



"Traces" from the "along the way series"

## **50 Cities 50 Traces** against traceless oblivion

**International Art Project to  
promote a nuclear free world**

### **motivation**

- Cities are the anchors and guarantors of culture and civilization. Destroying them not only destroys human lives and buildings; it also causes endless suffering, pain, and poverty. The destruction of cities is nothing less than the annihilation of all "roads" to one another, erasing culture, history, and the memories of human experiences, including collective memory, along with all its traces and legacies.
- Inspired by the great public success and attention of the 2014 international art project in the Schoenenbourg Maginot fortress in France to commemorate the 1914 beginning of the First World War this international art project was initiated to support the dissemination of the central idea of the Mayors for Peace movement: Cities are not targets!

### **objective**

- Commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons signed by the nuclear-weapon states USA, Soviet Union, and Great Britain in 1968
- Supporting the Mayors for Peace idea and mission to seek for a nuclear free world
- Contributing to disarmament education and to building bridges, creating encounters, connecting people, creating trust, understanding and friendship

### **project**

- Endorsed by the Mayors for Peace Executive Committee this international open multi-action art project is proposed to you as a member city of the Mayors for Peace.
- Starting 2018 in Japan. Traveling from there successively to other Mayors for Peace Cities around the world interested to host the project. Stopover in New York City at the United Nations Headquarter during the 2020 Review Conference
- Featuring the "50 Cities 50 Traces"-exhibition as main event for peace education, being complemented by further contributions and collateral events from other collaborators, initiatives, local groups or artists etc.

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HANS ULRICH OBRIST: You recently spoke about the necessity of bringing history into wider media, calling it the "**protest against forgetting.**"

ERIC HOBBSBAWM: Yes. Well, it's quite true that modern society – the modern economy – essentially operates without a sense of the past; the standard method of solving problems doesn't consider the past. Yet in terms of human beings and society, the past is not irrelevant. Everybody, in fact, is rooted in the past – in a personal past, in a social past – and knows it, and is interested in it. If you forget what happened in the past you simply have to repeat the same mistakes over and over again.

From: 032c, Issue #17 — Summer 2009 Page 130 – 137, by Hans Ulrich Obrist

Eric Hobsbawm : british historian, 1917 – 2012 / Hans Ulrich Obrist: Swiss contemporary art curator , \*1968

## **the project**

### main traveling event

Conceived as a long-term global relay this exhibition as main event shall begin 2018 in Japan. From there on, the exhibition shall travel successively to Mayors for Peace member cities preferably being shown either in the city hall or in a suitable museum, art institution or public art location.

Hosting the project shall be decided by each Mayors for Peace city individually.

In 2020 the exhibition shall stopover in New York City at the seat of the United Nations to be shown during the Review Conference on the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, in order to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the treaty's inception.

For 2018, 50 distinctive "traces" on 50 x 50 cm panels (pigments on aluminum composite) from cities around the world will be assembled, including one panel showing a trace from the respective host city, which will - after dismantling the exhibit - remain to be hung in the respective town hall to commemorate the participation in this global project. The total number of traces shown shall increase each year, thus corresponding to the number of years since the signing of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The mayor of the host city shall open the exhibition, calling attention to the Mayors for Peace goals. The exhibit's artistic introductory speech shall be held by a person from the art scene in the host city.

Each exhibited "trace" will be supplemented by a written statement by the incumbent mayor of the city in which the piece originated. These statements, printed e.g. on small panels in the original language and translated into English, along with the city's coat of arms, shall be exhibited along with the 50 "traces."

### collateral events

Along with the traveling "50 Cities 50 Traces" exhibition complementary actions from international or local collaborators, groups or initiatives are strongly invited, depending on the local art scene.

To facilitate the invitation of collaborators, the project office is committed to develop an "action box" offering different participating activities aiming to include the local public and to create additional public attention.

Side events for disarmament education shall be developed in cooperation with the host cities.

## **documentation**

The project shall be presented on a website and via blog in the form of an online exhibition space that may be entered virtually. The mayors' statements and related photos shall also be included online. The site shall be designed as a journey through the cities that the project did and still shall visit. All project partners, collaborators, sponsors and supporters will be mentioned and shall create their own links to the project website.

## **sponsors and project partners**

The following partners have already pledged their support:

- Friedenswerkstatt Mutlangen e.V. supports the project and provides peace education capabilities
- Delta MB Stuttgart supports the project organization and provides premises including an English and Japanese speaking project management office
- Kontur. Kunstverein Stuttgart e.V. supports the preparation and implementation of the project including logistic organization.
- Die AnStifter e.V. Stuttgart support the project with information campaigns
- Werner Wölfle, the Stuttgart Mayor responsible for the Mayors for Peace supports the project
- Landeshauptstadt Hannover, Mayors for Peace Lead City Germany

Contacting of other potential supporters and sponsors ongoing.

## Organization

The overall project will be managed by an office based in Stuttgart, Germany, which will function as the communications hub for the duration of the project. Communication languages are German, English and Japanese.

A Mayor for Peace city that invites and hosts the exhibition shall name a contact person for all issues concerning the exhibition's implementation and optional for the organization of agreed on collateral events. The host city shall provide the exhibition space, issue invitations, invite the press and publish the event, organize an opening ceremony/reception, invite an introductory speaker, provide technical support during the installation of the exhibition, dismantle the exhibition, repack the 50 traces for transport and ship them to the subsequent exhibition location.

Depending on the nature of the complementary events and actions agreed on and invited by the host city, the respective necessary provisions shall be made.

The project office shall be responsible for production and delivery of the artworks, collection and production of the mayoral statements and production of the "trace" which will remain with the host city and for insurance against theft and damage. A set of reusable lightweight packaging materials to safely store and ship the artworks will be provided.

The artist shall be present in person to oversee the exhibition installations and set ups and to attend the exhibition openings.

### cost allocation/estimation\*

#### main traveling event:

expenses covered by the project office:

- production of the 50 travelling traces (fine art print on aluminum composite) 15.000 €
- production of the mayoral statements presentation 2.000 €
- production of light weight robust packaging materials 1.000 €
- insurance of artwork against theft and damage 150 €
- initial customs declaration, deposit and fee
- initial shipping of the artwork to the first host city (Japan)
- set up and ongoing maintenance of the project website/blog

expenses to be covered by the host city:

- designing, printing, and shipping invitations to exhibition opening
- exhibition opening, catering, introductory speaker
- technical staff to support exhibition installation, dismantling, repack of artworks
- production cost of trace to stay at the host city /packaging and separate shipping 400 €
- Shipping of artwork to subsequent exhibition location  
(national, international, intercontinental) - estimated 100€ / 200 € / 400 €
- Custom handling and fees – estimated\*\* 500 €
- artist travel and accommodations allowance amount to be decided by host city

#### collateral events

expenses very much depend on the nature of such optional event.

It is most desirable to find local sponsors helping to cover expenses for:

- complementary travel and accommodations allowance for participating artists
- other cost involved for collateral and cooperative events if any

\*all amounts are based on best possible estimations

\*\*may vary depending on shipping destination and national regulations

## art & politics

*Art builds bridges and creates encounters. Encounters connect people, creating trust, understanding, and friendship. Encounters need catalysts and stimuli. Just as the Mayors for Peace form a worldwide network, so too art creates links across borders – even without words.*

Main traveling event: in her artistic work, Klaudia Dietewich seeks out and photographs such vestiges found "along the way." She is interested in the subtle aesthetics of quotidian relics that, in one way or another, reflect the state of our world. Like an archeologist, she searches through urban and industrial spaces. In the patched, the overlooked, the forgotten, she discovers intrinsic beauty, the parallels to our own existence in the gradual disappearance of motifs. Her findings are graphic treasures, fragments, debris that, although very abstract, evoke memories and waken associations. As a "precipitate of life," they ask us: "what remains of us and the world as we know it?" Her "Along the Way" series is a call to respect and preserve the world and its legacies as repositories of memory. These artworks are warnings against the destruction of our cities, against nuclear weapons, which is a central idea behind the Mayors for Peace movement.



Stuttgart (DE) City Hall and City Gallery Ostfildern (DE)

## Space requirements

Depending on the presentation pattern, a wall space of 35m (straight line, left picture above), 28m (10 blocks of 2x2 and 10 single), 18m (5 blocks of 3x3 and 5 single) or 10m (2 blocks of 4x4 and 2 single, right picture above), or is required. The possibility of nailing (15mm nails) will very much facilitate the hanging in blocks.

## Disarmament and Peace education

The 50 Cities 50 Traces project contributes to global disarmament and peace education by historical and political information, displayed as part of the exhibition and learning about disarmament by events and actions during the time of exhibition. Involving local artist and initiatives in collateral events shall encourage the local public dialog and will support the dissemination of the central idea of the Mayors for Peace movement. The educational plan shall be developed with the city's local partners. This will include:

- providing information on the initiation and the history of the NPT and actual activities on nuclear disarmament (posters and rollups)
- telling the stories of survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombing (video film)
- involving local people, schools and pupils by participating in proposed collateral events (to choose from action boxes to be developed)

## contact:

### relating to organization:

Office for international affairs in Hannover  
Mrs. Evelyn Kamissek  
email: [mayorsforpeace@hannover-stadt.de](mailto:mayorsforpeace@hannover-stadt.de)

### relating to content:

Project Office in Stuttgart  
Mr. Wolfgang Schlupp-Hauck  
email: [50-50@kontur-stuttgart.de](mailto:50-50@kontur-stuttgart.de)