

Media Information

Lapidarium – To overcome borders

In celebration of "May'45 – Spring in Berlin" to the 70th anniversary of the liberation from the NS-dictatorship, the Mexican artist Gustavo Aceves (*1957) realises an art project with life-sized horse sculptures on the Pariser Platz in front of the Brandenburg Gate.

His sculptures are directly located in opposite to the Quadriga of the Brandenburg Gate. The Quadriga of the Brandenburg Gate symbolises the German history with its many facets: Almost completely destroyed its condition describes the end of the Second World War and marks withal the beginning of the division of the city, of Germany and Europe. Whereas its late reconstruction during the 1990s stands as a symbol for the reunification, the development of Germany, reconciliation and mutual understanding.

The sculptures reflect the historical infirmity of the Quadriga and bear evidence of their own journey in itself: Migration, asylum-seeking, immigration. Whereto the horses go is unanswered. Effective actions are called for with regard to the versatile socio-political challenges of migration, immigration and integration in today's world.

The different materials of the sculptures stand for the timelessness of the commemoration to the many peaceful and civilised ways leading to democracy, peace and rapprochement.

The idea for the project

Gustavo Aceves's exhibition project *Lapidarium* consists of many images of the history. Some associations arise from the Greek mythology.

The conquest of Troja with the help of the list of the Trojan Horse. For Aceves the Trojan Horse symbolizes the possibility to question traditions and well-trodden route in order to overcome the barriers with new solutions.

The path becomes a bearer of hope for an allegedly better future.

Like for example the coast of Lampedusa as a saving riverside for refugees, which most of them unfortunately don't reach alive. Or the so called "tren de los muertos", the death train through Mexico, that is taken every year by thousands of refugees from South and Central America, to find a way in the seemingly freedom of the neighboured USA – often the last hope for a better life. With a lot of luck for some people they might reach the borders and overcome the strict entry regulations.

The artist

Gustavo Aceves, born 1957 in Mexico, lives and works in the Italian city Pietrasanta (Tuscany). The artist is known as a painter in Latin America since the late 1970ies. His works reached an international attention through exhibitions in the Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City and Beijing Biennale. Gustavo Aceves' work is part of selected collections, e.g.: The Museo Memoria y Tolerancia in Mexico City and the Vatican Museums.

Gustavo Aceves: "The beauty itself is a truth, that humans invent by themselves. It creates a more pleasant reality than the one we can see."

The horse

The horse creates the connecting link in the thoughts of Gustavo Aceves. It is a powerful symbol of bearing and successful outcome. A horse can represent long wanderings, which can nowadays contain painful experiences of migration and a life in a foreign country. Loss, breach of trust, and fears are feelings, that all migrants – no matter in which country – share.

Lapidarium

The sculptures of the group of works *Lapidarium* reflect not only the history of the infirmity of the Berlin Quadriga, but also contribute testimonies of their own journey in itself.

A Lapidarium is usually a collection of stone monuments, that are mostly placed in cloisters of monasteries or archaeological findings, which often remain at their provenance. Each sculpture of Gustavo Aceves is a *Lapidarium* of history, culture and art, that becomes open to the public.

The exhibition *Lapidarium - To overcome borders* and organiser

Since six years the artist works on *Lapidarium*, which contains further monumental works. „Lapidarium“ was exhibited in Pietrasanta (Italy) in 2014 for the first time.

The open-air exhibition is displayed from 3rd - 9th of May, 2015 (opening on 2nd of May, 2015) and is a collaboration with Gustavo Aceves, the gallery Jarmuschek + Partner, Kulturprojekte Berlin and the Mexican Embassy. It takes place as a part of the "May '45 - Spring in Berlin" designed project, that is conceived together with Kulturprojekte Berlin, Foundation Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, German-Russian Museum Berlin-Karlshorst, and Berliner Unterwelten e.V., the Society for exploration and documentation of subterranean architecture.

Prospects

Further exhibitions of Lapidarium's group of works are planned in Venice, London, Mexico City and Beijing.