

MARTIN KRENN
THE TRANSFORMATION
OF THE MONUMENT
TO KARL LUEGER INTO
A MEMORIAL AGAINST
ANTI-SEMITISM AND
RACISM

IN 2009 I RAN A COURSE ENTITLED "WIDER DAS VERGESSEN" (AGAINST FORGETTING) IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ART AND COMMUNICATIVE PRAXIS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED ARTS IN VIENNA, DURING WHICH THE SEMINAR GROUP WORKED ON A PROJECT FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE MONUMENT TO KARL LUEGER INTO A MEMORIAL AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM AND RACISM. AN INTERNATIONALLY ADVERTISED OPEN CALL CONSTITUTED THE STARTING POINT.

IT WAS A CONSCIOUS DECISION TO CHOOSE THE MONUMENT TO LUEGER IN VIENNA FOR THIS PROJECT. LUEGER WAS THE MAYOR OF VIENNA FROM 1897 TO 1910 AND IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE BEEN THE FIRST EUROPEAN POLITICIAN TO HAVE WON ELECTIONS WITH THE HELP OF ANTI-SEMITIC AND RACIST PROPAGANDA.

THE SEMINAR GROUP WAS ABLE TO ADVERTISE THE SCHEME IN A VARIETY OF MEDIA BOTH NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY. BY THE DEADLINE, THE 31ST OF MARCH, 220 PROPOSALS HAD BEEN SUBMITTED. IN APRIL 2010, A JURY OF INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS SELECTED THE PROPOSAL "SCHIEFLAGE" (CROOKED) BY THE ARTIST KLEMENS WIHLIDAL. HIS DESIGN PROVIDED FOR THE STATUE AND PART OF THE PLINTH ON WHICH IT STANDS TO BE TILTED 3.5 DEGREES TO THE RIGHT.

PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE CITY OF VIENNA FOLLOWED. ULTIMATELY THE AUTHORITIES REJECTED THE WINNING PROPOSAL ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE SUGGESTION WOULD CONSTITUTE A PERMANENT ALTERATION THAT WOULD BE IN BREACH OF THE RULES GOVERNING THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC MONUMENTS. MORE POLITICAL ARGUMENTS WILL BE NECESSARY IF THE AUTHORITIES ARE TO BE CONVINCED SO THAT THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE LUEGER MONUMENT CAN GO FORWARD. AT LEAST THE FAÇADE OF HARMLESSNESS THAT ENVELOPED THE MONUMENT HAS BEEN PERMANENTLY DAMAGED BY THE OPEN CALL AND THE DISCUSSION THAT IT TRIGGERED.

THE PRESSURE GROUP/SEMINAR GROUP INCLUDES: RUBEN DEMUS, LUKAS FRANKENBERGER, JAKOB GLASNER, JASMINA HIRSCHL, VERONIKA KOCHER, ALEXANDER KORAB, URSULA MALINA-GERUM, LILLY PANHOLZER AND GEORG WOLF.

ALL THE DESIGNS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.LUEGERPLATZ.COM



Design: Klemens Wihlidal; the transformation was made on the basis of a photograph by Andreas Praefcke

OPEN

CALL!

EINREICHFRIST
31. MÄRZ 2010

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AUSSCHREIBUNG ZUR GESTALTUNG DES LUEGER DENKMALS IN EIN
MAHNMAL GEGEN ANTISEMITISMUS UND RASSISMUS IN ÖSTERREICH