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The sculpture "Fundamentalism" in Jens Galschiot's gallery in Odense (DK).

Information about the sculpture "Fundamentalism"

We are sending out this letter to you as we believe it may be of great interest to you as a religious organization. You should know that you are not registered in our mailing list but we will regularly inform you about the project. If you do not wish to receive these letters, we are sorry for the mistaken sending. You can unsubscribe at the link above.

At this very moment in one of Scandinavia's largest art workshops the Danish sculptor [Jens Galschiot](#) and more than 20 assistants are creating the giant sculpture 'Fundamentalism'. The sculpture is a part of the art project '[The Children of Abraham](#)' which aims to create a dialogue about religious fundamentalism.

The team is busy casting the 8,000 handmade copper models of Torahs, Bibles and Qurans that are a part of the project. The casted books will form a Stonehenge-like sculpture, which weighs 14 tons and consists of 4 meters tall letters which create the word 'FUNDAMENTALISM'.

The sculpture will be revealed at the [opening exhibition on January 17, 2015](#) at [Art Centre Silkeborg Bad](#) in Denmark. Afterwards it will be exhibited around Denmark and abroad.

28 flat screens, each casted into the plinth of the sculpture, recite 600 quotations from the Torah, the Bible and the Quran. The religious quotations are chosen by the artist, on basis of a thorough analysis of the religious pieces, and with

the assistance from experts within the field. The quotations chosen are the 100 'brightest' (i.e. humane, compassionate positions) from each book and the 100 'darkest' (i.e. inhumane, cruel positions) from each book.

"I have worked concentrated for 4 years creating this enormous sculpture installation. I have named it "Fundamentalism", and I want to use this piece of art to stage what I think is the essence of the three religions; Judaism, Christianity and Islam. This sculpture is meant to be a platform on which to start a balanced dialogue between people, who attach to the three religions culturally and religiously." Says the artist [Jens Galschiot](#).

We are looking for more art museums and other exhibition spaces to exhibit the [sculpture installation](#). We would like the sculpture to be a part of a tour around in and outside of Europe. By doing so they take part in creating a dialogue about religion which is including and leads to a mutual understanding between the religions, unlike the present debate which is tearing the world apart. The grand 'Fundamentalism'-sculpture can be exhibited outside and is secured against vandalism.

The religious quotations and concepts on the sculptures can appear in Danish, English, German, French or Polish depending on the country of exhibition. We are continuously adding new languages.

Bellow you will find a description of the project. Furthermore you can find a number of documents on our website <http://fundamentalism.dk/en/> along with the quotations. Check it out - some of them are quite surprising.

Help us share information about the project and forward this mail.

Best regards

Lasse Markus - Info mail editor and leader of the secretariat of 'The Children of Abraham'

What is this art and dialog project 'The Children of Abraham'?

This is Galschiot's biggest project so far. By using the enormous sculpture installation "Fundamentalism", he wants to launch a dialog process between the three monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

This dialog includes the religions' believers and practitioners, as well as those who only feel culturally attached to the religions or have prejudices about them.

The three religions are often called "the people of the book" as they all acknowledge Abraham as their joint forefather. So one could say that the disagreements between these religions are some kind of family disputes between ["The children of Abraham"](#).

The FUNDAMENTALISM sculpture

The finished sculpture is built of 8000 clobber books that are stacked to make 14 separate letters, forming the word "FUNDAMENTALISM". The letters are placed on a circle shaped plinth which has a diameter of 9 meters. The grand size of the sculpture, (it is 4 meters high and made of 14 tons of clobber and steel) gives it a monumental appearance.

The sculptures' letters are divided between the religions. 4 letters are made of copper Bibles, 4 of copper Qurans and 3 are made of Torahs. In respect of the religions' Holy Scriptures, the books are modeled by hand in wax. They were never real Torahs, Bibles or Qurans.



On the outside of the circle 14 flat screens are mounted. Around the clock they display the 'brightest' quotations from the Torah, Bible and Quran. On the inside of the sculpture 14 flat screens display the religions' 'darkest' quotations.

There is only one entrance to the interior of the installation: a small corridor in the plinth by the letter 'F'. Above the entrance, a sign says 'Welcome'. One can only exit the installation through the same corridor, but by the way out a sign says 'NO EXIT'.

Pillars of scriptures

As a teaser for the project, Galschiøt has created 'The Pillars of Scriptures': 10 clobber sculptures, which are exhibited indoor and make basis for starting the dialogue elsewhere. The sculptures are one meter broad and two meters high. They are very beautiful and have a kind of meditative appearance as they recite the quotations endlessly on the screens. These 'Pillars of Scriptures' are exhibited separately or as a part of larger exhibitions with the big Fundamentalism-sculpture.

Dialogue, information and breaking down prejudices.

The sculpture is staging all three books - the Torah, Bible and Koran - contains so many beautiful and bright statements that one can build a very beautiful, harmonious and benevolent society on the basis of each individual book. But on the opposite hand, each of them (the Torah, the Bible and the Quran) contains so many inhuman and totalitarian statements that one can build a totalitarian society from each book.

The sculpture functions as a kind of educational project about religions. And it initiates a dialogue that can help to break down a lot of prejudices about each other.

The artist himself has experienced this degradation of prejudices in connection with his work on the sculpture. *"I, myself, was very surprised at how hard Christianity is on the female sex. And how relatively gentle the Quran is toward women. I actually thought that it was the opposite"* says Jens Galschiøt and continues *"It is my impression that it is not the religious scriptures, something is wrong with. It is more of a question of who interprets the books and which position the individual human chooses: the 'dark' or the 'bright' side of their religion"*

Is this an anti-religious project?

About the reason for creating the sculpture installation Galschiøt explains: *This project is not anti-religious. I think religion is basically humanity's attempt to understand the meaning of one's life and existence. Religions are not fundamentally bad for humanity. All of the monotheistic religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, have, at times had positive*



societal impacts. Especially regarding compassion for the poor and other basic guidelines to promote tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

But there are, as well, a large number of outdated and insensitive rules, which belong to a surpassed way of life and culture in an inhumane civilization. If one take every part of the religious writings literally and obey their every word, people and society alike risk ending up being insensitive, uncaring and callous.

For me, it is important to create a dialogue on the premises that the books are not essentially the culprits when wrong is done in their names. It is the fundamentalists who use the books without regard for the progress of civilization and without a tolerant, humane attitude towards other people. One can easily read and interpret the books in humane way if one takes that standpoint. It is equally feasible to defend an inhuman interpretation of the same books. This is the essential point of the art project [‘The Children of Abraham’](#)”.

Use us - help us

The art and dialogue project [‘The Children of Abraham’](#) is to start a debate through art. Therefore it is necessary that people know about the project and use it as point of departure to discuss how religions influence us, and to increase the knowledge about the religions of others.

Tools: We are developing a lot of new exciting tools, (e.g. our [‘Quiz on Quotes’](#)) in order to share the knowledge about the project and the monotheist religions. Most of these tools can be used completely independent of the fundamentalism-sculpture. They can be used to start exciting debates and conversations. Get the material at our ‘Children of Abraham’-homepage <http://fundamentalism.dk/en/>

Exhibitions: We are continuously exhibiting the 10 [‘Pillars of Scriptures’](#) and other activities at schools, art forums, neighborhoods and religious forums. If you are interested you are welcome to write or call.

You must nourish the ideals which you support... [Galschiøt](#) has financed the production of the Fundamentalism-sculpture and the 10 [‘Pillars of Scriptures’](#) by himself. He is running out of money and he has ‘slaughtered the last calf’. Don’t hesitate if you have a good advice or can contact somebody who might help financing this ambitious art- and dialogue project.

Contact Jens Galschiøt: E-mail: aidoh@aidoh.dk, Internet: www.aidoh.dk, tel. +45 6618 4058, Banevaenget 22, DK-5270 Odense N

General information about Galschiøt and the project "The children of Abraham" can be found at:



[See Wikipedia:](#)

[Portrait of the sculptors CV \(PDF\)](#)

[To Gallery Galschiot](#) [To Galschiot webside](#)

[To "The children of Abraham" webside](#)

[The Fundamentalism sculpture Wikipedia page](#)



This mail has been sent from the sculptor Jens Galschiøt's workshop.

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[To Gallery Galschiot](#)

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to "The Children of Abraham"projekt

Overview over [Galschiot sculptures](#)

Portrait of a [sculptor Jens Galschiot](#) (PDF)



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