

Kunstakademiet - UK
DVT/TG/ALA

We have artists here that teach based
on their education -

- from academies in France, Germany,
Sweden, Norway, Ireland and England.

I am Mikkel Bogh, principal
of The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts' -

- Schools of Visual Arts.

We're in the Academy's Dome Room
at Charlottenborg Castle -

- in the heart of Copenhagen.
The castle dates back to the 1680s -

- but it has been the
Academy of Fine Arts since 1754 -

- when King Frederik the 5th
gave the castle to the Academy -

- and since then it has housed
the Academy of Fine Arts -

- that have educated painters,
sculptors and architects.

One of the most exquisite works
of art here is the model -

- by the 1st president of the Academy,
Saly's The Equestrian Statue .

The Equestrian Statue was a vast
project which was extremely costly.

It<became> costly
contrary to expectations.

Saly was a French sculptur who was
invited here to fulfil an order:

A portrait statue and an equestrian
statue of King Frederik the 5th.

So in 1753 Saly came to Denmark,
and in 1771 the sculpture was ready -

- to be unveiled at Amalienborg,
6 years after the king's passing.

In the year following Saly's arrival in Denmark, the Academy was founded.

And after internal struggles -

- Saly was appointed the first Academy president in 1754 -

- and the first group of professors came from big European countries.

They spoke French, German and English, but here mainly French.

An academy of fine arts is a place where -

- the most prominent representatives of a field, in the form of professors -

- meet and exchange experiences and make use of their knowledge -

- in teaching novices.

The Danish absolute monarchy wanted this model for Denmark -

- and as Saly was himself a product of the French academy tradition -

- he was expected to be familiar with it.

So the Danish academy is basically created after a French ideal.

We have professors from England, Ireland, Sweden, Norway, Germany -

- and some from Denmark, and our students come from most of Europe.

Having foreign professors, as in the first years of the Academy -

- means that the Academy harvests experience from across Europe.

The versatility that this brings creates a European field -

- at a national academy, which allows for productive exchange -

- and an interesting situation

that reflects the conditions -

- of a small country like Denmark.

We're a small nation, but also part
of the bigger European community.