

LAST HERO

On the public drug dealer
by Scott Holmquist



LAST HERO, Bronze with oak pedestal, 2018



LAST HERO,
Bronze, 2018
(details)

The drug dealer in Europe and across the globe has remained among the most conspicuous and enduring folk-devils. Always a contested figure with few allies, the dealer is portrayed in public discourse as at once vulgar and mythic, one that crystallizes fears, temptations and desires. The dealer embodies societies' shifting limits of public control and solidarity.



Reaction to the OTHER HOMELANDS exhibition at Kreuzberg Museum, Berlin (Framed Newspaper, 2019)

LAST HERO is a future monument to park drug dealers' work as civil disobedience. Scott Holmquist officially proposed such a monument in 2016 for the African-origin drug dealers in Berlin. A collage of an empty pedestal, where the monument once stood, was part of the 2014 exhibition **THE THIRD WALL AND THE LAST HERO** at the Kreuzberg Museum, Berlin. In 2017 the exhibition **OTHER HOMELANDS: ORIGINS AND MIGRATION ROUTES OF BERLIN DRUG SELLERS** provoked fierce political and media reactions and was widely covered in the German press with months-long debate over artistic freedom in public institutions and the status of dealers in public space.

A monument against monuments, erected before the subject is dead or fading into history characterizes the artistic strategy of Scott Holmquist in a subtle, but at the same time forceful manner. This gives the chance to widen horizons when thinking and remembering one of the historically most misrepresented figures of society.



LAST HERO in Viktoria Park, Berlin (Simulation, 2017)



LAST HERO and DEALER POSES in Vienna, Austria (Installation view, 2019)



MASK MIX (Video-still, 2018)



LAST HERO performance in Görlitzer Park, Berlin 2018

To date Holmquist's **LAST HERO** is realized in a sculpture in two versions, the **DEALER POSES** collage series, artist books based on a collection of media-images illustrating public dealing, as well as the **MASK MIX** video-installation based on a public performance about the unveiling of the monument LAST HERO in Berlin. A publication **WHAT'S WEED GOT TO DO WITH KARL MARX?** on the LAST HERO project is planned. In 2020 a large version of the LAST HERO sculpture will be featured in a major public museum in Berlin.



DEALER POSES Collage (DP#6 - Ride), 2019

One aspiration of the LAST HERO is to undermine the near universal bigotry against drug dealers in favor of supporting them and advocating for recognition of their activity as work and for their protection under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. *(Article 1)*

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. *(Article 5)*

All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination (...) and against any incitement to such discrimination. *(Article 7)*

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile. *(Article 9)*

Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country. *(Article 13)*

Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association. *(Article 20)*

Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment. *(Article 23)*



Federal Law to Support the German Tradition of Rebellion, of the year 2090 (Artist book, 2014)



Ruins of LAST HERO monument in the year 2968 (Collage, 2014)

New LAST HERO projects are planned including exhibitions, films and public interventions.

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