

Snow shovels in summertime and Eastermonday

With this humble idea, we wanted to offer many people an opportunity to find -especially in those days- an expression for themselves and what moves them, what makes them, want to give them a place and a voice for it.

After the good feedback, we have already started to create more smartstands and will send them to other regions, neighbouring countries and, if possible - to other parts of the world as soon as possible.

Since some ask, here is a brief description of how it started:

Although there was no snow in the winter, which was many years ago, I bought a snow shovel.

I saw them lying in a large tin basket with others. Without stem but of a beautiful shape.

I liked the smooth surface of wood, as I also like to touch it. At one side slightly tilted, the other side an upward curved edge.



Like many other artists, I am often attracted to things that I have no idea, for which they can be useful to me. That's certainly the way it goes for a lot of people. Some end up as Messie. Also as an artist I have to be careful, but collecting is also part of my job.

For years and in my various places of residence, the snow shovel lay next to the couch or the sideboard and served as a storage area for old newspapers and all sorts of things. Sometimes I put it up on the couch and put the laptop on it so that it sinks less into the cushion when typing.

When I wanted to start a participatory project with young refugees in 2015, I saw that they had this very problem and came into contact with them about it.

It wasn't about me trying to solve their problem. I was not coming for that as an artist. It was much more important to agree that their and my problem were the same.

Only when everyone notices this will solidarity arise. And when everyone realizes that it can take a part to find a solution, motivation and courage arises and a creative discourse begins.

And it was impressive to see how the guys accepted the offer and made their thing out of this simple piece of wood, which was supposed to have a practical use: they soon wanted it to look cool, in bright colors or chic, covered with leather.

Today on Easterday 2020, when I write this down, an ever-increasing part of the world population is in a similar situation to the refugees 2015 in Frankfurt, who designed the SmartStands. Isolated from their loved ones.

When we had to cancel the project after a few weeks, many started SmartStands were left behind and were now, years later, only executed. We take up the further ideas of 2015 and adapt them to the current circumstances and we are happy that more and more people are interested in them.

This is not just about a storage for smartphones or tablets. I think another point is more important: the Smartstands becomes a personal object. Many of the opportunities that many people otherwise use to communicate in another way other than spoken words can do are denied to them these days. We hope that we can also bring others, such as many who are now alone, a little more joy in their homes.

Dear artists, dear friends, we are happy when you'll support us. As a non-profit-organization we are depend on donations. We need manpower, womenpower, finance, logistics, spaces and much more.

Greetings to all, from Easter, Passover to the breaking of the fast and to everyone else,

With kind regards,

Jörg Spamer and the IMM team

The International Migration Museum IMM is recognized as a non-profit association of artists and supporters (NGOs). Donations are requested to IMM, IBAN: DE57 5105 0015 0162 0742 15, BIC (BIC): NASSDE55XXX

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