

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**  
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## Deimantas Narkevičius stimulates discussion about monument

Deimantas Narkevičius (born 1964 in Utena, Lithuania; lives and works in Vilnius) sees film-making as the production of cinematic sculptures. For *skulptur projekte münster 07*, Narkevičius hopes to stimulate a discussion about monuments that did not take place after the fall of the Iron Curtain. 'Although sculptures clearly based on socialist ideologies, such as monuments to Lenin, Thälmann, and Stalin, were removed, the empty spaces they have left behind point to a failure to confront the past,' explains the curator Kasper König the Lithuanian artist's project. Narkevičius' original intention – to transport a monumental, forty-ton bust of Karl Marx from Chemnitz to Münster and to display it here for the duration of the exhibition – cannot be realised.

In an interview with the *Freie Presse Chemnitz*, Narkevičius said, 'Removing the bust of Karl Marx from Chemnitz and displaying it in Münster for three months would spark new reflection on public art and, at the same time, change the historical perspective on the monument.'

The city of Chemnitz, however, rejected the artistic project. 'After receiving the city's first rejection notice, which made reference to technical impediments to the project, Deimantas Narkevičius abandoned the idea of moving the monument itself and applied instead for permission to create a replica of it. Regrettably, although Lew Kerbel's heirs had given their approval, Narkevičius' second petition was also rejected by the city,' says Carina Plath. Plath continues, 'Unfortunately, a joint discussion between the municipal authorities, the artist, and the curators – a forum in which we could have discussed the artistic and political significance of the project – never took place.'

The curators Kasper König, Brigitte Franzen, and Carina Plath had attempted since October 2006 to establish a dialogue with the city of Chemnitz to help translate this spectacular project into reality. Their disappointment was all the greater when they received a rejection notice from Barbara Ludwig, mayor of the city of Chemnitz.

Ludwig explained the decision by noting that the bust of Karl Marx is one of a kind and therefore must remain in the city, adding that it must not be displayed, even as a replica, anywhere outside of its original context: 'If people are interested in seeing this large sculpture, they will have to come to Chemnitz.'

Träger

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