

Crucified Teenager Ignites Debate

He's done it, once again! Danish sculptor Jens Galschiot has once again provoked international furore. The reactions stem from circles as manifold as vicars, prostitutes, TV stars, and Madonnas.

In the Name of God is the title of the copper sculpture that has triggered a heated debate after being set up in front of the cathedral of Copenhagen on 1. December, World AIDS Day. It depicts a pregnant teenager in natural size crucified on a big cross. It is thought as a sculptural outcry against the crusade against contraception and sexual education pursued by Christian fundamentalists, with President Bush and the Pope in the lead. The exhibition is carried out in co-operation with Dean Anders Gadegaard and the parish council, who have assigned the site for exhibiting the sculpture for two months.

Inundation of reactions

Spanish prostitute Miriam Blasco has put a poignant comment on her weblog. Motivated by Jens Galschiot's sculpture she launches an appeal to drown the Vatican in a flood of protest letters. Many of the comments on her debate site are surprisingly serious, some expressing support, others criticism of the Catholic Church.

Girls from a Catholic school have called the artist for an interview about the difference between Protestant and Catholic sexual policy. He explained to them the basic idea of the sculpture and told them to contact the religious congregations about their question.

The Catholic bishop of Denmark, Mr Czeslaw Kozon, declared: "I am not convinced that contraception will reduce the AIDS cases substantially."

Some women who as pregnant teenagers have been forced to have their baby adopted have asked the artist for permission to use photos of the sculpture on their websites.

A big women's association rooted in Africa have made an agreement with the artist to exhibit the sculpture in London on 8 March 2007, International Women's Day.

Next stop Kenya

The sculpture will be cast in several copies. The next exhibition is scheduled for Nairobi, Kenya on the occasion of the World Social Forum 20-25 January 2007. Subsequently London, Rome, and Texas. The artist is considering various sites and countries, e.g. Poland and the EU Parliament. On his website Jens Galschiot is searching for individuals and NGOs that might be interested in co-operation about this comprehensive international art manifestation.

More information:

Information, free photos of the sculpture and documentation:
www.aidoh.dk/InTheNameOfGod

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High quality press photos: www.polfoto.dk

