

Press release 20 January 2022

Exhibition opening

New portrait of HRH Crown Princess Mary for Denmark's national portrait gallery

Spanish artist is behind new portrait of HRH Crown Princess Mary

On Thursday 3 February, HRH Crown Princess Mary of Denmark will open the special exhibition *HRH Crown Princess Mary 1972–2022* at the Danish Museum of National History in Frederiksborg Castle. In connection with the official opening, a new portrait of the Crown Princess by Copenhagen-based, Spanish-born artist Jesús Herrera Martínez will be unveiled.

HRH Crown Princess Mary is the natural centre of the Museum of National History's special exhibition on the occasion of the Crown Princess' 50th birthday. In the Great Hall at Frederiksborg Castle, the Crown Princess will join other crown princesses who left a particular mark on their contemporaries in Denmark through the ages. The exhibition also features Danish princesses who have taken on roles as crown princesses and later queens at foreign courts.

As a celebration of the Crown Princess' birthday, a new portrait of the Crown Princess will be created for the portrait collection at Frederiksborg at the museum's request. Behind the new portrait is Spanish-born artist Jesús Herrera Martínez. Martínez has lived in Denmark since 2016, and in 2017 he won first prize, the *Carlsberg Foundation's Portrait Prize*, in the Museum of National History's portrait competition *Portrait NOW!*. In the museum's department for art, history paintings and portraits from the 20th and 21st centuries, a number of sketches and preliminary studies for the new portrait will be exhibited at the same time as the exhibition about the Crown Princess.

"The special exhibition *HRH Crown Princess Mary 1972–2022* showcases Crown Princess Mary's great importance to Denmark and how the role of crown princess is shaped by time and personality," says Museum Director Mette Skougaard. "At the same time, the Crown Princess' place in history is emphasised when, as the first commoner crown princess, she is portrayed in the Great Hall at Frederiksborg."

1972–2022: From Hobart to Crown Princess of Denmark

For 20 years, Crown Princess Mary has cultivated the role of crown princess in the 21st century. In the exhibition, the story of all of Denmark's Crown Princess is told through portraits, personal objects as well as clothes and gala dresses which Crown Princess Mary has worn on special

occasions. In addition to this, personal patronages and focus areas through which the Crown Princess helps to promote important agendas – national as well as international – are presented.

A school uniform and school diplomas give an impression of the upbringing in Tasmania, just as the wedding dress from the wedding in 2004 can be experienced in the exhibition, along with an example of the distinctive Donaldson kilt that John Donaldson wore when he walked his daughter to the altar at the wedding in 2004. The Greenlandic national costumes of the Crown Prince's family, the Faroese national costumes of the Crown Prince and Princess and Prince Christian, as well as pictures from travels, show the Crown Princess' great connection to Greenland and the Faroe Islands.

Incoming and outgoing crown princesses: The role of crown princess from the 17th century to the present day

In a historical perspective, the choice of crown princesses of Denmark has been a result of strategic alliances, just as it has been the case for the Danish princesses who have become crown princesses abroad.

Of the historical crown princesses of Denmark who, after entering into marriage, played a special cultural or social role in Danish society, the exhibition includes Charlotte Amalie of Hessen-Kassel who, as a proponent of the Reformation in the late 17th century, became very important for those of her fellow believers who sought refuge in Denmark. Portraits of Louise of Great Britain, Lovisa of Sweden-Norway and Ingrid of Sweden can also be seen in the Great Hall.

In the exhibition, among the outgoing Danish princesses, you will see portraits and costumes worn by Christian IX's daughters, Princess Dagmar and Princess Alexandra. Through their marriages, the princesses became Empress of Russia and Queen of Great Britain respectively. Frederik V's daughter, Sofia Magdalena, is represented by her sumptuous coronation dress from 1772, when she became queen of Sweden.

The exhibition is open to the public from Friday 4 February to 31 August 2022.

Press

For visits to the exhibition, interview with museum director Mette Skougaard and artist Jesús Herrera Martínez, contact: PR and Communications Manager: Sara Juel Andersen. Email: sja@dnm.dk tel.: +4548201435. Press material is updated regularly at www.dnm.dk/presse

In connection with the exhibition opening **on Thursday 3 February 2022, at 14:00**, three press pools will be set up, to which the press can be accredited.

Accredited participants must have registered their attendance with the museum's press contact in the inner castle courtyard no later than 13:00 to be guaranteed admission.

Pool 1 – 13:50-14:00: Arrival of guests in the inner castle courtyard. PLEASE NOTE: Participation in pool 1 cannot be combined with participation in pool 2.

Pool 2 – 14:00-14:35: The Angel Hall. Speeches, portrait unveiling, music. PLEASE NOTE: Participation in pool 2 cannot be combined with participation in pool 3.

Pool 3 – 15:40-15:50: Inspection of the exhibition in the Great Hall.

Accreditation: Reply to invitation and request for accreditation must be sent to: Chief Secretary Mette Carstensen mc@dnm.dk no later than Tuesday, 1 February at 12:00 noon. Please state full name, represented media and pool wishes for each participant. As there is limited space, it cannot be guaranteed that all wishes can be accommodated. Replies will be sent no later than Wednesday 2 February at 12:00 noon.

About the artist Jesús Herrera Martínez

Jesús Herrera Martínez was born in 1976 in Petrer, Alicante, Spain. He has lived and worked in Copenhagen since 2016. In 2017, he was awarded first prize in *Portrait NOW!*, the Carlsberg Foundation's Portrait Award. 2017 - the Museum of National History's portrait competition for artists living in the Nordic countries.

Education: Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts from Valencia Polytechnic University, Spain (1999). Completed his studies with an Erasmus Scholarship at Accademia di Belle Arti di Venezia in Venice, Italy. Started a BFA in Philosophy and completed an MFA in Drawing and Expressive Methods, Universitat Politècnica de Valencia, Spain. Artist in Residence (painting) at the Royal Academy of Spain in Rome, Italy (2014).

About The Museum of National History

The Museum of National History tells the story of more than 500 years of Danish history through portraits, historic paintings, furniture and crafts. The museum is Denmark's national portrait gallery, giving faces to those who have shaped the country's history. Through special exhibitions, the museum also portrays current perspectives on Danish history, the portrait genre and other areas of the museum. The museum is housed at Frederiksborg Castle, which forms a unique, historical backdrop with its impressive splendor and richly decorated rooms.

Kind regards

FREDERIKSBORG

Museum of
National History



Open every day - all year round. www.dnm.dk

Museum of National History

Frederiksborg Slot · 3400 Hillerød, Denmark

Tel. (+45) 48 20 14 35