

Abraham-Caravan

Angel of Culture

Art event within the scope of the European Culture Capitals 2010



Ruhr.2010, Pécs.2010, Istanbul.2010
from 3 May to 31 May 2010

The Abraham-Caravan Angel of Culture

On 3 May 2010 , the Abraham-Caravan with the art project **Angel of Culture** will travelling from **Essen** via **Pécs** through South Eastern Europe to **Istanbul** as a motorized caravan, to create a connection between the **European Capitals of Culture 2010** with this symbol of tolerance and understanding. The way and the different locations the **Abraham-Caravan** will pass through are shown in the middle of this brochure. The first stop will be Augsburg, the so called "Friedensstadt", due to the fact that the "Religious Freedom of Augsburg" in the year 1555 was a sign for tolerance between the different religious denominations.



What is the Angel of Culture?

The **Angel of Culture** is an art project developed by the fine artists Gregor Merten and Carmen Dietrich, which translates the dialogue between different society groups and religious communities into a clear picture aiming at tolerant and collaborative action. This image, the inner circle of which unintentionally shows the shape of an angel will now be introduced to the public through a variety of art events.

What is the goal of this art project?

The project is supposed to show us in a visual, illustrated and understandable way that nobody and no group can be detached from this circle, without leading to a deep damage of our common future. It also sends a strong and clear message against any hostility towards foreigners. It is getting more and more important to strengthen the unity of our society. The **Angel of Culture** supports this process, which has already been put into action, and expresses the desired ideal through a clear symbol.



How do the art performances look like?

1. Producing a temporary sand image

For this the sculpture of the **Angel of Culture** is tilted on its side and the inner circle is getting filled with white quartz chippings. Afterwards, the sculpture is put up again with the help of a heavy weight magnet.

On 9 November 2008, the seventieth anniversary of the „Kristallnacht“, the artists linked the Dome of Cologne, a synagogue and a mosque in the city of Cologne in the following way: they rolled the steel sculpture between the different Houses of God and produced the temporary sand image with the figure of the inner circle, the **Angel of Culture**, in front of each of the buildings. The sand of those pictures was saved afterwards and parts of it are planned to be reused in future happenings of this kind.



In October 2008, the project was introduced at the "Abraham Festival" in Marl.

In May 2009 the **Angel of Culture** was moved by hand and by walking from Cologne to Essen/Ruhr Region. The sand image was produced in numerous locations along the way awakening the public interest.

2. Installation of a permanent ground inlaid work

Here, the **Angel of Culture** is embedded into the ground in the form of a steel ring, with blue coloured special concrete and an aluminium frame. This will set a permanent sign in front of schools or other public institutions.



In Germany, especially within the scope of Ruhr.2010, this happens in a kind of transmission, a continuing process, which everybody can join by helping the artists to create the metal signs for their next destination.



This art event was already repeatedly been realised at UNESCO schools in the Ruhr Region. For more details, please visit:

www.engel-der-kulturen.de/aktionen/aktionen.htm

The metal pieces in the shape of the **Angel of Culture**, which remain when the steel rings are embedded in the ground, are being piled up to a continuously growing pillar, the so called **Abraham's Pillar**, which will be set up one day preferably in **Jerusalem**.

In nearly all of the cities which lay on the way of the **Abraham-Caravan**, the **temporary sand image** will be produced, as well as the **permanent ground inlaid work**. During shorter stopovers only the **temporary sand image** of the **Angel of Culture** will be created using the rolling sculpture – if possible in front of the local Houses of God of the different religions.

What is the goal of the Abraham-Caravan?

Abraham became a symbolic figure of respect, understanding and coexistence of Jews, Christians and Muslims in many places of Europe as well as on other continents. With the **Abraham-Caravan**, many people of all generations, cultures, religions and social backgrounds will be reached and – as we hope – are becoming actively involved. A variety of connections will be produced, which pass on the message of the **Angel of Culture**:

from Capital of Culture to Capital of Culture;
from the Christian world to the Muslim and to the Jewish world;
from neighbouring country to neighbouring country.

The goal is to lay out a trail of freedom, set a sign, especially in countries which saw recent violent conflicts between members of different religious and ethnic groups. This cross-border art project is to boost all people in their common acting and their consciousness of solidarity.

We live in one world.

We give acceptance and space for free development to each other.

We are all aligned and can only create our future in peace and in common.

Explanation to the concept „art project“:

The **Angel of Culture** is a wide-ranging social sculpture which shall – in the sense of the extended art concept of Joseph Beuys – have an influence on the society and guide everybody involved in the project to become artists themselves.





Welcoming Statement of the President of the State Parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia

With great joy, excitement and big expectations, North Rhine-Westphalia looks forward to host the *European Capital of Culture* under the title of *RUHR.2010*. In Pécs and Istanbul, the two other European Capitals of Culture in 2010, people will certainly share these feelings.

As the concept of a united Europe does not permit three separate programmes without any relation between them, the wonderful idea to connect the three programmes – Ruhr.2010, Pécs.2010 and Istanbul.2010 – with each other via the *Abraham-Caravan: Angel of Cultures* project was born.

Angel of Cultures – what a perfect name for an art project that supports the dialogue between different cultural and religious communities and translates it into a clear picture aiming at tolerant and collaborative action.

On this background, it was with great pleasure that I accepted the patronage of this art project.

Regina van Dinther



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www.engel-der-kulturen.de

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