

# INAUGURATION OF THIS YEAR'S SCULPTURE AT THE ROYAL DJURGÅRDEN

Princess Estelle Cultural Foundation presents this year's artists, the duo Elmgreen & Dragset at the Royal Djurgården. On 8 June at 13:00, H.K.H. Prince Daniel will inaugurate their new sculpture *Life Rings*. The inauguration ceremony is conducted digitally on the Cultural Foundation's website: [www.preks.se](http://www.preks.se)

*Life Rings* is Elmgreen & Dragset's first public outdoor sculpture in Sweden and the second permanent work in the future sculpture park in the Rosendal area at the Royal Djurgården.

Elmgreen & Dragset are based in Berlin and have worked together since 1995. Significant in Elmgreen & Dragset's art is the use of everyday objects that the artist duo either alter or present in new, surprising ways. When taken out of their usual context and positioned in an unexpected manner, familiar objects can gain new meanings and become magical as they break free from their mundane functionality.

In their sculpture *Life Rings*, the artists have utilized an object that we recognize, the lifebuoy, a rescue tool that signals safety in crisis situations. Generally we see it as a solitary object, but in Elmgreen & Dragset's sculpture we experience a whole cluster of lifebuoys, interconnected in a circuit that extends upwards into the air. The liferings are no longer usable, they become a symbol for something bigger that we are all dependent on and show that we must care for each other. However, with their characteristic critical and humoristic edge, the artists stated that these liferings are actually made of metal, and so are unable to float.

*Life Rings* will be installed on a hill by the walking path next to the Djurgårdsbrunn-canal, opposite the National Maritime Museum. During the period June 8 – September 26, the Princess Estelle Cultural Foundation will offer daily presentations and activities on site – adapted to the current guidelines issued by the government. The Foundation has produced a catalogue and an audio guide, as well as an art educational program in collaboration with the University of Arts, Crafts and Design and The National Museum of Science and Technology. The purpose is to make contemporary art available and contribute to an increased interest in culture.

The acquisition of *Life Rings* has been made possible thanks to generous donations by Lisen and Richard Båge, Ulrica and Paul Frankenius, and an anonymous donor.

For more information and press images, please contact Princess Estelle Cultural Foundation:

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Webpage: [www.preks.se](http://www.preks.se)  
[www.elmgreen-dragset.com](http://www.elmgreen-dragset.com)

Press images: [www.preks.se/press/](http://www.preks.se/press/)

Instagram: [@preks\\_kulturstiftelse](https://www.instagram.com/preks_kulturstiftelse)  
[@elmgreenanddragsetstudio](https://www.instagram.com/elmgreenanddragsetstudio)

## Events:

A lecture by Elmgreen & Dragset, will be held at the National Museum of Science and Technology, on 8 June at 14.00.

A conversation with Elmgreen & Dragset and the Foundation's Executive Director Sara Sandström Nilsson, will be held at Restaurant Brillo in collaboration with Brillo Vox, and streamed live on 9 June at 9.00 at [www.brillovox.com](http://www.brillovox.com)

#### ABOUT ELMGREEN & DRAGSET

Michael Elmgreen (born 1961 in Copenhagen, Denmark) and Ingar Dragset (born 1969 in Trondheim, Norway) are based in Berlin and have worked together as an artist duo since 1995. They have held numerous solo exhibitions at art institutions worldwide, including EMMA – Espoo Museum of Modern Art; The Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas; The Whitechapel Gallery, London; Tel Aviv Museum of Art; UCCA, Beijing; Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo; Victoria and Albert Museum, London; Kunsthalle Zürich and Tate Modern, London. Next year, Elmgreen & Dragset will hold a substantial solo exhibition at Fondazione Prada in Milan.

Among the artists' several public sculptures the most widely known work is *Prada Marfa* (2005) in Texas. Other works include *Memorial to the Homosexuals Persecuted under the National Socialist Regime* (2008) in Tiergarten, Berlin; *Van Gogh's Ear* (2016), now installed at K11 Musea in Wuhan; and *Statue of Liberty* (2018) at the Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart, Berlin. In January 2021, the permanent site-specific work *The Hive* was inaugurated at Moynihan Train Hall, Penn Station, New York.

Elmgreen & Dragset have participated in over twenty international art biennales. In 2009 they curated both the Nordic and Danish Pavilions at the Venice Biennale, and in 2017 the 15th Istanbul Biennial. In 2015 Elmgreen & Dragset were appointed Honorary Doctors at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim. Full biography is available at [www.preks.se/biography](http://www.preks.se/biography)

#### ABOUT THE PRINCESS ESTELLE CULTURAL FOUNDATION

The Princess Estelle Cultural Foundation was founded in autumn 2019 on the initiative of Crown Princess Victoria and Prince Daniel. Its purpose is to promote cultural activities in Sweden. This is in line with a royal tradition in Sweden to support culture and the conviction that cultural activities are essential to an open, modern society. Crown Princess Victoria and Prince Daniel wish to highlight this and demonstrate their long-term commitment by establishing the Foundation. The initial focus is to operate and develop the permanent sculpture park at Royal Djurgården. The foundation is funded by private donations.

The Board of the Foundation consists of H.R.H. Prins Daniel, Elin Annwall, Johan Ericsson, Lena Josefsson and Staffan Larsson, Governor of the Royal Court. The Foundation's Board is assisted by an Artistic Council that consists of Richard Julin, Artistic Director Accelerator, Stockholm, Iris Müller-Westermann, Director Moderna Museet, Malmö and Lars Nittve, former Director of Tate Modern, London, Moderna Museet, Stockholm and M+, Hong Kong. Executive Director of the Foundation is Sara Sandström Nilsson.