

## Press Release

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### **Following its dismantling, Obelisk confirmed to remain at new location in Kassel**

Following the dismantling of the Obelisk during the previous week, the work of art is set to be erected at a new location on Treppenstraße. Mayor Christian Geselle and the artist Olu Oguibe have come to an agreement. In a letter on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the artist expressed his agreement to the mayor with the Treppenstraße location suggested by the city council in its resolution from September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

The city's offer to purchase the Obelisk was also kept alive after the work of art was lawfully and consequently dismantled at Königsplatz in Kassel. Geselle: "I always emphasized that we want to continue discussions regarding the work of art's future." The draft of the purchase contract had been in the artist's possession for some time.

Mayor Geselle: "I would like to take this opportunity to thank Olu Oguibe for his concession to fulfill the wishes of many people in our city to reconstruct the Obelisk on Treppenstraße. Within this context, my thanks also go out to the many supporters from the midst of the urban community who solicited for the Obelisk at the Treppenstraße location with letters to the artist. I would also like to thank all donors who helped muster the funds for the purchase."

The work of art "Monument for strangers and refugees" remaining preserved and largely visible on an important axis of downtown outdoor works of art from documenta sets a gratifying and obvious example, emphasizes Geselle. "We are a self-conscious and lively discussing city and, as such, we will continue to support and strengthen documenta in the future. As always, artistic freedom will remain a precious asset."

#### **Background:**

This past week, the Obelisk was dismantled at Königsplatz following the city council's grounds for decision since no agreement had been reached with the artist concerning the new location by the time the leasing agreement and transfer of use of the public traffic area had expired. In this light, the donations were initially refunded.

Several generous donors as well as companies and institutions in support of the arts and culture declared – after the artist agreed to reconstruction on Treppenstraße – they were willing to make the purchase of the work of art financially possible. The agreed-

upon purchase amount of around 126,000 Euros will be covered through this support. The city council's resolution to reconstruct Olu Oguibe's work of art on Treppenstraße can now be carried out.

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