

KONSTENS HUS
VID HAVET

TAITEENTALO
MEREN ÄÄRELLÄ

ART HOUSE
BY THE SEA

CHAPPE

—
Gustav Wasas Gata 11
10600 Ekenäs, Finland
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chappe.fi

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Daniel & Geo Fuchs: “Welcome to the Toy Box of Albert and Clara” 19.10.2024-30.3.2025

Chappe invited the artists Daniel & Geo Fuchs to Ekenäs in August 2023 to photograph artistically in the toy collection of Albert de la Chapelle and Clara Bloomfield de la Chapelle, consisting of figurines, dolls and soft toys. In addition to art and antique silver, Albert and Clara selectively collected popular culture characters.

Albert's favourite character was Scrooge McDuck and his collection includes many of them, dating back to different eras. Playfully, one might even say that Scrooge McDuck was Albert's alter ego. The Muppet figures Kermit and Miss Piggy are characters that both Albert and Clara liked. In 1986 and 2005, they visited Disneyland in California, where the below photograph was taken.



Albert and Clara in Disneyland, California.
Photo: Albert and Clara's private archive.

Daniel & Geo Fuchs were given a free hand with the collection to choose the toys they wanted to use. A temporary studio was created as their workspace in the Collection Centre Leira, which is part of the Museum of Western Uusimaa. The Fuchs couple photographed several characters from Duckburg, such as Scrooge McDuck, Huey, Dewey and Louie as well as Donald Duck. The Muppet characters are represented

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by Kermit, Kermit's nephew and Miss Piggy. The exhibition includes portraits of various further characters, Sylvester and Tweety, Daffy Duck, Wile E. Coyote from Looney Tunes as well as the Pink Panther. Furthermore, there are some portraits of Pez-characters.

The artists took several individual Scrooge McDuck figurines and created an arrangement in which the Scrooges have adventures both together and separately to form a large, boisterous and active group portrait. There are several close-ups, or portraits, of Scrooge McDuck as well as a family portrait of the Duck family where Scrooge McDuck is joined by his nephew and his nephews. Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy as well as Kermit's nephew play a central role in the exhibition. They are pictured in fun group photographs, some of them as special portraits created using the lenticular photography method.

Daniel & Geo Fuchs produce the photographs as gigantic enlargements; the size of the photographed figurine might be 10 cm and the actual work is close to two metres. The exhibition "Welcome to the Toy Box of Albert and Clara" plays with the different genres of photography, breaking down barriers between portraits, staged photographs, documentary photographs and the visual arts in general. The approach of the Fuchs couple blurs the line between fictional world and reality. The viewer can enter the world of cartoons, stories and animations, where the characters come to life and take over the exhibition space with their number, size and actions.

Daniel & Geo Fuchs (1966 / 1969) have worked together since the mid-90s and are known for their conceptual photography series. Their work has been shown in numerous international exhibitions and can be found in many public and private collections. Daniel & Geo Fuchs have worked artistically in many museum collections and archives, and at the same time they have created their own archive and collection. Artistic collection work has become a central part of their art and career. Photographing the collection of Albert de la Chapelle and Clara Bloomfield de la Chapelle is the latest addition to the artistic photography projects of Daniel & Geo Fuchs.

For additional information

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