

TEMPORARY EXHIBITION

Silver's Shine & Silver Greed – The Silver Treasure from Bergen

The special exhibition "Silver's Shine & Silver Greed – The Silver Treasure from Bergen" from 7 December 2016 to 26 February 2017 provides insights into the eventful history of the precious metal – and presents a collection of valuable Norwegian pieces from silver's heyday, which are on display in Germany for the first time.

Lübeck, 6 December 2016 – At the heart of the first temporary exhibition in the European Hansemuseum are items of finely crafted silverware made in Bergen, Norway, from the 16th to 18th century. This collection from the KODE Art Museums in Bergen, which has been enlarged by the collector Christen Sveaas, is being shown for the first time outside Norway. For eleven weeks, visitors can admire exhibits from an age in which silver still dominated the global economy. They will find out lots about the history, production and use of the precious metal over the centuries.

Absolute masterpieces of the silversmith's art are displayed in an exhibition space covering some 250 square metres: delicate spoons, drinking vessels engraved with coats of arms and wedding jewellery, some of it gilded or decorated with tinkling balls. The selection of glistening objects underlines the unique talent of the goldsmiths from Bergen. At the same time their patterns and motives are typical of the period in which they were created.

Alongside the precious original pieces, the exhibition tells the story of silver, which stretches back to Antiquity, by means of infographics, pictures and text. In the dialectic of the exhibition the literal shine of the silverware is contrasted with the historical greed for the metal. European adventurers exploited the silver reserves in South America ruthlessly, built vast mines like the one in Potosí, Bolivia, and did not hesitate to massacre the indigenous population. As the pillage continued unabated, the dark side of the precious metal became apparent in Europe too: an oversupply of silver caused it to lose value – and the world, which had already been scarred by trade in the sought-after commodity, had its first experience of inflation.

Press Contact

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The presentation was developed in cooperation with Trond Indahl, Senior Curator of the KODE Art Museums, and Studio Andreas Heller Architects & Designers. It was project-managed by the historian Franziska Evers from the European Hansemuseum.

The exhibition has been made possible by the generous sponsorship of Advanzia Bank from Luxembourg and the Possehl Foundation. Its patron is Elisabeth Walaas, the ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway in Germany.

An extensive programme of supporting activities for adults and children highlights the links between Norwegian merchants and goldsmiths of the past and present-day Lübeck. A catalogue accompanies the exhibition.

[2.434 characters incl. spaces]

Press Information

This press release is available from our media area at www.hansemuseum.eu/presse.

We will be happy to arrange interviews, academic background briefings and exclusive insights into the exhibition on request.

Please contact us for these and all other information requests on
+(49) 451 80 90 99 18 or presse@hansemuseum.eu

Social Media

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EXHIBITION INFORMATION

Silver's Shine & Silver Greed - The Silver Treasure from Bergen

Duration	7 December 2016 to 26 February 2017
Opening Times	Open daily from 10am to 5pm (except 24 December)
Prices	Adults 5 €, Children/Concessions 2,50 € Special prices for families and in combination with the permanent exhibition "The Hanse" and the <i>Castle Friary</i>
Publication	An accompanying catalogue to the exhibition is available. It features numerous photographs and texts, for example by Dr Tillmann Bendikowski. Edition <i>expecto</i> , published by Dr Felicia Sternfeld. Price: 22,80 €
In Cooperation with	KODE Art Museums in Bergen, Norway
Exhibition Venue	Event rooms La Rochelle/Visby
Main Curator	Trond Indahl, KODE Art Museums
Exhibition Design	Studio Andreas Heller Architects & Designers, Hamburg
Project Management	Trond Indahl (KODE Art Museums) & Franziska Evers (European Hansemuseum Lübeck)
Exhibits	Around 260 exhibits, which were made between 1550 and 1780
Exhibition Space	250 m ²
Exhibition funded by	Avanzia Bank (Luxembourg) & Possehl-Stiftung (Lübeck)
Product Sponsoring	Heimerle + Meule Group GmbH, Pforzheim
Partner	NDR Kultur, Die Lübecker Museen, Embassy of Norway, Hansestadt Lübeck

PRESS PHOTOS

These and more high-definition pictures are available on request to presse@hansemuseum.eu



*Silver Beaker («Tumbler»), partially gilded,
Jørgen Jørgensen Egelsdorf the elder,
Bergen 1735.*

© KODE / Stiftelsen Bergenssilver, Photo: Erik Fuglseth/KODE



*Silver spoon, partially gilded,
Jost Albertszenn,
Bergen ca. 1610-20.*

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*Silver gilded bridal crown,
marked Jens Pettersen Smith,
Bergen ca. 1730.*

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*Silver guild cup (Guild of tailor's apprentices),
Herman Wichman,
Bergen 1643.*

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