



STORTINGET

Omvisnings- hjelp



FOR OMVISNING PÅ ENGELSK

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Om omvisningshjelpen

Her finner du engelsk tekst om rommene og stedene som gjerne inngår i en omvisning på Stortinget. Under hvert nye rom innledes det med informasjon om selve rommet og om den daglige og den historiske bruken. Videre presenteres den aktuelle arkitekturen og kunsten. Ofte er kunstverkene godt egnet til å snakke om relevante historiske hendelser og Norges politiske system. Aktuelle fordypningstemaer presenteres derfor i de påfølgende sidene etter introduksjonen av hvert rom.

Rommene er presentert i en naturlig løype, men vær gjerne fleksibel siden det ofte er mye aktivitet på huset. Dette kan føre til at du må gå en annen løype enn du hadde planlagt.

Husk at et engelskspråklig publikum har andre forkunnskaper enn et norsk publikum. De vet ikke nødvendigvis hva som skjedde på Eidsvoll i ukene før 17. mai eller hvilken regjering vi har i Norge. Det betyr at du kanskje må legge opp omvisningen på en litt annen måte.

Lykke til med omvisningen – ta gjerne kontakt med oss dersom du har spørsmål!

Viktig informasjon til deg som skal vise om

Skal du ha omvisning for flere enn fem, må du registrere omvisningen samtidig som du registrerer besøket i bookingsystemet. Din omvisning vil da bli synlig i oversikten over alle innmeldte omvisninger. Ta kontakt med stortingstorget hvis du har spørsmål.

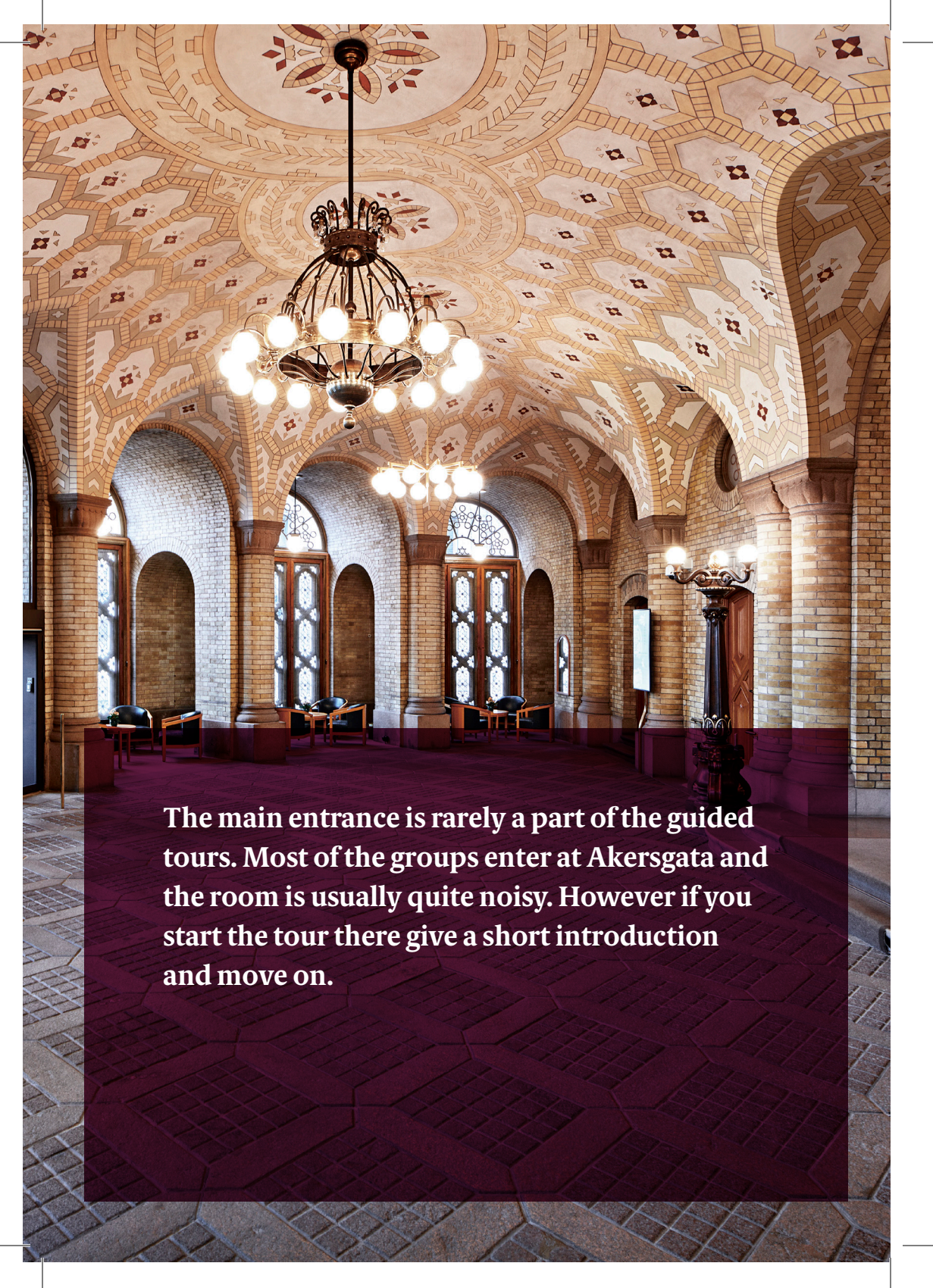
Husk at du er ansvarlig for gruppen under hele besøket. Gjestene må følges både inn og ut og kan ikke overlates til seg selv på galleriet. Overstiger gruppen 30 personer, må gruppen deles i to, eller du kan ta med deg en kollega som assistent.

Stortingsrepresentantenes stoler i salen er personlige og kan derfor ikke benyttes av besøkende. Omvisningen i stortingssalen skal foregå bak i salen langs vinduet. Ved besøk på galleriet, er det viktig at besøkende får beskjed om å slå av lyden på mobilen og blitsen på kamera. Fotografering skal ikke skje fra første benkerad på galleriet.

Stortingstorget

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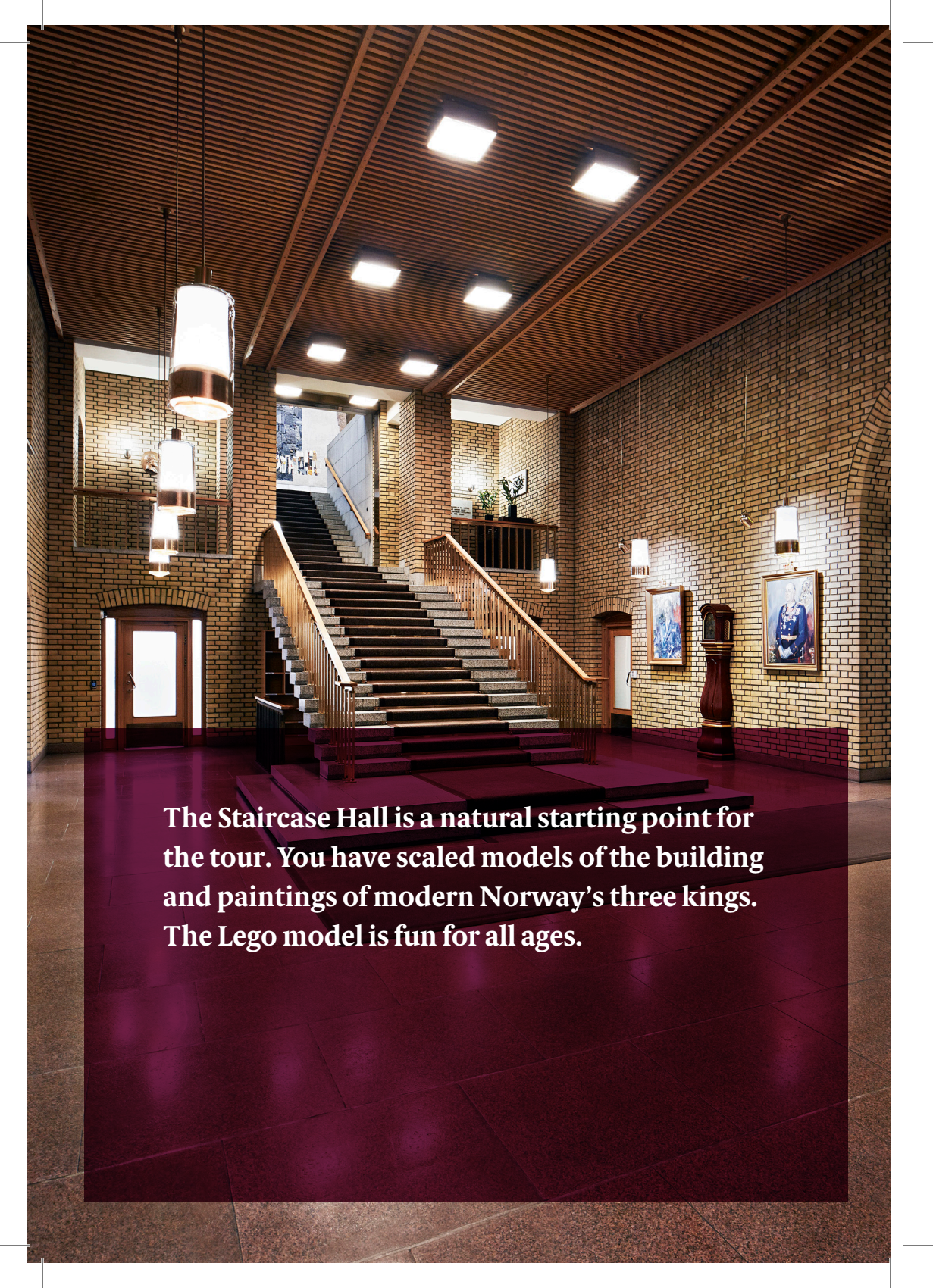


The main entrance is rarely a part of the guided tours. Most of the groups enter at Akersgata and the room is usually quite noisy. However if you start the tour there give a short introduction and move on.

About the Lion Hill

The term is used to describe both the Main Entrance and the Parliament building, the name derives from the two lion sculptures «guarding» the Main Entrance. The sculptures were designed by Christopher Borch, but were carved by two prisoners from Akershus fortress. One of the prisoners was Gudbrand Eriksen Mørstad, who had been convicted of murder and sentenced to death. He was however pardoned in 1873, and it is said that his work for the Parliament was the reason. This is not documented. He later emigrated to the United States.

The entrance was not used from 1866 until 1929, except for formal occasions like the State Opening of Parliament.



The Staircase Hall is a natural starting point for the tour. You have scaled models of the building and paintings of modern Norway's three kings. The Lego model is fun for all ages.

About the Staircase Hall

The Staircase Hall is the result of the alterations made between 1951 and 1959. Originally the room was an open courtyard, dominated by a huge chimney. This was removed and the courtyard became an integrated part of the building. The original T-shaped staircase from the Entrance Hall was removed and replaced by the current staircase. Only the first two steps of the original staircase remain.

THE GRANDFATHER CLOCK

The old grandfather clock has been with the Members of Parliament since 1818. It was made by Baltazar Bøe in the 1790s and is still working. A clockmaker still maintains the old clock.

The different locations of the Parliament

The constituent assembly was held at the home of ironworks owner Carsten Anker at Eidsvoll (about an hour north of Oslo).

From the autumn of 1814 until 1854 the parliamentary sessions were held at Christiania Cathedral School. When the school was demolished in 1913 the original chambers were moved to the folk museum at Bygdøy.

In 1854 the Old Banqueting Hall at the University of Oslo was finished; the Storting moved its sittings there. The Parliament building opened on 5th March 1866, and the sittings have been held here ever since.

Originally the Parliament only met every third year, but in 1869 annual sittings were introduced. The Constitution states that the sittings shall be held in the capital and only on special occasions (such as war or disease) may they be held elsewhere.

The Parliament building

Emil V. Langlet

The first Bill on constructing a parliament building was put forward in 1836. A 30 year «tug of war» between the government and the Parliament ensued. The design, location, money and the architect were all up for debate. Since the Parliament only met every third year the process was further delayed.

In 1855 the Government arranged a formal competition on the design of the building. The winner was that of Schirmer and von Hanno, but their design was rejected. The Storting wanted the Swedish architect Emil Victor Langlet. Langlet was inspired by his studies in Italy and France. The architectural style of the building is historicism, which borrows styles from different historical periods. The most prominent is the Roman-Lombardian style.

The construction started in 1860 and lasted until 5th March 1866.

Plaster model of the Parliament building

The plaster model was made by gypsum maker Johs Tvedtnin in 1914, the same year as the centenary of the Constitution. It displays the Parliament building before the alterations in the 1950s. Originally the room was an open courtyard, dominated by a huge chimney. It shows the open archways on the Lion Hill and the low building of the National Archives in the back.

EIDSVOLL SQUARE

Eidsvoll Square has never looked like it does on the plaster model; there have been many different design proposals. In 1925 sculptor Wilhelm Rasmussen won the design contest. His membership of the far-right Nazi-collaborating Nasjonal Samling («National Union») party during the Second World War, made it impossible to erect his 34 metre high column on Eidsvoll Square. The unfinished column was bought and raised in Bøverdalen in 1992.

The Parliament building – alterations

1951–1959

In the 1950s the Parliament building went through major alterations. The alterations were planned, designed and led by architect Nils Holter. The old National Archives building was demolished and replaced by an office building. The original open courtyard with the chimney was enclosed. At the Main Entrance 8 out of the 9 archways was turned into windows. The Main Chamber was extended by 4 metres.

THE PARLIAMENT'S OTHER BUILDINGS

Increasing demands for office space led the Parliament to acquire buildings around the main building. Prinsens Gate 26 was bought in 1972, Akersgata 21 in 1988, Nedre Vollgate 20 in 1993, Nedre Vollgate 18 in 1998 and Tollbugata 31 in 2004. The Parliament leases most of Akersgata 18 for the standing committees and parts of Stortingsgata 6 have been leased for sections of the administration.

Most of the buildings are connected by tunnels. The entire Parliament consists of approximately 70 000 square metres.

The Norwegian Kings

KING HAAKON VII (1972)

Painted by Agnes Hiorth (1899–1984) in an impressionistic style. The use of the colours red, white and blue underlines the symbol of the king as a national symbol and the king's motto «All for Norway».

On 18th November 1905 the Parliament chose King Haakon VII (1872–1957) as the king of Norway. This was done after a referendum, where 79% voted for a monarchy and 21% for a republic. King Haakon reigned from 1905 until his death in 1957.

King Haakon VII was originally named Carl and was a Danish prince. Carl was married to the British princess Maud; together they had a son named Alexander who was given the name Olav in 1905.

KING OLAV V (1983)

Painted by Jan Thomas Njerve (1927–2014) in a naturalistic style. The king wears a general's uniform with a sabre. He wears the same outfit when opening the Parliament.

King Olav (1903–1991) reigned from 1957 until his death in 1991. He was married to Princess Martha, but was a widower for the entirety of his ruling years.

KING HARALD V (2000)

Painted by Tore Juell (1942–) in a realistic style. The King wears the general's full dress uniform.

King Harald V (1937–) ascended the throne in 1991.

The ruling monarch's role

In accordance with Article 74 of the Constitution the King is not allowed to influence decisions made by the Parliament. He opens the Parliament every year. The King gives his Royal Assent to Bills passed by the Parliament. This is done in the Council of State usually every Friday. The Government will then inform the King about the current political process and legislative decisions.

An Act giving equal rights to inherit the throne was passed in 1990, but it was not retroactive. This applies to the generation after Crown Prince Haakon. As things stand, Princess Ingrid Alexandra will be the first ruling queen of Norway.

The Sisters of Liberty (1958) Arne Ekeland

Painted by Arne Ekeland(1908–1994). The painting is an important piece of Norwegian art history and was first displayed at an exhibition in 1958. The painting was hung up in the Parliament in 1991 for a trial period. The painting was controversial due to Ekeland's communist views. This influenced his artwork and political engagement.

The painting displays two large women, representing two different parts of the world. The European woman represents knowledge and technology, while the African woman represents the riches of the earth. Together they are holding a piece of research equipment. Industrial workers enter from the left and meet prisoners from the now open prisons. They walk together towards the farmers who enter from the right. This symbolizes that when people from all over the world come together in friendship, the world can move forwards. Central to the painting is liberty, equality and kinship.

War memorial

THE GOLDEN BOOK

The Golden Book was a gift given to the Parliament from the Norwegian coastal populace. Norway was neutral during the First World War, but had a large merchant fleet. Many of these ships were sunk and the sailors drowned. The copper book is engraved with the names of the sailors and their ships.

MEMORIAL PLAQUE FOR THE SECOND WORLD WAR

On 9th April 1940 Norway was invaded by Nazi Germany. The occupation lasted until 1945. The Parliament stopped meeting after their sitting at Elverum on 9th April and would not gather again until 14th June 1945. Approximately 10 000 Norwegians lost their lives.

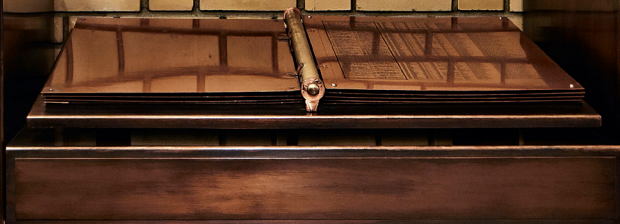
MEMORIAL PLAQUE FOR INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS

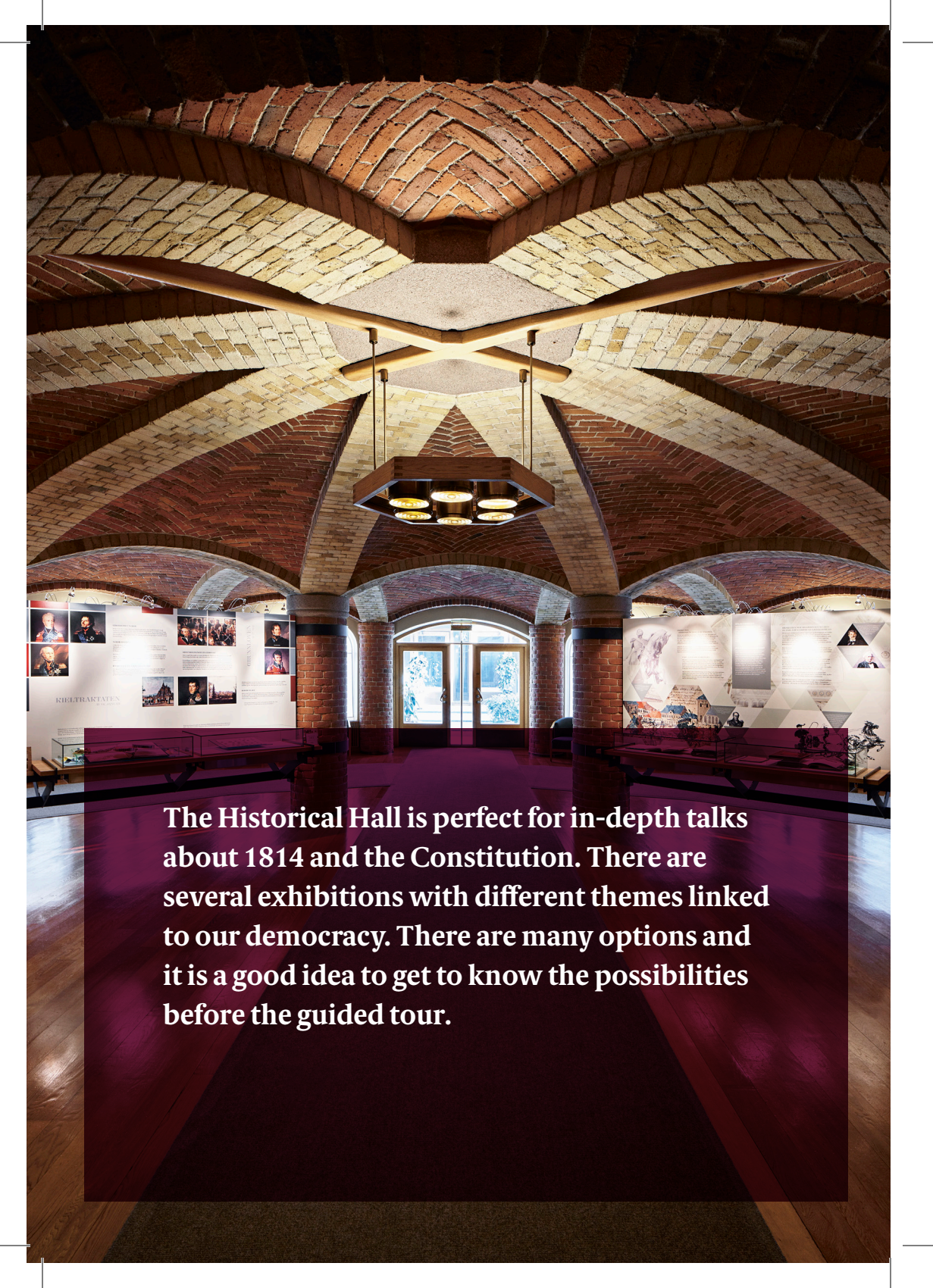
Marble plaque to the memory of Norwegians who lost their lives during military service abroad after 1945.

Fresh white Märtha lilies are placed at the memorial every week.

VARE FALNE 1940 – 1945

I DYP ARBØDIGHET MINNES VI ALLE DEM
SOM GA SITT LIV FOR FEDRELANDET
DE DØDE FOR AT FOLKET KUNNE LEVE
INGEN ER NEVNT – INGEN ER GLEMT



The image shows the interior of a large, historic hall with a high, vaulted ceiling made of red and yellow bricks. The ceiling features a series of intersecting arches. A modern, hexagonal light fixture with four circular lights hangs from the center. The walls are also made of brick and feature several large exhibition panels with text and images. The floor is polished wood. In the background, there is a large arched doorway leading to another room. The overall atmosphere is one of a well-preserved historical space.

The Historical Hall is perfect for in-depth talks about 1814 and the Constitution. There are several exhibitions with different themes linked to our democracy. There are many options and it is a good idea to get to know the possibilities before the guided tour.

About the Historical Hall

Large brick columns support the arcade and give the room a historical feel. Originally, the Historical Hall was lit white and filled with shelves. From 1866 to 1914 the National Archives used large parts of the Parliament building, their entrance was from the back of the Parliament. The Historic Hall and several rooms on the lower floors were used as archive storage rooms. When the National Archives moved from the Parliament, the State Archives separated from the National Archives and stayed in the Parliament building until 1929.

The Members of Parliament shared the building with several institutions. It also included several apartments for the chief administrative officer and the caretaker and his family.

1814 – The Momentous Year

In 1814 Norway went through a political revolution. Norway had three kings, two wars, two elected assemblies, and the creation of a constitution and the revising of that constitution all in one year. Norway went from being under Danish autocracy to a constitutional monarchy in union with Sweden.

The exhibition «1814 – The Momentous year» focuses on the four documents that shaped Norway in 1814. The Treaty of Kiel was signed on 14th January 1814; it was a peace agreement between King Fredrik VI of Denmark and King Karl XIII of Sweden. The treaty stated that Fredrik VI had to give Norway to the Swedish king.

The Constitution contains 110 articles and was finished on 17th May 1814. It is founded on popular sovereignty, the separation of powers and human rights.

The Convention of Moss from 14th August 1814 consists of two documents. One is the ceasefire agreement between Norway and Sweden, the other is an agreement on how Norway would enter into a union with Sweden.

The revised Constitution was signed on 4th November 1814. This constitution secured Norwegian independence domestically.

The Constitution of 17th May

On 10th April 1814 112 elected representatives met for a religious service at Eidsvoll church. The next day they started drafting the Constitution. There was a limited amount of time, so they were dependant on members of the assembly having done a lot of the work before they met. Christian Magnus Falsen's and Johan G. Adler's drafts for the Constitution became the most important.

15 members made up a constitutional committee that created 11 principles. These were voted on before the committee started the work of drafting a constitution.

The assembly was divided, the Independence Party consisting of about 80 members against the Union Party consisting of about 30 members. The parties disagreed about the union with Sweden and who would be king. The 11 principles and the Constitution show clearly that the Independence Party had the majority. Joining the union with Sweden by choice was never an option.

The Constitution was signed on 17th May 1814, and Christian Frederik was chosen as the King of Norway. Christian Frederik accepted the throne on 19th May and the assembly was dissolved.

The basic principles

The Norwegian Constitution was adopted on 17 May 1814 and is the second oldest written constitution in the world. It was inspired by the United States Declaration of Independence (1776) and the French Declaration of the Rights of the Man and of the Citizen (1789). It was originally founded on the principles of:

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE PEOPLE

The states authority is given by the people, through their elected representatives.

THE SEPARATION OF POWERS

The Constitution establishes three different branches of government:

- Legislative, budgetary and supervisory power is vested in the Storting
- Executive power is vested in the King in Council
- Judicial power is vested in the Supreme Courts and the subordinate courts, and in the Court of Impeachment (Riksretten)

HUMAN RIGHTS

The Constitution secures important human rights like due process and freedom of speech. Aproximately 40% of men above the age of 25 was given the right to vote.

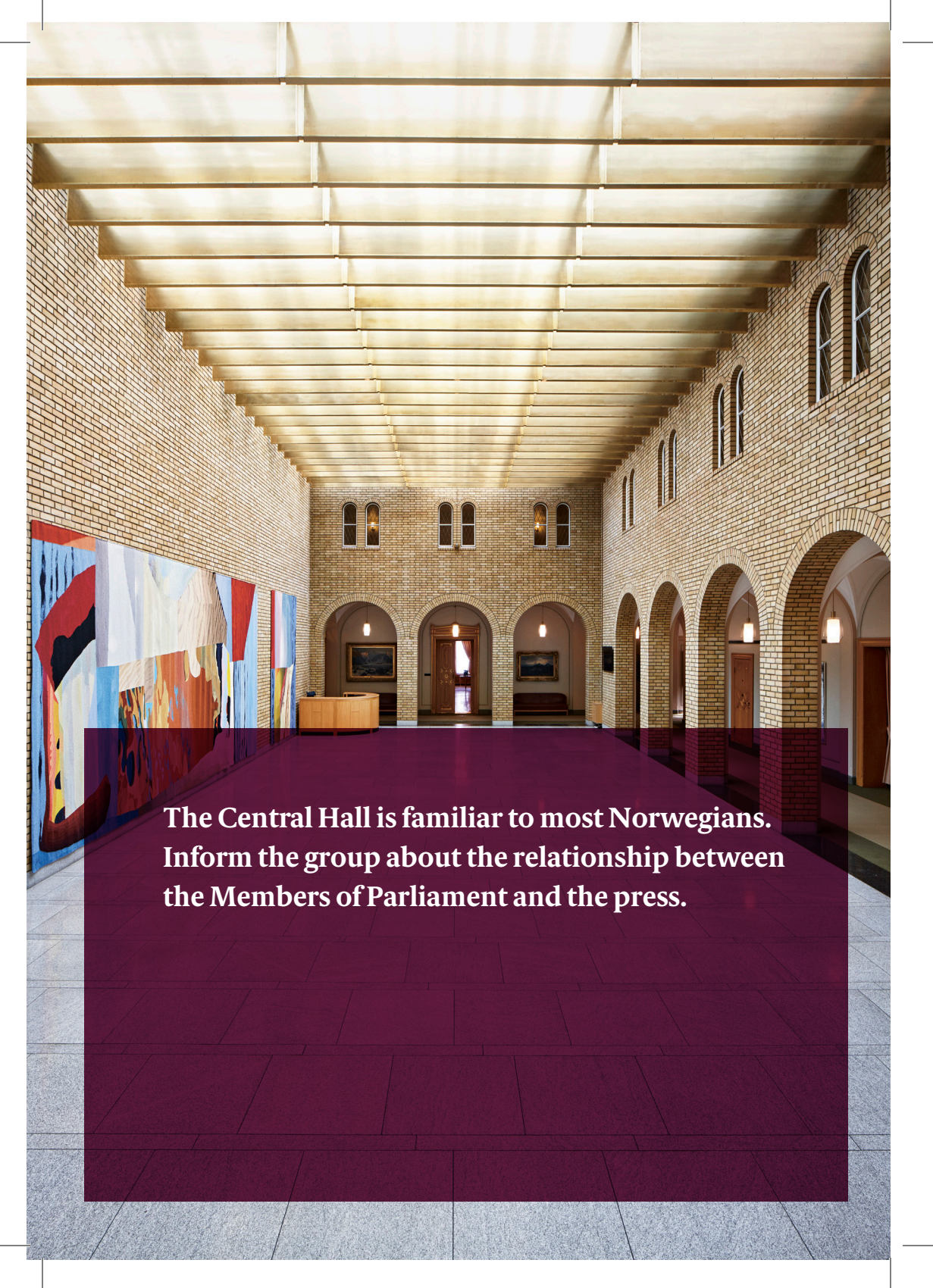
Portrait gallery of the constituent assembly

These are portraits of the 112 men who created the Constitution at Eidsvoll. Not all are pictured, probably for both financial reasons and religious reasons (Haugeans).

The average age of the constituent assembly was approximately 42, making it the youngest ever Norwegian national assembly. The youngest member was Thomas Konow who was only 17 and a lieutenant in the navy. Ironically the voting age was set at 25 in the Constitution. The oldest member was Jørgen Cloumann, who was 67.

25 of the members were voted in from the cities, 33 from the army and navy, 54 from the districts. No women participated in the constituent assembly. The representatives from the counties of Nordland, Troms and Finnmark did not reach Eidsvoll in time to join the assembly.

Under the portrait gallery is a useable copy of the Constitution and a copy of the Declaration of Human Rights. The latter states that all humans are born free and equal and that power should come from the people. The declaration was a huge source of inspiration for the Constitution.



**The Central Hall is familiar to most Norwegians.
Inform the group about the relationship between
the Members of Parliament and the press.**

About the Central Hall

The natural downlights gives the impression that there is no ceiling, which there originally wasn't. The room was converted into the Central Hall during the alterations in the 1950s.

The Central Hall is a known for being where the politicians meet the press. Most of the interviews are done here. The media is of course important to the Members of Parliament. The Parliament's parliamentary press club consists of about 300 members.

PAINTINGS

- Otto Sinding: From Reine in Lofoten (1883)
- Hans Gude: From the inlet of Christiania (1874)
- Anne Vistven: King Harald V taking the Oath (2012)
- Harald Dal: King Haakon VII taking the oath before the storting (1961–1962)
- Kira Wager: King Olav V taking the oath before the storting (2017).
- According to the Constitution, when a new monarch ascends the throne, he or she shall come to the Parliament as soon as possible to swear an oath to the Constitution.

Community (1960–1966) Else Hagen

The artwork is a stone mosaic bolted to the wall. It is the only remaining one of the three large works of art put up during the alterations in the 1950s.

On the right-hand side, two young people are releasing a bird, while an elderly couple is holding another bird between them on the opposite side. Their bodies have almost grown into the trees. The middle of the mosaic is shaped like a city «machine» to live and work in. The mosaic symbolizes generations and safety in community.

The slate comes from Gudbrandsdalen and the white and pink marble comes from Italy.

Landscape (2002–2005)

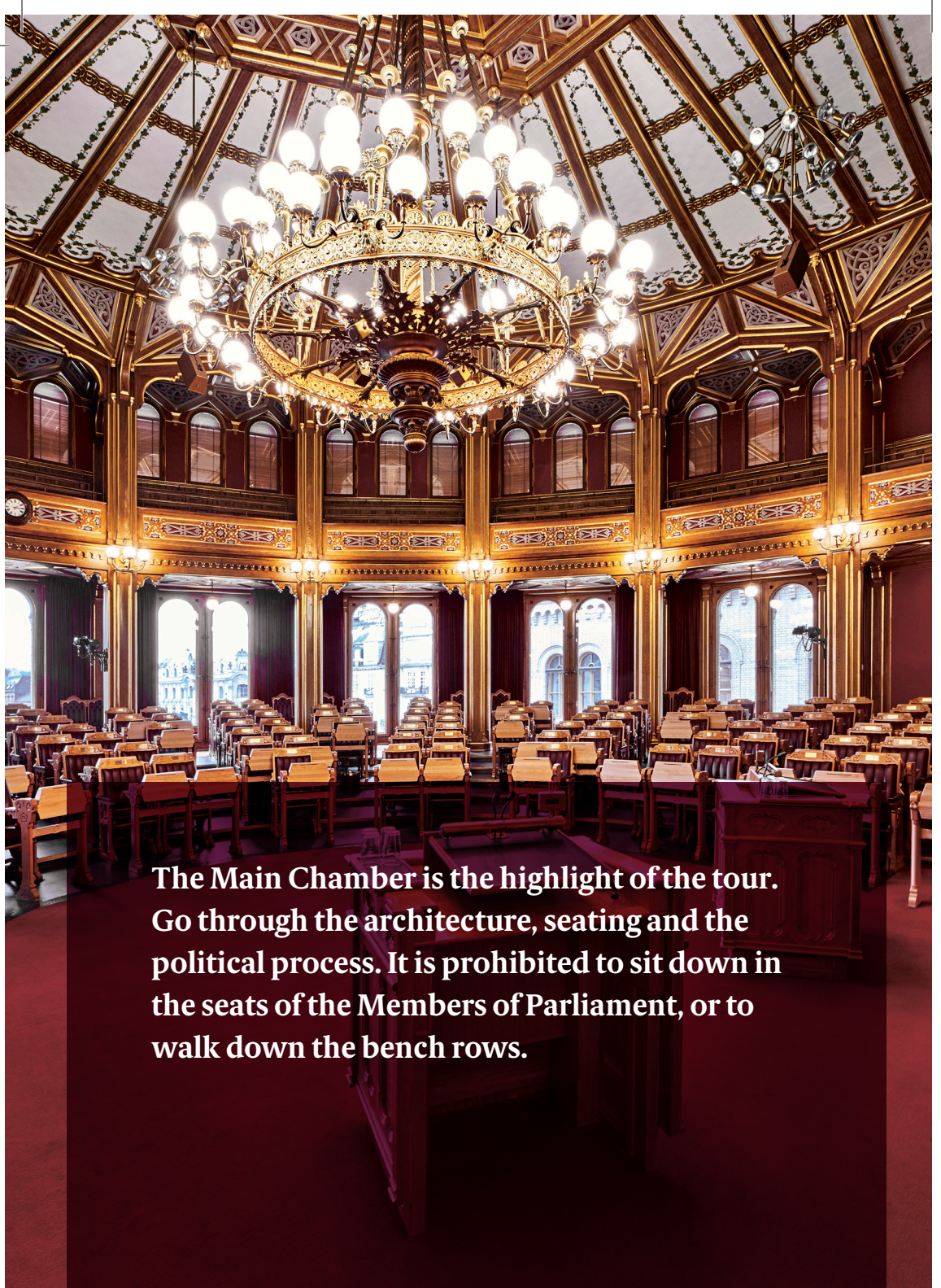
Sissel Blystad

Tapestry by Sissel Blystad. The tapestry was woven in Sweden and shown to the public on 9th May 2005.

There are three parts to the tapestry, and it shows sky, mountains, lakes/oceans, a house, a boat, farmland and a field. The colours of the tapestry provide a nice contrast to the yellow brick wall.

The tapestry is made of Norwegian wool and measures 47 square meters

Landscape replaced Karen G. Holtmark's tapestry «Solens gang» (Passage of the Sun).



The Main Chamber is the highlight of the tour. Go through the architecture, seating and the political process. It is prohibited to sit down in the seats of the Members of Parliament, or to walk down the bench rows.

About the Main Chamber

The interior of the Main Chamber is designed by Emil Victor Langlet. Originally the chamber was white, but it was painted red sometime in the early 1900s. Langlet was inspired by many architectural styles, and the Main Chamber has elements of Italian and Nordic building tradition. The wooden construction resembles the Norwegian stave churches, while the ceiling is inspired by French circus tents and Roman shade sails. Langlet also designed the MPs' seats. The large chandelier was made to order in Germany, and originally hung above the presidential podium. During the alterations in the 1950s the Main Chamber was expanded by four metres and the chandelier was then in the centre of the Chamber.

The tall, arched windows open the chamber to the public and give a superb view of the Royal Palace.

Arrangement of the seats

The 169 MPs are seated by constituency. The constituencies are ranged alphabetically; starting with Aust-Agder and ending with Østfold. The Government is seated in the front row.

The President of the Storting is seated on the presidential podium. Viewed from the MPs' seats, the President has the rostrum to the right and the secretary to the left. In front of the podium are seated the official reporters. During Question Time and debates the two rostrums on the floor are used.

The Diplomats' Box is located directly to the left of the podium, with the Supreme Court's Box situated above it. The Press Box is on the right with the «unofficial» Press Box (what used to be the Women's Box) above it. The public gallery seats approximately 150 people and is open for everyone during a sitting. Visitors can enter through a separate door on the side of the Parliament building.

Eidsvold 1814 (1884–1885)

Oscar Wergeland

The painting showing the constituent assembly at Eidsvoll is Norway's most famous historical painting. It was painted by Oscar Wergeland, who was a relative of the priest and constituent assembly member Nicolai Wergeland.

In the middle of the painting we can see Christian Magnus Falsen, the father of the Constitution. Seated next to him is the secretary of the Constituent Assembly, Wilhelm Frimann Koren Christie. He is keeping a watchful eye on those gathered, reminding them of the heritage of Eidsvoll and the Constitution. Christie was the first President of the Storting.

The painting was a gift from Doctor Lorentz Ring, donated to the Parliament in 1885.

Main responsibilities of the Parliament

LEGISLATION

Pass new legislation, and amend and repeal existing legislation,

FISCAL BUDGET

Determine annual state revenues and expenditures by considering and adopting the Fiscal Budget,

SUPERVISE/SCRUTINIZE THE GOVERNMENT

The Storting supervises the Government through debates, Question Time and other parliamentary questions. The Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs reviews and makes recommendations to the Parliament on supervising the Government and the public administration. The Parliament can call for the removal of government ministers and even the entire Government through a vote of no confidence. If needed, the Parliament can impeach members of the state (government ministers, Members of Parliament), but that has not happened since 1926.

«The empty Chamber»

The Members of Parliament are divided into 12 standing committees. Debates are usually held by one of the committees and its members are expected to attend. Members of other committees are allowed to attend the debate, but are often busy with their own field of expertise. This is the reason for the «empty chamber». Members of Parliament have the possibility to follow the debates live from their office.

When the parliament votes, at least half of the MPs must be present. The party whips make sure that enough MPs from their own party show up to vote.

State Opening of the Storting

CONSTITUTING

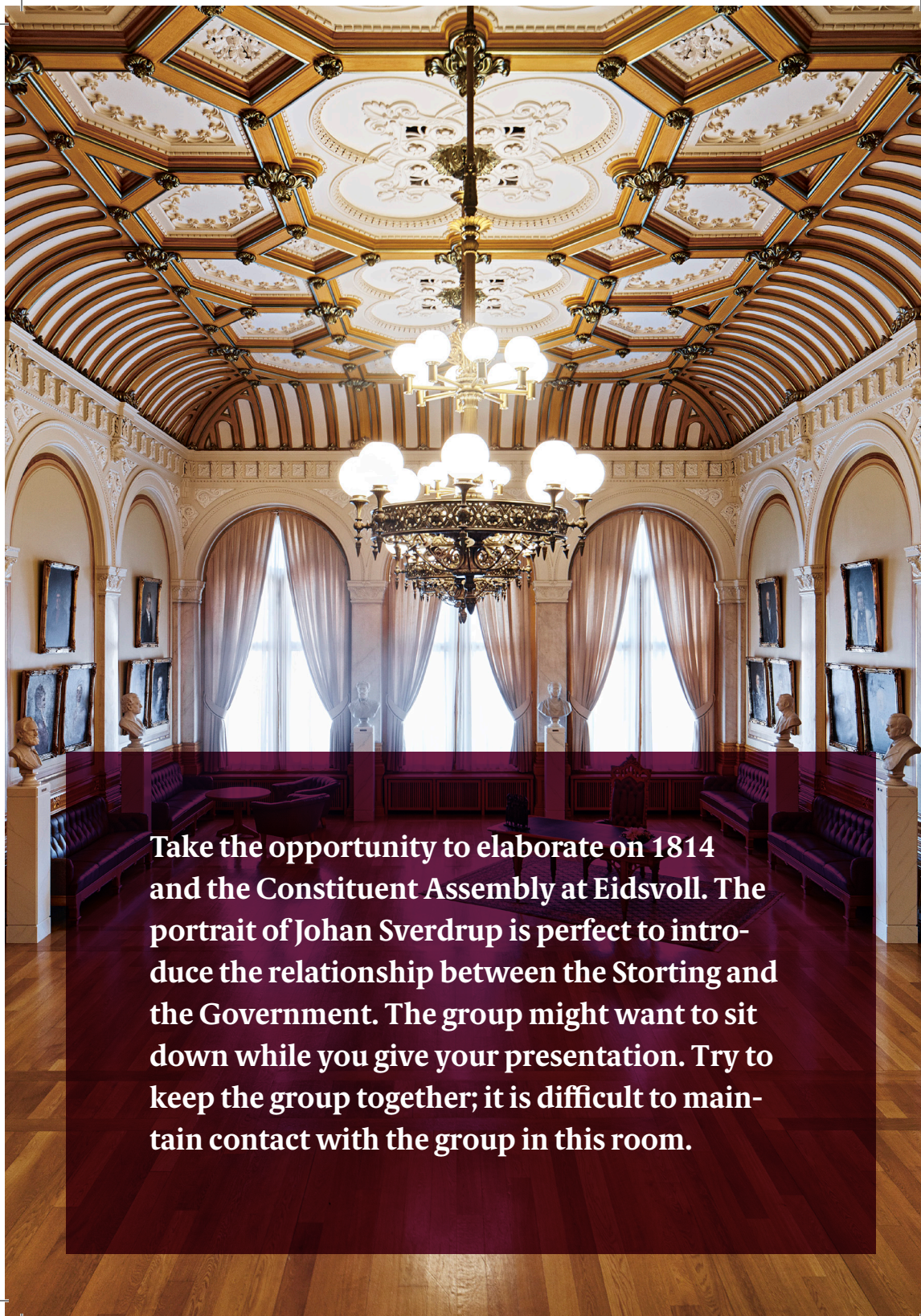
The Members of Parliament gather to elect the Presidium on the first working day of October.

STATE OPENING OF THE STORTING

The King leads the State Opening of the Storting on the following day. The King reads the Speech from the Throne, which sets out the Government's plans for the year ahead. The youngest member of the Government reads the State of the Realm Address. The Debate on the Speech from the Throne is held a few days after the Opening.

Photo: Stortinget





Take the opportunity to elaborate on 1814 and the Constituent Assembly at Eidsvoll. The portrait of Johan Sverdrup is perfect to introduce the relationship between the Storting and the Government. The group might want to sit down while you give your presentation. Try to keep the group together; it is difficult to maintain contact with the group in this room.

About the Eidsvoll Gallery

The Eidsvoll Gallery derives its name from the portraits of the founding fathers from Eidsvoll, which were commissioned for the centenary of the Constitution in 1914. The room was used as a combined working, reading and smoking room, but is today mostly used for official receptions.

There are portraits of 18 of the 112 Eidsvoll Men. On the short wall there are two paintings by Christian Krogh. These depict the father of Norwegian parliamentarianism Johan Sverdrup (1882) and President of the Storting Carl Berner (1906) (reading out the 7th June Declaration). See next page for more details on these paintings.

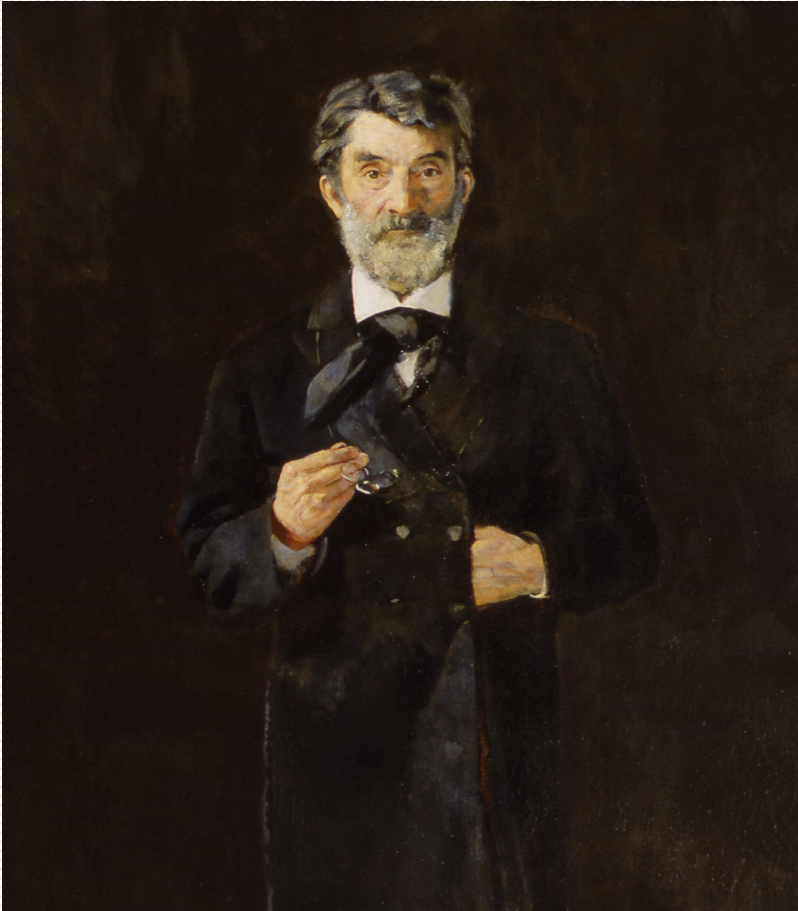
To the right of the Carl Berner painting is Henrik Lund's painting of Christian Michelsen (Prime Minister 1905–07). To the left of Johan Sverdrup is Edvard Munch's portrait of Otto Blehr (Prime Minister 1902–03 and 1921–23). Next to Otto Blehr is Gunnar Knudsen (Prime Minister 1908–10 and 1913–20), painted by Severin Segelcke.

Johan Sverdrup, father of Norwegian parliamentarianism

Johan Sverdrup (1816–1892) was one of the most prominent and important Norwegian politicians. He became a Member of Parliament in 1851. During his political career he was the leader of the opposition, leader of what became the Liberal Party, President of the Storting and Prime Minister in the first parliamentary Government. Throughout his career he worked to increase the power of the Parliament and decrease the power of the King and Government.

His first major political task was to get the Storting to assemble on an annual basis. This was passed in 1869. Before this change the Storting only assembled every third year.

Johan Sverdrup wanted the Storting to be able to request the Government to be present at sittings. This was passed by the Storting in 1872, 1874, 1877 and 1880. The King vetoed it every time. The Constitution did not mention the King's veto in constitutional matters, so this created a political conflict. This conflict ended with the impeachment of the Selmer Government, the trial from 1883 to 1884. The Government was removed and this marked the beginning of parliamentary rule.



Christian Krogh: «Johan Sverdrup» (1882) Photo: Stortinget

The King was forced to appoint a Government with the support of the Parliament. This Government was led by Johan Sverdrup.

Parliamentarianism was practiced as a constitutional custom until an amendment to the Constitution was passed in 2007. The Government is accountable to the Storting and needs the confidence of the majority to rule. Votes of no confidence and votes of confidence are the Storting's and the Government's tools to put pressure on each other.

Dissolution of the Union

7th of June 1905

On 7th June 1905 the Storting dissolved the union between Norway and Sweden. During the union, Norway and Sweden had shared a king, diplomatic service and – consequently – foreign policy. The Parliament wanted to create Norwegian consulates and embassies because of our large merchant navy. King Oscar II refused to give his Royal Assent and Prime Minister Michelsen resigned in protest. On 7th June the Parliament dissolved the union, the reason being that the King was no longer capable of appointing a Government with the necessary support in the Parliament.

A referendum was held on 13th August. 99.95 % voted yes to leaving the union. Women did not have the right to vote, but still gathered almost 300 000 signatures in support of the 7th of June Declaration. Approximately 368 000 men voted.

The negotiations between Norway and Sweden ended with the Karlstad Agreement on 23rd September 1905. The Union was dissolved without bloodshed and Oscar II renounced the Norwegian throne.

The Storting during the Second World War

Nazi Germany invaded Norway on 9th April 1940; Oslo fell on the same day. The King, the Storting, and the Government fled to Elverum. There they signed the Elverum Authorization, which gave emergency powers to the Government until the Storting could assemble again.

On 10th April, the newspaper Morgenbladet wrote «... a few minutes past 7.30, a detachment of German soldiers came marching down Stortingsgaten – singing. They turned and went up to the Lion Hill, halted in front of the Storting and proceeded to seize the building. The caretaker let them in. Later you could see Germans roaming around, especially in the Eidsvoll Gallery.»

The Parliament building was used by the occupying Germans until the liberation of Norway in 1945. The second chamber (The Lagting) was used as a court room, the Main Chamber to host the National Unity Party (the Norwegian Nazi Party) meetings and the Eidsvoll Gallery was used as an office for Josef Terboven, the German Reichskommissar and head of the occupying forces. He decorated the walls with paintings of the German landscape, a bust of Adolf Hitler and the German eagle.

The Constitution and parts of the Parliament's archives were evacuated to the mines at Kongsberg, with the approval of the Germans.

Women in politics

ANNA ROGSTAD

The portrait «Anna Rogstad» was painted by Eyolf Soot (1859–1928). Anna Rogstad was the first female Member of Parliament.

In 1907 a limited right to vote was given to women. The following election in 1909, Anna Rogstad was elected as a Substitute Member of Parliament for Jens Bratlie. She was a teacher and voting rights campaigner and represented Frisinnede Venstre in Gamle Aker constituency. Anna Rogstad took her seat on 17th March 1911, when Bratlie became the Prime Minister. She worked throughout her career and life for better education and women's political rights.

The next female Member of Parliament (Karen Platou) was elected in 1922, the first female cabinet minister was Kirsten Hansteen in 1945.

KIRSTI KOLLE GRØNDAHL

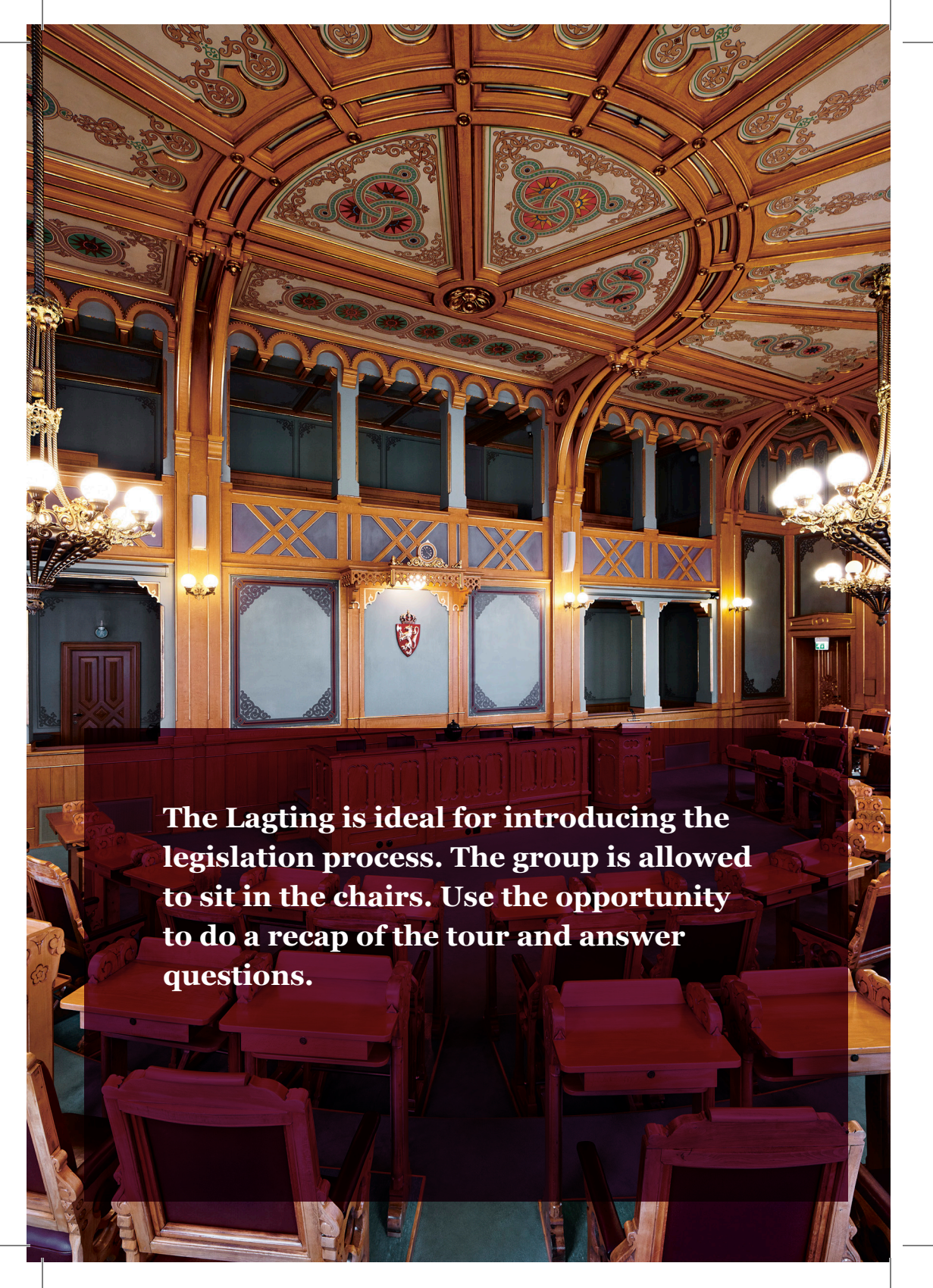
First female President of the Storting, painted by Trine Folmoe. Kirsti Kolle Grøndahl served as President of the Storting from 1993 until 2001.

FEMALE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

The percentage of female MPs during the current parliamentary term is 40.8 %.

Women's right to vote

- In 1901 women were allowed to vote in local elections. The bill had been passed in the Storting the same year.
- Limited right to vote in 1907, but women had to be rich, either through their own means or by marriage. Those who were eligible to vote were also eligible to become a Member of Parliament.
- Universal suffrage in 1913. (Second country in Europe after Finland).

The image shows the interior of a grand, historic assembly hall, identified as the Lagting. The room features a high, vaulted ceiling with intricate wooden carvings and colorful painted decorations. The walls are also adorned with wood paneling and decorative elements. In the foreground and middle ground, rows of wooden desks and chairs are arranged, facing towards the back of the room. The desks are dark wood with small drawers. The chairs have high backs and are also made of wood. In the background, there is a raised platform or dais area with a large, ornate wooden structure, possibly a speaker's podium or a decorative screen. The overall atmosphere is formal and historic.

The Lagting is ideal for introducing the legislation process. The group is allowed to sit in the chairs. Use the opportunity to do a recap of the tour and answer questions.

About the Lagting

The bicameral system was abolished on 1st October 2009, after an amendment to the Constitution in 2007. Up until then, one quarter of the MPs were members of the Lagting. Where they sat in the chamber were determined by lottery. The first reading of a bill was done in the Odelsting, and the second reading was done in the Lagting.

The chamber is similar to the Main Chamber, except the public gallery is above the two boxes. The President of the Lagting's seat is directly below the coat of arms. Until 2009 the Presidium consisted of the President of the Storting, the President of the Odelsting, the President of the Lagting and three Vice Presidents. Today it consists of the President of the Storting and five Vice Presidents.

The room is full of history. This is where the Selmer Government was impeached and removed from office. During the Second World War it was a court room used by the German occupants.

Legislative process

The Government and Members of Parliament can put forward bills. If it is a Proposition to the Storting (from the Government) the preparatory work is done by the ministries.

Bills are presented to the Parliament, and then sent to one of the twelve standing committees. The committees will discuss the proposals, conduct hearings and give their recommendations.

FIRST READING

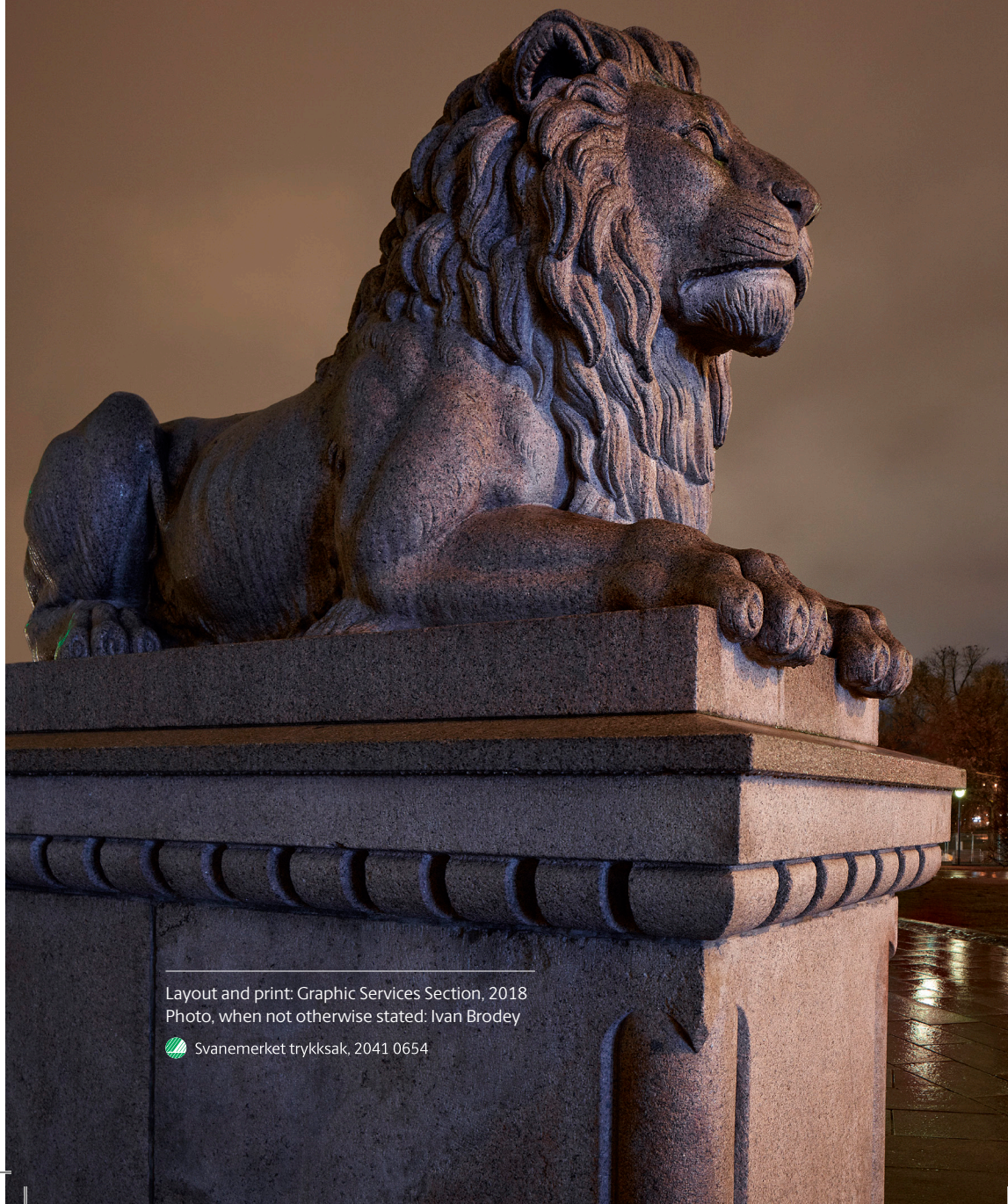
The Parliament will debate the Bill – or to be more precise, the recommendation from the committee – and vote. This is what we can term the first reading of the Bill. If the Bill is dismissed, the procedure ends here, and this particular Bill has reached the end of the road.

SECOND READING

If the Bill passes the first reading, there must then be an interval of at least three days before the Parliament meets again to debate the Bill and vote for a second time

If the Bill is adopted by the Parliament a second time, it has reached the end of the legislative process in the Parliament and has become an Act of Parliament.

All that remains is for it to be submitted to the King in Council for the Royal Assent. When the King has signed the Act and the Prime Minister has countersigned, it becomes Norwegian law from the date stated in the Act or decided by the Government.



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