

Concept of permanent memorials at selected universities around the world:

Many have suggested and asked if I have any smaller models of "The Pillar of Shame" in Hong Kong that could be erected permanently at various universities in the world. It's a dazzling idea, and I've worked a little further with the possibilities.

Chinese authorities have forced Hong Kong University to demolish and destroy the Chinese "Pillar of Shame" sculpture, which was the only memorial on Chinese soil to the Tiananmen Square massacre of students in 1989. It has stood at the university for 24 years and is strongly attached to the student movements, and it would therefore be perfectly natural to pass on this symbolic sculpture torch and give it to the students of the world so that they can keep the flames alive.

There could also be other suitable places where the monument could be erected e.g. in front of the Chinese embassies, in museums or symbolic places of democracy, freedom of speech, etc.

Listing at universities of smaller versions of the "Pillar of Shame" will mean:

- **A number of permanent aesthetic and powerful memorials** are spread at a number of friendly universities in the world. They will serve as stationary monuments and as a double memorial to both the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989 and the crushing of democracy and freedom of speech in Hong Kong by China breaking the agreement they promised when they took over Hong Kong in the form of "two systems - a country".

- **The memorials will serve as symbolic places** where students and teachers can commemorate and honor the great sacrifices of Chinese students in the struggle for democracy and freedom of speech in China. A place where there is room for annual ceremonies on anniversaries.

- **The monument will be a gesture from the students** of the free universities to the students of the authoritarian universities. A place where one gives these two landmark events in China an opportunity to have a memorial site where one can remember their victims and remember their true story. Such a memorial will not be possible to create in Chinese territories. It is therefore even more important that it be set up in the universities, which put democracy, freedom of expression and the right to remember and debate the history of mankind in all its aspects at the forefront.

Who will erect the monuments?

I imagine that it is the students and progressive teachers who take the lead and, in collaboration with the university managements, create space for such a monument on the grounds of the universities.

A line-up at a university will be quite controversial, as many students from mainland China may walk in, and some will strongly disagree with a line-up of a monument criticizing China's abuses of their own students. But perhaps that is precisely why it is important to set it up so that both China and the Chinese students can experience what real freedom of speech and democracy mean in practice.

It is conceivable that a large number of universities will take part in this almost ceremonial act by erecting the memorial in their area. A line-up that will show that they are an educational intuition that takes their educational obligations seriously in preserving intellectual freedom and in order to remember and further develop the world's intellectual heritage.

What does the monument look like?

I have made two sculpture suggestions:

The model of The Pillar of Shame in copper

Sculpture dimensions: Height 260 cm, width 85 cm, deep 85 cm, weight approx. 90 kg. With plinth it is approx. 4.5 meters high.

The sculpture was originally created as a model in 1995, when Galschiøt made the large "Pillar of Shame" for Hong Kong (8.5 meters). The sculpture is a smaller model of "The Pillar of Shame", but it is not a copy, but a kind of sketch for the large sculpture

The sculptures were currently used in Italy in Rome in Nov. 2021 in front of the Chinese Embassy at the G20 summit and has over the years been involved in countless exhibitions and other actions.

The top of the original real Shame Support in copper.

Sculpture dimensions: Height 320 cm, diameter 75 cm, weight approx. 250 kg. With the base it is approx. 5 meters high.

It consists of the top 310 cm of the very top of the original sculpture and is a very monumental sculpture, which refers directly to "The Pillar of Shame" in Hong Kong.

Both must be erected on a monument plinth in stone or copper / steel. The front plate reads "The Pillar of Shame" and "The old cannot kill the young forever", which are the texts from the Hong Kong sculpture. The other three pages are used to set up engraved bronze plaques, partly about the actual Tiananmen Square massacre of the students in 1989, partly about the crushing of Hong Kong's democracy movement, and partly about why the students / management locally chose to put this monument on their university.

Time horizon

The sculptures are being produced at Galschiøt's workshops in Denmark, and there will be more copies ready during the spring / summer of 2022.

Price and transport

Activism- temporary exhibitions

During 2022, the sculptures will be lent out and be part of a large number of demonstrations around Democracy and the human rights situation in China and Hong Kong. In the context of this activist, they will be set up with a modified plinth intended for rapid transport, erection and dismantling.

Permanent line-ups

For the permanent erection, these are relatively large solid monuments with solid plinths that are intended for erection for decades or centuries.

The monuments are manufactured and designed so that they can be transported through the ordinary transport systems, shipping containers, freight cars, etc., so that they are reasonably easy to handle.

Prices for the permanent monuments

We do not have complete clarity about the monument prices as they are still in the manufacturing phase.

But a serious (preliminary) estimate would be about 70,000 euros for the Model of The Pillar of Shame and 84,000 euros for the monument with the top of the Pillar of Shame. There is everything including the engraving of plates and plinths and the sculpture itself in copper.

In addition, of course, the transport and any plant costs where they are to be set up permanently.

This text is Google translated and there may be some translation disruptions

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The Pillar of shame in Budapest 2022