



Andreas Mogensen and Maria Wandel meet for the first time. May 2023. Photo: Thomas Andersen.

Denmark launches new European tradition for astronaut portraits:

Danish ESA astronaut Andreas Mogensen to be portrayed while in space

Danish ESA astronaut Andreas Mogensen will have his portrait painted while on a mission on the International Space Station ISS. With this initiative, Denmark as a space nation launch an all-new European tradition for astronaut portraits.

During the upcoming Huginn mission on the International Space Station (ISS), Andreas Mogensen will be portrayed for the Danish National Portraitgalleri at Frederiksborg Castle. By following a series of inflight calls arranged for Denmark and based on pictures of Andreas taken during the mission, Danish artist Maria Wandel will create a historical portrait of one of the most prominent Danes alive today. The final portrait will be presented at Frederiksborg when Denmark's first and only astronaut, pilot of the SpaceX spacecraft Crew Dragon and commander of the ISS during his Huginn mission, returns to Earth.

At the National Portrait Gallery at Frederiksborg, Andreas Mogensen will be in illustrious company: his portrait will hang alongside paintings of scientists such as Tycho Brahe, Ole Rømer and H.C. Ørsted. All these eminent figures made ground-breaking discoveries that have pushed the boundaries of human endeavours – exactly as Andreas Mogensen is doing.

Being part of such a historic portrait collection is enough to make an impact even on an astronaut

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headed for space: 'With such big names already portrayed, I am honoured to have been chosen to have one made of me. It will be interesting to have a portrait made while I am in space, and I look forward to seeing the painting when I return to Earth after my mission,' says Andreas Mogensen.

Director at Frederiksborg, Ulla Tofte, is proud to be writing art history with the new portrait: 'Denmark has become a space nation, and I am incredibly proud that we can now write history by arranging the very first time that a person is painted while they are actually in space. As Denmark's National Portrait Gallery, we quite naturally focus on Danes who truly push back boundaries – and on artists who do the same. When portrait painter Maria Wandel paints Andreas while he's on the International Space Station, her approach will mark a break away from the American way of depicting astronauts, showing them returned from their mission with their helmets under their arms and a big smile,' explains Ulla Tofte.

On Earth, Maria Wandel is looking forward to the unusual task: 'Portraying Andreas while he is out in space will be marvellously exciting and a real adventure. I am particularly looking forward to following video meetings with him where I'll be able to see what life is like on the Space Station, how he works and floats around weightlessly. I will need to make those impressions float into the portrait, so that we can get a dual sense of Andreas Mogensen the astronaut and Andreas Mogensen the man,' says Maria Wandel.

The forthcoming portrait of Andreas Mogensen will be presented at Frederiksborg in spring 2024.

[About Maria Wandel](#)

Maria Wandel (1977) is a graduate from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen, 2005. As an artist, she mainly works with painting in an idiom characterised by representational figuration. Wandel also specialises in portrait painting. She is currently presenting a solo show, *Rewild*, in Taipei and is working on a major exhibition project for the KONG Gallery in Seoul.

[About the Huginn mission](#)

Andreas Mogensen, astronaut for the European Space Agency (ESA), will go on his second mission to the International Space Station in August 2023, spending six months on board. While there, he will work with science that will help researchers make the Earth a better place.

[About Frederiksborg · Museum of National History](#)

The Museum of National History presents more than 500 years of Danish history and is home to Denmark's National Portrait Gallery. Here, visitors come face to face with people who have shaped the nation's history. History paintings tell of seminal events, while interiors and objects bear witness to different periods and the people associated with them. By arranging a succession of special exhibitions, the museum continuously explores portrait art as a genre as well as the history of Denmark and of Frederiksborg Castle.

Since its establishment in 1878, the museum has been part of the Carlsberg Foundation and housed at Frederiksborg Castle. Here, impressive halls and richly decorated rooms forms a unique setting for the historical narratives presented.

Press material

Press material (photos, video and text) is available on the museum's [press site](#).

For further information and to set up interviews with director Ulla Tofte and artist Maria Wandel, please contact head of communications Sara Juel Andersen via email: sja@dnm.dk / tel. +45 48201435.

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