

# FACTS about the Art happening 'My Inner Beast'

**The happening started at:** 5.25 am on November, 8. 1993 on Groen Plaats, Antwerpen, Belgium.

**It ended at:** 10.00 am. on November, 11. 1993, at Brandenburger Tor, Berlin, Germany.

**Description of the sculpture:** My Inner Beast is 2.30 m. high and weighs approximately 1000 KGs. It is constructed out of reinforced concrete mixed with Ferro-oxide to give it its' dark grey colour. The long eye-teeth are made of bronze. It stands on a plinth (70 x 80 cm.). A brass plate is placed at the plinth with a text engraved explaining the specie of an 'inner Beast'.

**Text at the brass plate:**

MY INNER BEAST  
- AN ART HAPPENING IN EUROPE-

A sculpture erected in 20 cities in Europe.

**INNER BEAST**

**SPECIES:** *Animal with the lowest instincts.*

**RESIDENCE:** *In you and me; in every individual Homo Sapien.*

**CONDITIONS OF GROWTH:** *Develops when people are victims of violence, degradation and disrespectful treatment.*

**BEHAVIOUR:** *Attacks the foundations of one's ethical values, so that racism, xenophobia and intolerance takes over.*

**PROPAGATION:** *Can take complete control of the single individual, social groups and in extreme instances the whole population.*

**DO NOT FEED**

*Cogito.*

## THE SCULPTURE WAS ERECTED IN 20 CITIES IN 11 COUNTRIES:

AUSTRIA:	Innsbruck
BELGIUM:	Antwerpen, Brussels
DENMARK:	Copenhagen, Odense, Aarhus and Herning
FRANCE	Paris, Lyon and Marseille
HOLLAND:	Amsterdam
ITALY:	Milan
NORWAY:	Oslo
SWITZERLAND:	Geneva and Zürich
SPAIN:	Barcelona
SWEDEN:	Stockholm
GERMANY:	Berlin, Bonn, Munich

This lack of debate has among other things been the reason why some French intellectuals initiated a "Sarajevo list" in order to infuse a public debate - also in the press - about the future of Europe, where Human Rights are offended as part of the normal agenda. Obviously we are thinking of Ex-Yugoslavia.

In **Geneva** there was no press-coverage either for the hundreds of diplomats who may have passed by 'the Beast' on their way to the UN-building. The sculpture was planted in front of the main entrance and suddenly the nightmare of any Swiss bureaucrat became reality; No one knew where the sculpture was taken or where it might be found. There is no record of it anywhere, not even at the police: "We regret that your sculpture has disappeared. You may lodge a complaint with the authorities", replied Geneva's state council in a letter to the artist, and it is claimed that they are trying to locate the "Beast" in the UN-city. In **Zurich** they did in fact realise who was handling the case but the exact whereabouts of the sculpture is unknown and no one knows for sure what will happen.

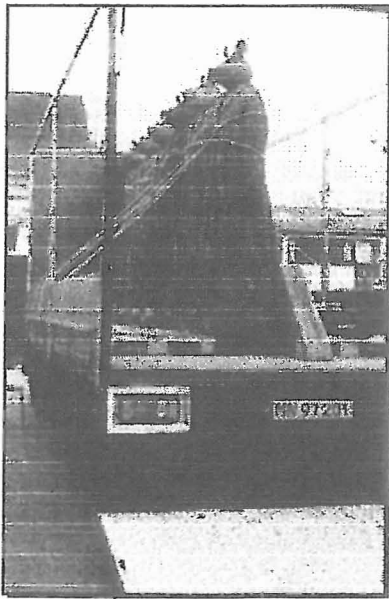
### In the North

Norway and Sweden also allowed the sculpture to stay for more than the requested fourteen days. Determining the destiny of the sculpture was taken up by the respective city councils, resulting in a long series of discussions.

In **Oslo** the sculpture was exposed for one month but the authorities did not find its artistic quality adequate to merit a home in one of the city's art galleries, although the culture department emphasises that the sculpture is securely housed in a warehouse and as far as they are concerned anybody is welcome to take it over.

"We think it was an impressive and meaningful concept" stated the municipality of **Stockholm**.

"The sculpture is still standing at Drottningsgatan, but when the event ends it must be removed and we would like the artist to take it away". On February, 1, 1995 the sculpture was removed by the authorities, but it can easily be brought back if anyone should initiate it.



### The event is not complete

It is not the intention of Jens Galschiøt to pick up the sculptures. The "Beasts" live on.... wherever they are. "They were intended as gifts to the cities and as such, one does not take them back. The ideal thing is for all of them to be placed at full exposure and to stir reactions. But this is left to each city to decide. In those places where it is ignored one can only hope that there are some citizens who choose to be aware of the "Inner Beast" predicament rather than never to acknowledge it", says Galschiøt.

The artist has one sculpture left and would like to plant it on the Red Square in Moscow, but on this occasion as an "official" event. He is currently in co-operation with local Moscow's applying for permission at the mayors. The scaring tendencies of nationalism and the harsh treatment of minorities has become manifest by the comparative success of Sjrinovski who reaped 25% of the votes at the latest election. "By placing the sculpture officially in Moscow, the official Russia will make the statement that they are aware of the dangerous totalitarian development, which these tendencies represent. I will acknowledge that Western Europe has a responsibility for the things going on in Russia. As long as we are not prepared to open our markets or support them financially, the crisis will worsen. And economic crisis are often the cause of racism. It is not an easy task to build a democracy on those terms", concludes Galschiøt!

### A big economic loss

The project "My Inner Beast" has been both costly and time-consuming with the artist having to stand funds out of his own pocket. There are still a loss of more than 100.000 Danish kr., even with assistance provided from various sources. The artist will be most thankful of further contributions to cover the losses.

**PRESS:** Press-releases were currently sent out to 200 newspapers, TV-stations and Press-bureaux in the 11 countries, from the 24-hour manned office in Denmark. 7 countries had TV-coverage, in 8 countries there where newspaper articles.

**Press release:**

I will, over a two day period, erect 20 solid black/brown sculptures over 2 meters in height, executed in reinforced concrete. The figure is called "My Inner Beast" and will be erected around Europe's bigger cities during a two day happening. Each sculpture will be put in places that are national or local symbols of freedom, justice and democracy in each city. The purpose is to put focus on the increasing intolerance and brutalization in Europe. This is seen in the growing racism, xenophobia and the persecution of minority groups. I wish to point out that we all have a personal responsibility for these tendencies with ourselves and our fellow human beings.

***Letter sent to the mayor, local authorities and the police of each town:***

Today, the .... of November, 1993 at .....h, I have placed a sculpture which is over two meters high, dark brown in colour and made of reinforced concrete on ..... Place/Street.

The sculpture is a present to the town. and it is part of a absolutely peaceful art happening, which is taking place all over Europe. I hope for your co-operation, and understanding for the statue and my motive for this demonstration, and request that the statue may be allowed to stand for at least 14 days.

What the statue symbolises is explained in the enclosed Press announcement.

Yours sincerely *Cogito*

**20 Cities received a sculpture in 77 hours.**

<b>Monday, Nov. 8.th.:</b>	Antwerpen, Groen Plaats, 5.25 am.
	Oslo, Eidsvollspladsen, 5.40 am.
	Amsterdam, Dam Plaats, 6.15 am.
	Brussels, Grand Place, 7.50 am.
	Bonn, Kunst Museum, 4.08 pm.
	Paris, Place de la Bastille, 4.28 pm.
	Stockholm, Drottningsgatan, 7.45 pm.
<b>Tuesday, Nov. 9.th.:</b>	Geneva, Main entrance of UN-building, 7.20 am.
	Copenhagen, Raadhuspladsen, 8.17 am.
	Zürich, Wein Platz, 11.32 am.
	Lyon, Hotel de Ville, 12.30 am.
	Odense, Flakhaven, 2.39 pm.
	Marseille, Hotel de Ville, 6.50 pm.
	Aarhus, Townhall, 7.43 pm.
	Herning, Team Teatret, 9.45 pm.
	Milan, Piazza Argentina, 10.42 pm.
<b>Wednesday, Nov. 10:</b>	Barcelona, Plaza Rei Juan Carlos I, 12.00 am.
	Innsbruck, Landestheater, 1.30 pm.
	Munich, Marien Platz, 7.15 pm.
<b>Thursday, Nov. 11:</b>	Berlin, Brandenburger Tor, 10.15 am.

**Transport:** The sculptures were divided on 3 large trucks, each driving a different route, and doing some 15.000 km. An adjoining car and a car with a camera crew were following each truck. The 9 cars drove a total of 50.000 km., equivalent to a trip around the world!

**Crew:** More than 100 volunteers were involved in the project.

**Economy:** All together the cost of the happening was at least 170.000 D.Kr. Jens Galschiøt Christophersen and his workshop have been working on the project for 12 months.

**Donations from:** SID/KAD's Fund of Culture, The Funch-Fund, The Peace Fund, The SL Union, Teknisk Landsforbund, BUPL and "Regnbuen" (a sports club) - all Danish! The donations amount to a total of 58.000 D.Kr. Jens Galschiøt Christophersen has besides that received the PMF Jubilee Award of 20.000 D.Kr. in March 1994. The deficit, about 100.000 D.Kr., will be made up for by Jens Galschiøt Christophersen.

**STATUS PR. 1.3. 1995**

The sculpture is now placed permanently in eight cities, by initiative of either the authorities or private people. In one town it still awaits it's destiny, in three towns not even the authorities know where the sculpture is! In the rest of the 20 towns it is locked up on a municipal storage. (See the list page 10 for more details of each town).

**Permanent placements pr. 1.3, 1995:** Copenhagen, Odense, Aarhus, Herning (DK), Munich, Bonn (D), Barcelona (E), Innsbruck (A).

**Placed in storerooms (as we know of):** Antwerpen, Brussels (B), Amsterdam (NL), Lyon (F), Berlin (D), Stockholm (S), Oslo (N), Milan (I), Zürich (Switzerland)

**No answers from the authorities in spite of several requests:** Paris, Marseille (France), Geneve (Switzerland)



**FOR OTHER CONTACTS AND FURTHER MATERIAL PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Film material and documentary:**

Lars Michael Rieff  
Blågårdsgade 31, 2th  
DK- 2200 København N  
Ph.: + 45 - 31 39 93 19

**Photos:**

Nordisk Pressefoto  
Pilestræde 34  
1147 Copenhagen K  
Ph: + 45 - 33 75 29 00

Associated Press, Amsterdam (on the erection there). Ph: + 31-20- 620 10 03

Reuters, Barcelona-office (on the erection there). Ph: + 34- (9)3 -2 02 04 00/209 43 90

EFE (Press-bureau), Barcelona. Ph: + 34 - (9)3 - 484 38 19