

Speech to the new principal

First of all, I would like to thank Markus Degerman for all the work he has put in as rector here, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

It is with the utmost pleasure that I have the chance to represent the students in wishing you, Marianne, a warm welcome to the Oslo National Academy of the Arts. It is no small task you have undertaken, and we would like to express our sincere gratitude. We look forward to the next few years with great enthusiasm and expectation, along with a strong desire to be a part of the debate on art's future and further development.

Earlier this spring you said that "art will save the world", and your words really struck a chord with me. I would like to rephrase what you said, however, and say that "with art we shall save the world". There is no doubt that you are just the right person to lay the foundation for this effort, and we are confident that the teaching staff here will welcome you just as much as we do. We both are and will remain stronger together – and we simply have to be, if we are to save our own and others' world with art as the standard bearer. We look forward to this collaboration and wish you the best of luck.