

The Loeb Danish Art Collection Website – Appendix B

Significant Dates in Danish History, Danish Art, Exhibitions and Museums Dating from 1746

1746 — Frederik V ascends the throne as King of Denmark, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, the Faroe Islands, the Danish West Indies and becomes the Duke of Schleswig and Holstein.

1754 — The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts is founded by King Frederik V.

1766 — Christian VII (son of King Frederik V) ascends the throne, but proves to be insane, a catastrophic situation because in absolutism all governmental power is vested in the king.

1770 — The king's physician, Dr. J.F. Struensee, assumes the insane king's power and implements a large number of controversial reforms.

1772 — Struensee is accused of usurping power and of an intimate relationship with the Queen Caroline Mathilde; he is condemned to death by the king. She is exiled to the town of Celle in the Duchy of Hannover in the north of Germany where she dies in 1775 at the age of 24.

1777 — Great and Good Deeds by Danes, Norwegians and Holsteiners by Ove Malling is published and is later translated into English.

1778 — Nicolai Abildgaard is appointed as a professor at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts and starts painting a series of historical paintings for the royal palace of Christiansborg I in Copenhagen.

1784 — Crown Prince Frederik takes power from his stepmother Queen Juliane Marie in a coup d'état. Artist Jens Juel becomes a professor at the Academy.

1791 — Abildgaard's decoration of Christiansborg Palace is completed.

1794 — The Christiansborg Palace is destroyed by fire; the royal family moves to the Amalienborg palaces.

1795 — The second great fire of Copenhagen occurs; a big church, the town hall and almost a thousand houses are destroyed.

1801 — As the result of Denmark's Armed Neutrality agreement with Sweden and Russia, England sends a fleet to Copenhagen, but is stopped in the Battle of Copenhagen.

1807 — Denmark enters an alliance with France; England declares war on Denmark. Copenhagen is bombarded by the English who confiscate the Danish fleet. Battle of Sjællands Odde (the spit of Zealand) against the British fleet takes place.

1808 — Napoleon's armies move into Jutland. Crown Prince Frederik becomes King Frederik VI.

1813 — Denmark declares a state of bankruptcy as a result of industrial competition and loss caused by the war. The art-loving Prince Christian Frederik, son of King Frederik VI's half brother becomes vice-regent of Norway, where he supports the Norwegian independence movement.

1814 — Denmark cedes Norway to Sweden.

1818 — Artist C.W. Eckersberg is appointed professor at the Royal Academy.

1819 — The Museum for Danish Antiquities, later the National Museum of Cultural History (Nationalmuseet), is opened to the public.

1820 — H.C. Ørsted, one of the world's great physicists, discovers electro-magnetism.

1825 — The Copenhagen Art Society (Kunstforeningen i København) is founded.

1828 — Building of the Christiansborg II Palace with C.F. Hansen as architect is finished.

1829 — August Bournonville becomes ballet master at the Royal Theatre, for which he choreographs a number of ballets still performed today.

1835 — Hans Christian Andersen publishes his first collection of stories.

1838 — Prince Christian Frederik becomes president of the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts and the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters.

1839 — Prince Christian Frederik ascends the throne as King Christian VIII.

1843 — Søren Kierkegaard publishes his first major philosophical work, *Enten - Eller* ("Either-Or"). Tivoli Gardens opens.

1844 — The first folk high school (højskole) opens, permitting ordinary people of any age and with no prior education to attend lectures on history, literature and politics, and to learn a foreign language, promoting dialogue and discussion and singing of national hymns. They start on private initiative, based on a religious protestant practice, named after N.F.S. Grundtvig, preaching charity and tolerance. Following the depression after the state bankruptcy the idea was to make "free schools for life," preparing the citizens for democracy in respect of human rights. The Danish

tradition of consensus, tolerance, solidarity, respect for the views of others are indebted to these schools, also the democratization of government systems. A typical saying by Grundtvig was that the ideal society would be one where “few have too much and the majority not too little.”

1844 — Artist Bertel Thorvaldsen dies. Artist Constantin Hansen decorates the entrance hall to Copenhagen University with the history of the ancient Greek goddess of science Pallas Athene and Apollon, the soothsayer, painted in al fresco, still in existence. The art critic N.L. Høyen delivers the famous lecture in which he encourages Danish painters to create a national art to portray the country and the people.

1848 — Frederik VII, son of Christian VIII, ascends the throne and becomes a popular monarch despite his morganatic marriage to a woman to whom he has given the title of Countess Danner. The Constituent Assembly meets and prepares the democratic constitution. Thorvaldsens Museum is opened to the public.

1848-51 — The First Schleswig War occurs. The Danish king goes to war to gain control of the Southern Jutland duchies of Schleswig and Holstein, where he is Duke and where local rebels fight in vain for freedom. Several Danish artists take part.

1849 — Absolutism is abolished and Denmark’s democratic constitution is passed.

1850 — H.C. Ørsted publishes *Aanden i Naturen* (“The Spirit in Nature”); it is translated into many languages.

1853 — A cholera epidemic in Copenhagen costs more than 4,000 lives including that of artist C.W. Eckersberg. Artist Vilhelm Kyhn founds the Danish Etchers’ Association (Den danske Radeerforening).

1859 — Frederiksborg Castle in Hillerød in northern Zealand is destroyed by fire, and most of the old royal collection of portraits is lost. With the initiative and financial support of the brewer I. C. Jacobsen, of the Carlsberg Breweries, the castle is rebuilt and a museum of national history is created, sponsored by the brewer.

1863 — Christian IX ascends the throne and founds the Glücksborg dynasty. His daughter Alexandra later becomes Queen of England and Empress of India; his daughter Dagmar becomes the Czarina of Russia and his son Vilhelm becomes King George I of Greece. Thus King Christian IX becomes known as “the father-in-law of Europe.” He gathers his royal family together each summer at Fredensborg Palace.

1863-64 — The Second Schleswig War results in Denmark's having to cede the duchies of Holstein, Schleswig and Lauenborg to Prussia and Austria-Hungary.

1867 — The World's Fair takes place in Paris. Among the Danish artists represented are Elisabeth Jerichau Baumann, Christen Dalsgaard, F. C. Kiærskou, Otto Bache, C. F. Sørensen, Carl Bloch and Julius Exner.

1871 — Georg Brandes delivers his seminal lectures at Copenhagen University "Main Currents in 19th Century Literature," where he brings up issues for discussion then considered extremely controversial. In Danish society then characterized by nationalism, romanticism and a strong Protestant church, he advocates the revolutionary ideas of the Age of Enlightenment, personal freedom, women's rights, independence of religion and most important—freedom of thought, speech and print. He starts a cultural revolution in Scandinavia, is denounced by official Denmark, his Jewish extraction often being referred to as reason for his temperament and revolutionary spirit. Brandes becomes the hero of the artists of the Modern Breakthrough, and his ideas play an important part in discussions even today.

1875 — Hans Christian Andersen dies. The Society of Danish Women (Dansk Kvindesamfund) is founded. The society initiates a professional drawing school for women (Tegneskolen for Kvinder).

1878 — The Paris World's Fair. Among the Danish artists are Elisabeth Jerichau Baumann, Carl Bloch, Vilhelm Marstrand, Anton Melbye, O.D. Ottesen, Vilhelm Rosenstand, Christen Dalsgaard, Julius Exner, P. C. Skovgaard, Vilhelm Kyhn and young P.S. Krøyer. The Museum of National History at Frederiksborg Castle opens.

1879 — The artists' colony at Skagen is established.

1882 — P.S. Krøyer visits Skagen for the first time; the Skagen artists' colony soon becomes known abroad. The brewer Carl Jacobsen, son of I. C. Jacobsen, opens his private collection in his house at the brewery Ny Carlsberg to the public. The Free Study Schools (De Frie Studieskoler) are given state support.

1883 — Nordic exhibition and meeting of Scandinavian artists in Copenhagen.

1885 — Kristian Zahrtman becomes head of The Artists' Study Schools (Kunstnernes Studieskoler).

1888 — Nordic exhibition and meeting of Scandinavian artists at Copenhagen is held close to Tivoli. Nearby, the brewer Carl Jacobsen arranges a major exhibition of modern French art, also near Tivoli. (The buildings for both exhibitions were temporary and torn down afterwards). Brewer Carl Jacobsen donates his art collections (mostly classical antiquities and modern French

art) to the public. The Art School for Women (Kunstskolen for Kvinder) opens as a department in the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts.

1889 — World's Fair in Paris. The painters of the Modern Breakthrough dominate the Danish exhibition; among them are P.S. Krøyer, Laurits Tuxen, Carl Thomsen, Michael Ancher, Anna Ancher, Vilhelm Hammershøi, L. A. Ring, August Jerndorff and Bertha Wegmann.

1891 — The Free Exhibition (Den Frie Udstilling) opens for the first time.

1893 — The World's Colombian Exhibition in Chicago where several Danish painters, including women artists, become known in the United States, among them Otto Bache, Paul Fischer, Anna Ancher, Bertha Wegmann, Michael Ancher, L. A. Ring, Laurits Tuxen, Vilhelm Kyhn and Hans Smidth.

1893-94 — The Symbolist periodical *Taarnet* ("The Tower") is published.

1895 — A collection of paintings by Scotland's Glasgow School and Danish artists are exhibited in Chicago and St. Louis.

1896 — Winner of the contest for the Sherman Monument in Washington, DC, Danish-born sculptor Carl Rohl-Smith starts the modeling. The artist, who was already famous in America, dies in 1900 and the monument is completed by a number of Scandinavian artists.

1897 — Opening of the museum building of the Ny Carlsberg Glyptothek opposite Tivoli, still in use today.

1900 — World's Fair in Paris. Among the artists represented are P.S. Krøyer, Anna Ancher, Michael Ancher August Jerndorff, Vilhelm Kyhn, Vilhelm Hammershøi and Ludvig Find.

1901 — City Hall in Copenhagen, retrospective exhibition of Danish art.

1905 — Norway becomes independent when the union with Sweden is dissolved; a Danish royal prince is elected as king.

1906 — Frederik VIII ascends to the Danish throne.

1907 — Exhibition of works by Danish painters at Guildhall, London.

1908 — Skagens Museum is founded.

1910 — Faaborg Museum opens as a museum for the Funen artists (Fynboerne), among others, the painter Fritz Syberg.

1911 — The Hirschsprung Collection opens to the public. It includes painters from the Golden Age, landscape and genre painters from 1850-1880 as well as Skagen painters, Hammershøi and the Funen artists.

1912 — Christian X ascends the throne. During his summer holidays in Skagen, he, the queen and two sons often visit the painters there. Exhibition of contemporary Scandinavian art is held under the auspices of the American-Scandinavian Society of New York.

1914-18 — The First World War begins and ends. Denmark remains neutral.

1915 — Danish women are given the right to vote and to be elected to parliament.

1922 — Danish physicist Niels Bohr receives the Nobel Prize.

1937 — Danish writer Karen Blixen (pen name Isak Dinesen) publishes “Out of Africa”.

1940 — Denmark is occupied by Germany.

1943 — The resistance movement, comprised of many ordinary Danes, helps Danish Jews to escape to neutral Sweden.

1945 — Denmark is liberated by Allied forces, though the island Bornholm east of Denmark’s mainland is not freed until 1946.

1947 — Frederik IX, father of the present monarch, ascends the throne.

1949 — Denmark joins NATO.

1957 — Architect Jørn Utzon wins contest for design of the Sydney Opera House.

1958 — Knud W. Jensen opens the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art at Humlebæk not far from Elsinore in the Northern Zealand.

1961 — The Experimental School of Art (Eks-skolen) is founded in Copenhagen.

1967 — The museum Michael and Anna Ancher’s House in Skagen is opened to the public.

1972 — Queen Margrethe II ascends the throne. Denmark becomes a member of the European Communities.

1982 — An exhibition of Scandinavian Modern Art, 1880-1980, tours the United States. An exhibition called “Northern Light, Realism and Symbolism in Scandinavian Painting, 1880-1910” also tours the United States.

1984 — An exhibit, “The Golden Age of Danish Painting” tours London, Los Angeles, New York.

1986 — An exhibit, “Dreams of a Summer Night, Scandinavian Painting at the Turn of the Century” tours London, Düsseldorf, Paris, Oslo, Copenhagen.

1994 — “The Golden Age of Danish Painting” exhibit again tours Los Angeles, New York.

1998 — Opening of the ambitious bridge and tunnel of Storebælt (Great Belt) connecting Zealand and Funen. Travelling from east to west in Denmark becomes hours faster.

2000 — Opening of the bridge and tunnel of Øresund (The Sound) connecting Zealand and the Copenhagen area with the southern provinces of Sweden, which until 1658 were Danish land.

After ten years’ work 11 tapestries, handmade at the Gobelin Manufactories in Paris, are received by Queen Margrethe II as a gift from the Danish trades and industries, a present for her 50th birthday in 1990. Designed by artist Bjørn Nørgaard (b. 1947) they tell the story of Denmark and the world since Viking Age around year 1000 to the present sovereign. This being the most ambitious public Danish decoration for ages, the tapestries are made to adorn the banqueting hall of Christiansborg. The Queen immediately donates the tapestries to the Danish people.

Kronborg Castle of Elsinore is inscribed on UNESCO’s world heritage list.

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