

Jens Galschiot - Scultore

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Estimato Sindaco di Milano
Signore Gabrielle Alberini,
Estimato Assessore alla Cultura di Milano
Signore Salvatore Carruba,
Piazza della Scala 2
IT-20121 Milano



Gli scrivevamo due volte l'anno passato della scultura *La Mia Bestia Interiore* e gli mandiamo un video informativo. Disgraziatamente non abbiamo ricevuto risposta nessuna di lei.

Vogliamo fare una ricerca per investigare il sorto delle sculture erigate in 20 gran città d'Europa nel Novembre di 1993. L'assunto a adesso un'attualità speciale perché si approssima il decimo anniversario dell'evento.

Mi permetto di continuare in inglese, e troppo difficile in italiano!

I set up *My Inner Beast* (*La Mia Bestia Interiore*, in italiano) without preceding warning. The sculpture is 2,2 metres high, depicting a pig dressed in human clothes. It was donated to the city of Milan, represented by the Mayor at the time Mr Marco Formentini, and set up on Piazza Argentina 9 November 1993. The sculpture was a warning against the increasing intolerance and racism in Europe.

The *Beast* is a symbolic representation of the inner demon, which in the 30s took control of whole populations in Europe and culminated in the nazi barbarity with millions of victims.

A copy of the sculpture was sold last summer to municipality of Frederikssund in Denmark at the price 34,000 EUR. As there are many precedent cases seen in history of art, this sale has changed the sculpture from being a mere object of happenings into being a rather valuable piece of art.

Not only has the recent sale increased the sculpture's commercial value, but unfortunately the symbolic value of the sculpture has also been substantially enlarged, due to the fact that the evil it represents has in no way diminished since 1993, but on the contrary is looming large all over Europe.

It's easy to get rid of a symbol. The sculpture *My Inner Beast* can be destroyed or put away in a warehouse. In some of the 20 cities the authorities have resorted to this comfortable solution. Out of sight out of mind!

The problems of real life are more intrusive. The evil of racism and intolerance cannot be uprooted by simply sweeping it under the carpet. We have to face our inner demon that is lying in wait to attack the foundations of our ethical values. The very purpose *My Inner Beast* is to keep our mind and eyes open for this responsibility.

The sculpture was a gift to the city of Milan and it is my sincere hope that you are making use of it. However, if that is not the case and it for example is stored up, I will readily take it back and arrange the transport to Denmark.

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the happening I will arrange an International exhibition and produce a TV documentary about the fate of each of the 20 sculptures. For this end I'll be visiting the 20 cities with a TV-team, probably in May this year. In each city we will encourage a debate about *My Inner Beast* and the sneaking danger of which it is a symbol. We will highlight the commitment of the elected representatives of the city, the civil society, the cultural scene etc. The debate will be widely covered by the media, locally as well as all over Europe.

I sincerely hope you will join the event. Most of all I'll be grateful if you can help me to investigate what has happened to the *Beast* in Milan since 1993 and to clear up its present whereabouts.

More information is available on the Internet

About the 1993 events: www.aidoh.dk/art_and_events/mib/ukmib-index.htm

About the Beast in Milan: www.aidoh.dk/art_and_events/mib/ukmibcity.htm#ITALY

About the ongoing search: www.aidoh.dk/art_and_events/mibis/mib-main.html

I am looking forward to hearing from you as soon as possible. Please do not hesitate writing in Italian.

Yours sincerely,

Jens Galschiot