

# Globalized inspiration

*Thousands of grassroots are meeting these days in Athens to discuss the state of the world. Danish sculptor Jens Galschiot has sent 3 big sculpture groups in bronze to the European Social Forum as his contribution to the discussions. At the same time his staff will be handing out 20,000 photo collages with the artist's **Athens Aphorisms**.*

The inspiration of this photo collage originates in a peculiar story illustrating how the impact of globalization reaches beyond all borders.



- Galschiot creates his sculptures in Denmark – *The Hunger March* consisting of 20 starved copper sculptures and the three metre high *Survival of the Fattest* depicting an extremely obese woman sitting on the back of a skinny man. She represents Justitia, the goddess of justice.
- The sculptures are loaded into a container and shipped for Hong Kong where they join the manifestations during the WTO summit, December 2005 together with NGOs from the whole world.
- 4 months later Jens Galschiot comes to India to take his holiday with his family. To his stupefaction the big Indian city of Cochin is crowded with posters with his sculptures! – The background is that the local trade union had sent some poor female tea-pickers to Hong Kong to demonstrate against the dumping of tea prices in Southern India. The women have taken some photos or found a leaflet with Galschiot's sculptures and brought them to the trade unionists in the village. Eventually the photos fell into the hands of NGOs that were launching a film festival against President Bush's visit to India. They used the sculptures as illustration on their posters. Even the title of the festival, *Survival of the Fattest*, was inspired of the Danish sculptures.
- Galschiot scrapes off a poster from the wall and brings it home to Denmark as a souvenir. As he begins to consider the design of the photo collage for the ESF in Athens, he remembers about the Indian poster and takes inspiration for the design of the new poster.

The chain of events shows how short distances have become on our earth and highlights how globalization is penetrating all spheres of life, including art and communication. In a lapse of just 4 months Galschiot's sculptures were shipped to Hong Kong, gave inspiration to a poster in India that in a peculiar way ended back in Denmark where it was used for a leaflet handed out in Athens two weeks later.

More information and photos available at: [www.aidoh.dk](http://www.aidoh.dk)

Galschiot's sculptures in Athens and photos of the Indian poster: [www.aidoh.dk/Athens2006](http://www.aidoh.dk/Athens2006)

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