Story & Symbolism

The original sculpture was created in 2002 by Danish sculptor Jens Galschiøt. The artist explains:

"In the sculpture I use the age-old symbols of inequality between rich (the large well-fed figure) and poor (the starving figure). *In my version it is portrayed* as a very large goddess of justice (Justitia) sitting on the back of a very small and thin person to symbolize the ever present double standard and hypocrisy. We will do anything to help, unless it is inconvenient for us."

Freedom to Pollute (2002)
Exhibited at COP15, RIO+20, COP21, COP23 and elsewhere



COP29

Since the creation in 2002 the sculpture has become known worldwide as a symbol of inequality.

By bringing Double Standard to COP29 in Azerbaijan, Galschiøt highlights the urgent need for ambitious climate goals and financial support for poorer countries' climate adaptation efforts.

Galschiøt brings 3 sculptures to Baku with him. They are displayed at pavilions, events and debates. Exhibitions can be arranged by contacting the artist.

The project is a collaboration between the artist and CARE Denmark. It enjoys support from the former and present Danish Climate Ministers (Dan Jørgensen & Lars Aagaard).

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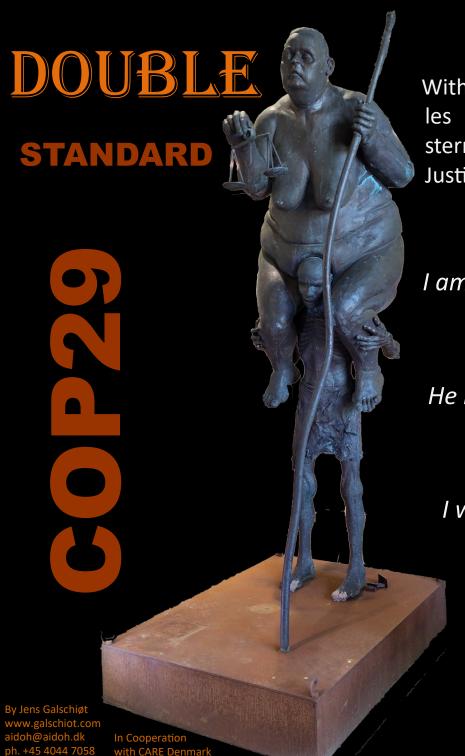
The artist behind the sculpture

Danish artist Jens Galschiøt is known for extensive globally oriented sculpture manifestations and happenings, often addressing concerns related to human rights and the environment.

Jens Galschiøt has been a central grass root player in the climate debate for nearly 30 years. His sculptures have gained prominent visibility at several previous climate conferences, including COP conferences, where they have served as visual symbols of the conferences and debates.

Artistically he moves at the crossroads between installation art and Street Art, with clear reference to "social sculpture" (Joseph Beuys), Symbolism and Art Nouveau.





With closed eyes and scales in hand, the Western goddess of justice, Justitia, proclaims:

I am sitting on the back of a man.

He is sinking under my burden.

I will do anything to help him.

> Except stepping down from his back.

Double Standard

A bronze sculpture depicting a big woman being carried on the shoulders of a starving man. The woman is Justitia, the Western goddess of justice.

She is typically depicted wearing a blindfold, which has come to symbolize that justice "is blind" and should be carried out impartially.

However, this figure of Justitia embodies self-righteousness rather than justice. She is willfully ignorant of the world's inequalities - reflecting how the wealthy countries are aware of the global imbalances but is reluctant to change its current behaviors.

Double Standard serves as a symbol of the unequal consumption of global resources, highlighting how wealthier nations thrive at the expense of poorer ones while doing very little to alleviate the burden.



COP21, COP23