She aims to eliminate the distance between the logical/concrete world of form known from everyday life, and the illogical, unknown and absurd.

Karen Bennicke’s works are represented in collections such as Designmuseum Danmark in Copenhagen, The Rhösska Museum in Gothenborg, The National Museum in Stockholm, Gifu Museum of Modern Ceramics in Japan and Victoria & Albert Museum in London.
Steen Ipsen

Steen works in ceramics, based on drafts and models. Often, he explores the diversity and possibilities of the sphere. He finds inspiration in architecture, art, design and urban life.

Steen Ipsen’ works have been displayed in venues such as the Victoria and Albert museum in London, Musée Magnelli in Vallauris, and the Designmuseum Danmark in Copenhagen.
CRAFT AND DESIGN

Danish craftspeople operate within the cross-field of art, craft and design. Centuries-old techniques are combined with new materials, advanced features and intriguing, playful approaches. In the Foyer traditional and innovative ceramics is on display alongside new and traditional Danish furniture design.

The Danish ceramics is presented by Pulse Contemporary Ceramics in Bruxelles.
www.pulscceramics.com

Martin Bodilsen Kaldahl

Martin Bodilsen Kaldahl works mainly in various ceramic materials and digitally processed expressions, experimenting with objects that integrate digitally based visual universes into the physical expression.

Martin Bodilsen Kaldahl’s works are represented in the collections of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Designmuseum Danmark in Copenhagen, the National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design in Oslo, Röhsska Museum in Gothenburg, Musée des Arts Decoratifs in Paris and MIMA in Middlesbrough.

Louise Hindsgavl

Louise Hindsgavl works mainly in porcelain using the common expectation of porcelain figurines as depictions of innocent scenes, but in fact they show bizarre and surrealistic creatures engaged in strange and perverse relationships.

Louise Hindsgavl’s works are represented at the World Ceramic Exposition Foundation in South Korea, Röhsska Museum in Gothenburg, the Designmuseum Danmark in Copenhagen and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.
Morten Løbner Espersen

Morten Løbner Espersen’s work centres on the theme of beauty, whose limitations he always challenges.

Often containers are the sculptural starting point for his experimental forms. Here he investigates how to create significant ceramic surfaces. He works both in large and small formats but his entire work slot into the Danish tradition for ceramics. Espersen has a series of exhibitions behind him both at home and internationally.

Bodil Manz

Bodil Manz is one of the world’s most outstanding ceramists. She has become known as a master of eggshell porcelain.

Bodil Manz has exhibited all over the world and her work is represented a.o. in the National Museum of Sweden, Designmuseum Danmark in Copenhagen and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.
THE LOGO

11 to 12, dynamics, changes, openness and cooperation

The taking over of the Presidency is illustrated through the double symbolism between 1 and 2, which shows that Denmark takes on the Presidency in 2012 and signals the Presidency’s duration of half a year.

The logo also signals the dynamic of cooperation in the EU – a shared task that is in constant change and always developing.

The logo further signals that developments in and around Europe are not static. Therefore, the European countries must work together to renew and further develop the European project to make sure that Europe remains capable of handling present and future challenges.

Lastly, the logo also signals openness and cooperation – values that are crucial to a successful Presidency.
A small preview of some of the banners you may encounter during your visit to Justus Lipsius
DENMARK:
INNOVATIVE
CREATIVE
GREEN
A LIFE IN BALANCE

A special thanks to:
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