

## Press Conference, May 17<sup>th</sup> 2005

The fourth international sculpture show *sculpture projects muenster 07*, previously hosted in 1977, 1987, and 1997, and sponsored by the City of Muenster and the province administration ‘Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe’ (LWL), an association of regional communities, will open in the summer of 2007 with 35 participating artists, the exhibition’s curators announced on Tuesday, 17 May 2005. Muenster and the Westphalian State Museum of Art and Cultural History will once again serve as hosts for major international discussions about art in public spaces. Since the project was first launched in 1977, more than 30 remaining sculptures have become a formative feature of the face of the city, and numerous designs and plans collected by the Museum document work done in the last thirty years. Claes Oldenburg’s ‘Giant Pool Balls’ (1977), located by Muenster’s Lake Aasee), has, for example, become one of the city’s major landmarks.

Preparatory work for *sculpture projects muenster 07* has begun. The new curatorial team consist of Prof. Kasper König (Cologne), Dr. Brigitte Franzen and Dr. Carina Plath (both from Muenster).

As in previous years, the exhibition will receive financial support from the City of Muenster (€ 1.5 M) and the LWL (€ 1 M plus personnel and office expenses), and other sponsors and donators. The total budget will be around € 5 M. All the artworks are invented and erected exclusively for *Sculpture Projects*. The exhibition will run parallel to *documenta* in Kassel and opens on June 16<sup>th</sup> 2007. Ten years ago, Sculpture Projects attracted tens of thousands of international visitors. Wolfgang Schäfer, Director of the LWL, notes: “The Landschaftsverband was there right from the beginning in 1977 when it helped to launch this exciting project for the fourth time. We are happy and also proud to support this provocative and courageous project for the fourth time. The LWL is financially involved with roughly one million euros, and we will also provide the personnel and infrastructure necessary to promote the exhibition.”

The state of North Rhine-Westphalia will join the City of Muenster and the LWL as the third sponsor of this internationally renowned project. At the beginning of the planning stage of *sculpture projects muenster 07*, Westphalian Provincial Insurers ‘Provinzial’, located in Muenster, announced their donation of € 500,000. The North Rhine-Westphalian Art Foundation has also confirmed

that it intends to support the exhibition with the same amount.

Asked about the concept underlying *sculpture projects muenster 07*, Kasper König said: “The 2007 exhibition will again address the problem of the relationship between art, public space and urban environment. International artists have been invited to investigate changing ideas and current perspectives regarding this relationship. Because of its manageable size and the specific structure of its population, the city of Muenster offers an excellent terrain for such a long-term artistic investigation.” Brigitte Franzen added: “In a sense, Muenster is the prototype of a medium-sized, European city that is defined by the presence of a university, and, therefore, as much an example for a certain type of urbanity as it is an exception. In Muenster, one can study the social and structural changes that are currently underway in Germany as a result of European unification and in response to processes of social and economic globalisation. In that regard, the city is no different from Berlin or Frankfurt.”

“The project began with the selection of the participating artists and gains its dynamic force from the artists’ visits to Muenster”, König continued. “The project is being developed through the direct exchange between the artists and local conditions, and will develop over the next two years. Of the 35 invited artists and artist collectives, the first 11 arrived in the spring of 2005. They will explore and define new ways of presenting the relationships that are the thematic focus of *sculpture projects in 2007*. The title ‘*sculpture projects*’ is programmatic. We need to question the meaning and the function of contemporary sculpture, the role it plays as a medium of social and aesthetic articulations, and how it influences our understanding of the public and public space.”

Kuratoren  
Prof. Kasper König  
Dr. Brigitte Franzen

# skulptur projekte münster 07

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## Team *sculpture projects muenster 07*

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