

KONSTENS HUS  
VID HAVET

TAITEENTALO  
MEREN ÄÄRELLÄ

ART HOUSE  
BY THE SEA

**CHAPPE**

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Gustav Wasas Gata 11  
10600 Ekenäs, Finland  
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chappe.fi

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**Daniel & Geo Fuchs: "Wunderkammer: Silver Visions" 19.10.2024-30.3.2025**

Chappe invited the artists Daniel & Geo Fuchs to Ekenäs in August 2023 to photograph artistically the extensive antique silver collection of Albert de la Chapelle (1933-2020). The first object in Albert's collection, which he called a "paten", was a serving dish for water and wine used in ecclesiastical ceremonies. Albert had admired the object already as a child since it had been an heirloom in the de la Chapelle family for generations. The serving dish became the first object, or treasure, of his collection. Albert started collecting baroque silver in 1970, and it formed the core of his art and silver collection.

The oldest items in the collection date back to the end of the 1570s. A significant part of the collection is from the 17th and 18th centuries, but the objects represent various eras diversely, up to and including the 21st century. For the most part, the collection illustrates European silversmith traditions, but it also includes objects with Russian origin. There are several rare objects of Swedish provenance. The most valuable objects in the collection are old German silver.

Personally, Albert was especially fond of animal motifs, especially pigs. The collection includes a particularly unique and exciting object, "Puss in Boots" from the end of the 19th century. It can be stated that Albert's collection reflects his personality since it includes both very valuable objects and less precious items that he has added to his collection because of their humorous appeal.

For their photography project, Daniel & Geo Fuchs selected artefacts that represent different eras and purposes. The photographic series exhibits both liturgical objects of value and tableware, utility articles and ornaments. A black photography box was built in the Collection Centre Leira to enable the artists to utilise mirrors to play with light, shades, and reflections. With the box and mirrors, it was also possible to multiply the objects and create mirror images. Multi-exposure enabled for the moving and turning of objects many times, which gave the illusion of a photographed object in full rotation. By placing the photographs next to each other, they have made diptychs, triptychs, and polyptychs. When developing the photographs, the artists have utilised image processing software to play with colours and filters. Daniel & Geo Fuchs have used modern technology to realise their photographs and, thus, created a new expression for the objects.

The Fuchs couple set up the objects in the wildest arrangements; when "Puss in Boots", pigs and cranes, wine chalices and drinking cups are set around a monstrance, the result is a crazy, carnival atmosphere.

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The peaceful coexistence of objects from different eras and genres breaks the boundaries of cultural history styles and creates a new art history iconography. The Greek god Poseidon or the Roman god Mercury exist in harmony with Catholic liturgical objects and Judaica dishes of the Jewish culture. Photographed by Daniel & Geo Fuchs, Albert's paten dating back to the 18th century resembles the happy smiley emoji to the modern human.

**Daniel & Geo Fuchs (1966 / 1969)** have worked together since the mid-90s and are known for their conceptual photography series. Their artwork has been shown in numerous international exhibitions and can be found in many public and private collections. Over the past decades, Daniel & Geo Fuchs have artistically worked 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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