

TELL US A STORY

Help CAE to build a repository of stories about the social impact of culture

Title of the project: The Presence of the other

Please describe your action/project

This project is based on the co-existence of the three mono theological believes in Dortmund: Two Christian churches (Protestant/Roman Catholic), two Islamic mosques (Turkish/Moroccan) and a Jewish Synagogue was involved in Dortmund. The aim was to bring the community members together at one table in the context of an art project.

The idea is to make imprints (frottage/rubbings) from all the five places and to present them in all five places at the same time. Therefore the imprints are representatives of the other religions and beliefs. By respecting, treating and accepting the symbols of the others, it symbolizes the relation to my neighbours.

Every community treated the imprints of the other with respect and care. Most of the people were prepared to take on something new regarding their belief and their situation in the city.

The quality of the project was visible on different layers.

- **Layer one:** It started with a concept including technique, places of worship
- **Layer two:** More and more leading people agreed and joined in the project.
- **Layer three:** Everything was prepared and organised. Every community was thinking of their very special profile in order to present during the night of the Museums
- **Layer four:** Presentation, guided tours, lectures, music during the night of the museum and the following weeks.
- **Layer five:** closing: 6 weeks after the opening we had a follow-up asking what was different in the last 6 weeks.

Tell us something more about your project/activity:

Duration from Spring 2007 to Winter 2007

Location City of Dortmund

Field/discipline Art

The actors

I was the artist. Partners were 5 religious communities

The people who received the most significant impact

The religious community members

Was the impact planned from the start?

It was planned to make them a participant of something bigger. They should have the chance to present self-confident what they have to show.

The context

Some of the communities did not know about the existence of the other. They are very different in history, language and budget.

Expected and actual results

Bringing the heads of the religious communities together and to build up new structures. The project resulted better integration and Open mindedness. Religious communities were keen to present their religion to members of other religions. The actual result was more on a private, personal level. The main things were individual talks.

Resources

Time/phone calls ...- building relations/contacts.

The main change

Long term preparation, to make them all to partners.

The main area of impact

Change of structures/ change of social relation/ change from a foreigner to a partner.

The Big Idea

We can only live together if we know about the stranger. If we live in a great variety of beliefs we should have some knowledge about the others.

Additional information

www.dirk-fahle.de

[www.Die Präsenz des Anderen.de](http://www.DiePräsenzdesAnderen.de)