

# The National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design

- The largest art museum in the Nordic region.
- Opens in Oslo on 11 June 2022.

## The Museum

- Established in 2003-2005 with the merger of The National Gallery, The Museum of Arts and Crafts, the Museum of Architecture, The Museum of Contemporary Art, and the state program for travelling exhibitions, Riksutstillinger.
- The oldest of these institutions, the National Gallery, dates back to 1836.
- For the first time, works from all the different fields of the Museum's collection will be housed and exhibited in the same building.
- The National Museum – Architecture remains a venue for permanent and temporary exhibitions.
- Director, Karin Hindsbo.

## The Building

- Designed by German architects Schuwerk + Kleihues.
- Total area: 54,600 square metre.
- Total cost: NOK 6,1 billion.
- Designed with the perspective of housing artworks for centuries, the museum is built with clean and robust natural materials that will age with dignity, like oak, bronze and marble. The entire façade is covered with Norwegian slate.
- Using available resources carefully is a fundamental principle for the new museum, and environmental ambitions are high. As a FutureBuilt pilot project, the museum is designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% compared to today's building standard. This is achieved in part through a compact building structure, use of sea water and district heating for required climate control, and use of low carbon cement and recycled steel.
- On top of the building is the Light Hall, a 2,400 square metre hall for temporary exhibitions. The Light Hall is covered with glass and an outer semi-transparent thin sheet of marble, creating a soft interior light. The façade of the 130 metres long hall will be illuminated from within and is set to become a stunning element in the city's landscape in the evening. The hall is flexible and can either be used in its entirety or be divided into two or three large rooms.
- The museum has a large roof terrace with a panorama view of the city, overlooking the Oslo fjord and the Akershus fortress.
- Situated near the City Hall on Oslo's waterfront. The site of the new museum was once one of the city's main train stations. The old station buildings are listed, and the space between the old 19<sup>th</sup> Century buildings and the new museum creates a new courtyard which will be accessible for the public. The courtyard will have outdoor seating for the restaurant and will also be used for programming events.
- 13,000 square metres – more than 90 rooms – dedicated to exhibitions.
- A permanent display of almost 90 rooms.
- A public art library – the largest of its kind in the Nordic region
- Five workshops for educational purposes.
- State-of-the-art conservation labs and in-house art storage.
- A large auditorium and cinema.
- A restaurant concept by Dugurd facing the courtyard, offering affordable high-quality seasonal and sustainable local produce.

## **The Collection**

- The National Museum's collection consists of around 400,000 objects.
- A world class collection of Norwegian and international works from all the Museum's areas: older, modern and contemporary art, design and crafts, and architecture.
- A permanent display of the collection that spans two floors and almost 90 rooms will show more than 5,000 works from the antiquity to the Museum's most recent contemporary acquisitions. Here, works from all the National Museum's various fields – older and modern art, architecture, design, craft, and contemporary art – will meet and interact in new contexts. The permanent display will show the exchange of ideas between the various disciplines, and between Norway and other countries and cultures.
- The permanent display is organized by chronology, but with occasional thematical rooms where works from across different eras will meet in surprising juxtapositions. Visitors may also choose alternative routes across the exhibition and jump from one era or genre into another.
- The permanent exhibition of design and crafts will be on the first floor, and the fine art exhibition will be on the second floor.
- The collection contains key works by Norwegian artists such as Harald Sohlberg, Hannah Ryggen, Johan Christian Dahl and Harriet Backer. The museum holds many of the most well-known and iconic paintings by Edvard Munch, which will be exhibited in a dedicated room in the permanent exhibition.
- The National Museum collection also has important works by Lucas Cranach the elder, Caspar David Friedrich, Gustave Courbet, Édouard Manet, Berthe Morisot, Pablo Picasso, Georges Braque, and Louise Bourgeois.
- The comprehensive design collection contains everything from royal dresses to the icons of mid-twentieth century Scandinavian design.
- The Museum will also house an exhibition space dedicated to the National Museum's world class collection of graphic works, as well as study rooms where visitors can view paper works by the likes of Albrecht Dürer, Edvard Munch and Pablo Picasso on demand.

## **Temporary Exhibitions**

- The first exhibition in the Light Hall will be an extensive presentation of contemporary art in Norway. The curators have travelled the whole length of the country in order to survey the Norwegian art scene and have met with several hundred artists. With a special focus on artists who are working on the margins of the art scene, the project is an inquiry into what Norwegian art and Norwegian society is at this exact moment.

## **The Fredriksen Collection**

The Museum also opens with a special exhibition of works in a collection built in collaboration between the Fredriksen Family and the National Museum. The collection will be exhibited in a dedicated room on a permanent basis and contains significant works by internationally renowned artists such as Cecily Brown, Marlene Dumas, Philip Guston, Eva Hesse, Kerry James Marshall, Yayoi Kusama, Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, Julie Mehretu and Bruce Nauman.

## **Oslo as cultural destination**

Along with the new National Museum, in 2022 Oslo will have seen the openings of other notable architectural landmarks, such as the new Public Library and the new Munch Museum. The city has a thriving art gallery scene and a number of internationally renowned designers and architects. With the opening of the new National Museum, Oslo and Norway will become an essential destination for anyone interested in art and culture.