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From Altzella to Kabul

Société Imaginaire, building intercultural understanding.

It was the year 2000 when I first met the artist Batuz. Enthusiastically, he told me about his project Société Imaginaire. To overcome borders of all kinds, to do something for humanity and for our one world, we all live in, and, finally, to use art as the medium to approach this goal.

I am not an expert on art in general, but I certainly know the potential and power of art. I appreciate and welcome Batuz' dedication to his inspirational project plans. As one of the worlds most famous and most renown artists, his works are displayed in almost all museums in the world.

Art is a universal language. People of all nationalities, religions and cultures can communicate through it. Art helps to point out that people need to live together and demonstrates that "borders" can turn into "bridges".

The creative work of Batuz has always been influenced by borders and the overcoming of borders. The symbolic features of borders have been showcased through the artwork itself or through individual projects, where people have not only shaped art, but also demonstrated the gathering and unity of mankind beyond borders in a symbolic way at the same time.

I am glad to have witnessed the impact of Batuz' art in Altzella, an old monastery located in Saxony, Germany. People of all ranks came together and worked under the supervision of professional advisors on various pieces of art, such as drawings, etchings, paintings, sketches and sculptures. In addition to that, I could experience a great and inspiring atmosphere of people not only working, but also living together and communicating with each other: men and women, employers and employees, soldiers of all ranks, teachers and students.

Later, I witnessed people coming together at the German-Polish border at the river Oder who built a human chain with decorated and designed helmets. It seems that the success story of this volatile, luckily, well-documented artwork proved that art can unite people and that art might be the last resort to overcome borders in general.

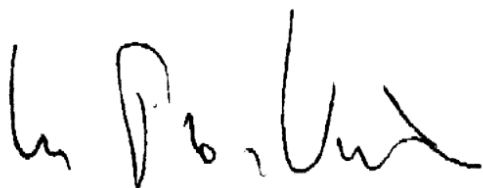
Batuz decided to combine all of these helmets to one permanent piece of art, symbolizing the vision of one world and one mankind. Today this masterpiece is displayed in the city of Chemnitz and is being further developed as “Helmets for Peace”.

I could also examine Batuz’ artistically designed collections of art. Well-known and influential people, such as presidents, chancellors, scientists and artists have stood up for Batuz’ ideas and for the visions of the Société Imaginaire by contributing handwritten articles.

In Uruguay, I witnessed the success story of Batuz’ project of overcoming borders. Having participated in various discussions with politicians and the military, I could see how well his project was supported and what impact it had.

The idea of Société Imaginaire can be encompassed world-wide, from Alzella to Kabul. In Afghanistan, we would like to symbolically overcome borders. We need to unite people, because we can only shape our future together. Everybody should be interested in this project by giving such a sign, like building a human chain with as many people as possible.

Société Imaginaire is not meant to solve all problems in Afghanistan, but perhaps we can set an example with the help of art to overcome borders so that people could start living in peace together again. This would be for the sake of Afghanistan and its entire people.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hans-Peter von Kirchbach'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'H' and 'K'.

(Hans-Peter von Kirchbach)