

Saturday 15.08.20

4.30 pm

Schinkelplatz

**Tear it down and turn it upside down!
First Rehearsal
(feat. The Tear-Down-Ensemble)**

As monuments of racist colonial history and violence are being taken down in many places around the world, Berlin disgraces itself with the exact opposite. The already more-than-questionable reconstruction of the Berlin Castle has now been crowned with the globus cruciger, a golden cross-bearing orb. This symbol of imperial power and Christian domination, is accompanied by an inscription demanding of the living and the dead to kneel unconditionally and in humility before Jesus. The resurrection of these imperial Christian symbols atop the building with their call for submission, ultimately expose the Humboldtforum project - that includes the Ethnographic Collection of non-European Cultures - as antidemocratic and regressive. Apictorial and architectural reanimation of Prussian monarchy, Christian dominance and colonial entitlement, are making space for all kinds of revisionist and right-wing nationalist ideologies. This is most alarming. The neo-Prussian fantasy of omnipotence, is shared by actors in the private sector who made possible the covert self coronation on May 30th through their donations. For the sum of 1 million euros, Maren Otto was allowed to inscribe a dedication for her husband, the late entrepreneur Werner Otto, directly onto the orb. The Otto Group and its subsidiary company, ECE Project Management, which have already devastated many inner cities with their dismal shopping malls, are thus permitted to participate in the imperial divine right.

The dubious pact becomes even clearer when we discover that the Hohenzollern's (former Prussian aristocratic family) dome-cross was not a part of the Bundestag resolution to reconstruction this Prussian castle on the site of the Palast Der Republic and was therefore not decided on in a democratic forum.

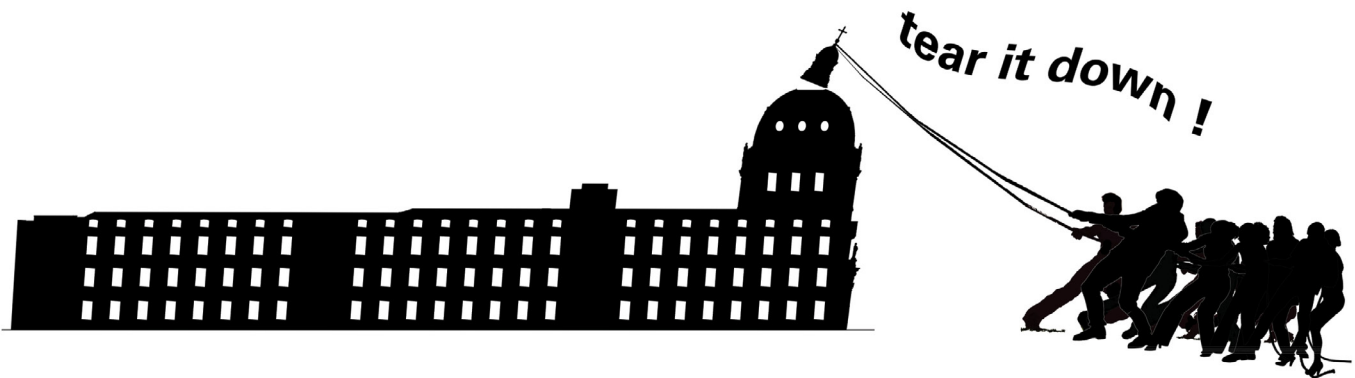
An online dossier from the Humboldtforum describes the golden ensemble of cherubs, exotic palm leaves and globus cruciger as a "symbol of charity, freedom, cosmopolitanism and tolerance." But sorry, dear Monika Grütters, this is an insult to all of the above.

As for the Hohenzollerns; they are not benevolent culturally inclined patrons, but rather a Prussian “familyclan” that plagued Central Europe with wars, nepotism, and catastrophes for over a thousand years. Even now, they are making headlines with absurd claims for financial compensation.

While elsewhere space is being created for a decolonized world after colonialism, that fights racism and Eurocentric ignorance, in Berlin the imperial undead are being exhumed from the crypts of history. These revenants have been enthroned above the city. While below, the basements are being filled with the stolen artifacts and human remains from those societies which the Hohenzollern family forced to their knees under the sign of the cross. In the exhibition rooms above, the “Kulturnation” Germany deliberately fulfills its longstanding dream “to be able to be someone again” on the world stage, through “critical” and “cosmopolitan” gestures. In the face of such insidious historical revisionism we are stunned and outraged. As we acknowledge the current UN Decade for People of African Descent: the cross must come down immediately! Afterwards, and only afterwards, can a sensible repurposing of these Baroque ruins be considered. Today we begin with the rehearsal, to topple this undead and blood drenched ensemble, and sink it in the river Spree.

Black lives matters must also apply to museums. For a change of perspective in the white-culture of remembrance.

Tear it down and turn it upside down!



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