



The Friends of the Nationalmuseum

*Eva Qviberg
Chair*

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Étienne Bouhot (1780–1862), *View of the Pavillon de Bellechasse on rue Saint-Dominique in Paris*, 1823. Oil on canvas, 55.5 x 47 cm. Purchase: the Hedda and N. D. Qvist Fund. Nationalmuseum, NM 7434.

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The Friends of the Nationalmuseum

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Friends without a Museum

The Friends of the Nationalmuseum has had several tough years since the Nationalmuseum closed for renovations in early 2013. The Museum has had some exhibition activities during this time, but they were very limited in 2017. The Museum's staff have naturally been extremely busy during the renovations, moving objects, making inventories, taking photographs, digitalising, conserving and planning for upcoming exhibitions. I am full of admiration for the organisational capability that has characterised this work.

Since the Friends of the Nationalmuseum celebrated its centenary in 2011, we have seen our membership more than halve, from a peak of 6,800 to 3,100. However, we remain humble and grateful that so many members have chosen to support a museum that is perceived as closed. One reason that people have remained members during this period is perhaps the rich programme that the Friends association has offered its members. Examples from our programme for 2017 include the spring visit to Bologna, Ferrara and Mantua in Italy, led by Martin Olin, Director of Research. In October, we experienced Israel through visits to Galilee, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, the Dead Sea and the cliff of Masada. We have continued our much-appreciated castles series with tours of Drottningholm Palace and Tyresö Palace, as well as offering a church series with guided tours of Stockholm's churches and



Fig. 1 Mårten Medbo (b. 1964), *Sculpture "Thinking Through Clay I"*, 2014. Stoneware, unglazed, wrought and formed, cast parts, 25 x 25 x 28 cm (h x w x d). Gift of the Friends of the Nationalmuseum, the Bengt Julin Fund. Nationalmuseum, NMK 20/2017.



Fig. 2 Lena Bergström (b. 1961), *Sculpture "Planets: Red Rose"*. Produced by Orrefors Kosta Boda, 2013. Glass, blown, cut, 31 x 47 x 27 cm (h x l x w). Gift of the Friends of the Nationalmuseum, the Bengt Julin Fund. Nationalmuseum, NMK 211/2017.

their historic contents. We have also had numerous guided tours of the many sights and exhibitions available in Stockholm.

The Finance Committee for the Friends of the Nationalmuseum has adjusted its investments in funds and foundations, so that we strive for high returns combined with low risk and low fees. This has facilitated numerous gifts

over the year, of which the largest was secret and first revealed in association with the reopening of the Nationalmuseum in October 2018.

Many objects such as necklaces, sculptures, weavings and embroideries, in the category of applied art, have been gifted to the Nationalmuseum thanks to funding from the Bengt Julin Fund. See images

(Figs. 1-2). On the occasion of the 40th birthday of Crown Princess Victoria, we donated photographer Thron Ullberg's portrait of Her Royal Highness (Fig. 3), which will be included in the portrait gallery at Gripsholm Castle. We have also donated a gift to the Nationalmuseum, in the shape of Irving Penn's 1964 portrait of Gustaf VI Adolf (Fig. 4). The Director



Fig. 3 Thron Ullberg (b. 1969), *Victoria (b. 1977) Crown Princess of Sweden*, signed "T. Ullberg -2017 2/10". Photography, 84 x 66.2 cm. Gift of the Friends of the Nationalmuseum. Nationalmuseum, NMGrh 5152.

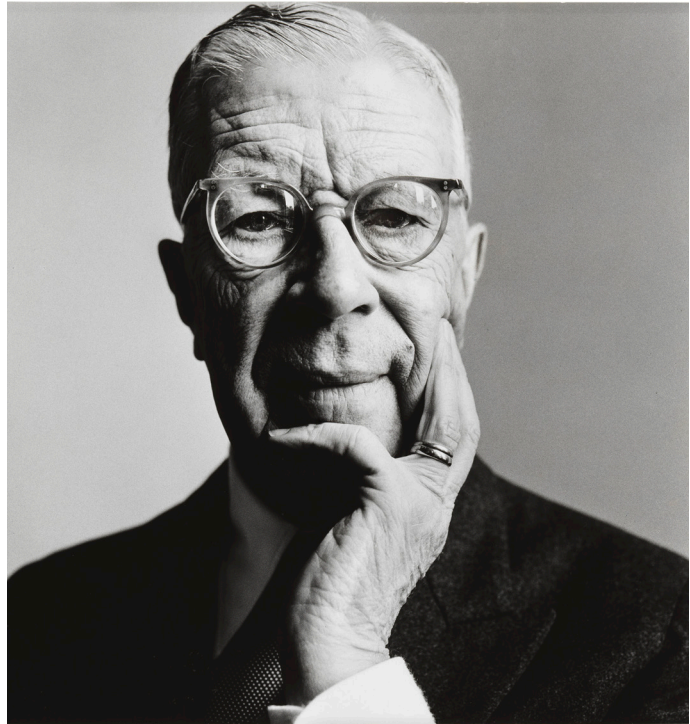


Fig. 4 Irving Penn (1917–2009), *Gustaf VI Adolf (1882–1973), King of Sweden, Prince of Norway, 1964–65*, signed "Irving Penn // IRVING PENN". Gelatin silver print on paper mounted on cardboard, 34.4 x 33.8 cm. Gift of the Friends of the Nationalmuseum. Nationalmuseum, NMGrh 5134.

of the Nationalmuseum's collections, Magnus Olausson, writes in the Friends' journal that "through this gift, the Friends of the Nationalmuseum have honoured the memory of the museum's great benefactor and founder of the association". Both these photographic portraits have been financed through funding from the Gustaf VI Adolf Fund, which is part of the Friends of the Nationalmuseum. We have also made donations in the form of design objects funded by the recently started Design Fund. As in previous years, the Friends of the

Nationalmuseum has contributed funding for the production of the Art Bulletin.

In association with our annual general meeting, which for the last few years has been held in Rikssalen, the National Hall of the Royal Palace, we have been delighted to award stipends to staff at Nationalmuseum. This year's research stipend went to curator Maria Perers, for the completion of her doctoral thesis, *Inside the Ideal Home: Changing Values and Representations of Apartment Living in Sweden c. 1955–1970*. Its purpose is to study how the ideal home

of the 1950s and 60s was created and changed over time, as well as examining what this tells us about society. We also handed out travel grants, allowing more staff to visit Paris, London and Czechia.

In 2018, members of the Friends of the Nationalmuseum have been able to participate in trips to New York, Sicily and Falsterbo. We have also organised daytrips within Sweden, as well as numerous guided tours.



Fig. 5 François Hubert Drouais (1727–1775), *Hubert Drouais, the Artist's Father*, c. 1760. Oil on canvas, 30 x 97 cm. Gift of the Friends of the Nationalmuseum. Nationalmuseum, NM 7331.

A Friends' Association with a World-Class Museum

In October 2018, after more than five years of renovation, the Nationalmuseum finally reopened its doors to us and all its other visitors. Despite expectations being sky-high, they were more than satisfied. The reopened Nationalmuseum is a formidable success, and visitors and the media have been lyrical. Expectant visitors formed long queues to experience its beautiful interior and fantastic collections.

Our members enjoyed a private day in Nationalmuseum before it opened to the public. In the morning, we offered 250 of our members tours of the rooms, and curators talked about the exhibitions using the permanent collections that they have worked with for so long. Later in the day there was an open house for our members and gifts purchased by the association over the last few years were handed over as part of a formal ceremony. These gifts are:

François Hubert Drouais (1727–1775), *Hubert Drouais, the Artist's Father*, c. 1760. (Fig. 5).

Uno Åhrén (1897–1977), *Cupboard "The Garden of Eden"*, designed 1924 (Fig. 6).

Frida Fjellman (b. 1971), *Venus in Glass*, 2018. Gift of the Bengt Julin Fund within the Friends of the Nationalmuseum.

Peter Linde (b. 1946), *Jardinjärer*. Gift of Märta Christina and Magnus Vahlquist through the Friends of the Nationalmuseum.

Elisabeth Keyser (1851–1898), *A Confrmand in Normandy*, 1889. Gift of Ann Stern through the Friends of the Nationalmuseum.

Ingeborg Westfelt-Eggertz (1855–1936), *Impression from Meudon*, 1887. Gift of Ann Stern through the Friends of the Nationalmuseum.

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Jenny Nyström (1854–1946), *A Woman Walking in Paris*, 1884. Gift of Ann Stern through the Friends of the Nationalmuseum.

Knut Fjaestad (1860–1937), *The Seven-Year Throne*, 1908–15. Gift of Ann Stern through the Friends of the Nationalmuseum.

Harald Wadsjö (1883–1945) *Radiator cover “Värmeelementgaller No 7”*, 1929. Gift of Ann Stern through the Friends of the Nationalmuseum.

Nils Fougstedt (1881–1954), *Teapot*, 1929. Gift of Ann Stern through the Friends of the Nationalmuseum (Fig. 7).

Carl-Einar Borgström (1914–1981), *Pot*, 1937. Gift of Ann Stern through the Friends of the Nationalmuseum (Fig. 8).

Reconstruction of middle bay of small cupolas in the gallery ceiling 1800–1870, fourth floor. Gift of Ann Stern through the Friends of the Nationalmuseum, 2018.

We have been able to fund these gifts thanks to our generous donors, both past and present. Over the past eight years, the Friends of the Nationalmuseum has donated 40 million kronor to Nationalmuseum. In the autumn of 2018, membership increased by 33%, so we now have over 4,000 members. If you wish to find out more about the association, please visit our website www.nationalmuseivanner.se or follow us on Facebook.



Fig. 6 Uno Åhrén (1897–1977), *Cupboard “The Garden of Eden”*. Produced by Mobilia, 1924. Brazilian walnut, eucalyptus and olive wood inlay, 202 x 92 x 57 cm (h x l x w). Gift of the Friends of the Nationalmuseum. Nationalmuseum, NMK 1/2018.



Fig. 7 Nils Fougstedt (1881–1954), *Teapot*. Produced by Svenskt Tenn, 1929. Tin, handle of copper wrapped with seaweed, 26.5 x 20 cm (h x diam). Gift of Ann Stern through the Friends of Nationalmuseum. Nationalmuseum, NMK 196/2018.



Fig. 8 Carl-Einar Borgström (1914–1981), *Pot*. Produced by Ystad Metall, 1937. Tin, base and stopper of Bakelite, 18 cm (h). Gift of Ann Stern through the Friends of Nationalmuseum. Nationalmuseum, NMK 197/2018.