

Kuratoren  
Prof. Kasper König  
Dr. Brigitte Franzen

# skulptur projekte münster 07

Westfälisches Landesmuseum für Kunst und Kulturgeschichte – Direktor Dr. Hermann Arnholt

in Kooperation mit  
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**skulptur projekte münster 07**  
**17 June – 30 September 2007**

**Press Release, 18 July 2007**

**For one month now *skulptur projekte münster 07* has held the city in its grip.  
First impressions**

A month ago *skulptur projekte münster 07* opened with a big public festival in the town centre. Since then thirty-four artistic installations have provided for enjoyment of art, inspired discussion, and fruitful debate. It's time to note some first impressions. How many visitors has *skulptur projekte münster 07* logged so far? What kinds of reactions have there been to the exhibition? And have the artworks in the city already undergone change in such a short time?

Helios, the god of the sun, has not been overly kind so far to this summer's tourists. Yet even with the bad weather, art enthusiasts from all around the world have already enjoyed *skulptur projekte münster 07*. Well equipped with windcheaters and umbrellas, numerous visitors have made their way through the show. The site map is a crucial tool and guide to the artwork on display. Around 150,000 copies have already been distributed to visitors, an amount that indicates a similarly high level of attendance. All projects are presented in the short guide, which has been sold for about 22,000 times.

'The response is enormous and shows that *Skulptur Projekte* has become an important national and international presence on the scene. The flood of guests in the first week was so intense that we even had to improvise a bit now and then,' says Kasper König, curator. 'The audience in 2007 is quite international, with visitors from Asia and America including Münster in their travel plans from the outset.' The first printing of the English-language catalogue is already nearly sold out, and a second is currently headed to press.

Similarly, the national and international media have discovered 'many reasons to visit the sculpture walking tour in and around Münster' (*Kunst-Bulletin*). Selected excerpts are enclosed with this press release.

The works of art at *skulptur projekte münster 07* represent, for the most part, direct interventions in public space and frequently provoke strong reactions through their proximity to the viewer. Certain artists also designed their works knowing that these would probably be altered by their stay in urban space.

In particular, the fragile assembly of materials by Isa Genzken in front of the Überwasserkirche is subject to the influence of the climate, but also causes strong, sharply contrasting reactions among its viewers. These range from devotional tokens, such as puppets or shells being left behind, to acts of aggression such as tearing off puppets' heads or legs. The artist requested that the team from *skulptur projekte münster 07* attend to the figures on display – any such 'injuries' should be taken care of so that they remain visible to the public.

Träger

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On the other hand, Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster's work *Roman de Münster* had to be protected from being enjoyed too strongly. Thousands of visitors wish to touch the miniatures with which the French artist had combined the past and present of the *Skulptur Projekte*. Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster had predicted this kind of interaction, even provoked it. Indeed, because of the storm of visitors, a number of the artworks had to be protected – and the visitors themselves from risk of injury. In this case, *skulptur projekte münster 07* agreed with the artist to secure a number of the miniatures and place signs requesting visitors to approach the works respectfully.

At Lake Aa, the dredging work continues. The project by Annette Wehrmann is undergoing change. For her *Aa-Spa – Health and Fitness by the Lake*, the artist set up a large construction site that blocked the pathways along the bank and forced joggers to run along the site fences. On Wednesday, July 18 the earth removal for the sweeping hotel complex will be resumed.

Finally, the cow and her calf have left Mike Kelley's petting zoo and returned to their farm. The cow's loud mooing startled young visitors and made it known that some animals are just not happy about being moved to a new location. The search is underway for replacements.

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*skulptur projekte münster 07* – information  
17.6. – 30.9.07

Since 1977 this large exhibition invites artists from all over the world to create new work in the city of Münster. The events have put Münster on the map of world renowned addresses for contemporary art. The curators Dr. Brigitte Franzen (Westphalian State Museum, Münster), Prof. Kasper König (Museum Ludwig, Cologne) and Associate Curator Dr. Carina Plath (Westphalian Art Association, Münster) have invited 36 artists to participate in the exhibition. Sculpture projects münster 07 runs parallel with the documenta in Kassel, from June 17 to September 30, 2007. For one hundred days, the exhibition will put its stamp on the city and the region. In 1997 more than 500.000 visitors came to Münster to see the work of artists from 25 countries. The exhibition sculpture projects is primarily funded by the Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe (LWL), an association of regional communities, the city of Münster, and the federal state of North-Rhine Westphalia. sculpture projects münster 07 is organized by the Westphalian State Museum of Art and Cultural History. Other supporting bodies of *skulptur projekte münster 07* are Kulturstiftung des Bundes, Kunststiftung NRW, Kulturstiftung der Westfälischen Provinzial Versicherung, and Sparkasse Münsterland Ost.