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PRESS RELEASE

Two new bronze sculptures by Andrea Matheisen for a good cause

Andrea Matheisen, a sculptor living in Munich, has now completed a further two of a total of eleven planned sculptures of well-known German athletes for the Gold for Kristi Charity Project. The legendary javelin thrower Klaus Wolfermann and the former world class high jumper Ralf Sonn were recently able to have a look at "their" sculptures in the atelier. All sculptures will be auctioned on completion of the art project, with all proceeds reserved for the benefit of a school in Kristi, Nepal, under the motto "school and education". The initiators of the project, supported since its inception by the Dentists without Limits Foundation, are hoping for a six-figure sum from the auction, which will be put towards the development of the school in Nepal.

Andrea Matheisen has completed four of her eleven planned sculptures to date. The form of the first sculpture, an exclusive representation, will be kept under wraps up to the time of auction. Seven further sculptures will now be created in connection with the decathlon, and each of the eleven sculptures will be a tribute to the individual discipline of a well-known athlete.

The former Olympic Javelin Champion Klaus Wolfermann was able to identify himself in one of the sculptures: "This project really is unique. The sculptures express our sport perfectly!" Each sculpture also shows a human attribute typical of the individual athlete. "A body under tension together with an expression of concentration and composure reflect the spirit of the successful athlete," is what Matheisen says about her sculptures. "Getting the decisive moment just right, the one which will lead to success or a medal, means a lot to me. What then takes shape is a symbiosis of sport and art – sculptured body art, if you like."

Three former world class light athletes – Klaus Wolfermann, Edgar Itt and Ralf Sonn – have so far decided to endorse the project as sculpture ambassadors together with sponsor Jürgen Hingsen. The project initiators are currently in touch with other world class athletes.

Donations will be greatly received by "Radeln und Helfen e.V."
(www.radelnundhelfen.de)

Donation account: IBAN DE4571 0610 0900 0188 6550, BIC GENODEF1AOE

Reference: Schulprojekt Kristi

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Gold for Kristi Project

The sister of the owner of the Chiemgau Biking® Company died in an aircraft crash in Kristi, near Pokhara in Nepal, in 2002 – Renate, a teacher in Prien on Lake Chiemsee. Shortly after the accident a school was built near the scene of the crash. Three years later a Stupa, a Buddhist commemorative temple, was dedicated at the school to those who had died in the plane crash. This temple marked the beginning of the work of the Gold for Kristi Charity Project in support of the school in one of the world's poorest countries.

The Artist

Andrea Matheisen

"My children have taught me light-heartedness – my husband self-assurance. I have learned my desire for peace and quiet from my mother – and clarity of thought from my father. I have inherited my creativity and my down-to-earth nature from my grandmother – and my sense of freedom has evolved from the restraints imposed upon me."

My work as an artist is prompted by emotion and creativity. When forming a sculpture or painting a picture – but not only then – I am able to give my dreams preference over rationality. This is how I am able to achieve an imperceptible reality ... the creation of something substantial, without having to invoke actual reality. My work relates to life, love, hope, childhood, light-heartedness and in particular to individuality. Dreams belong to the imagination – and art. Just go wherever your heart takes you!"

The Athletes

Klaus Wolfermann

Klaus Wolfermann, javelin thrower of the century, made athletic history at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games. In his fifth attempt in the Javelin Competition he managed 90.48 metres, two centimetres more than his great Latvian rival Janis Lusis, and thus became Olympic Champion. In 1973 Klaus established a world record of 94.08 metres, winning the European Cup final in that year, also against Janis Lusis. He was voted Sportsman of the Year in both years.

Six times German National Javelin Champion in succession from 1969 to 1974, Klaus ended his career in 1978. He is involved in social work, and organises charity matches and golf tournaments. Klaus is Special Olympics goodwill ambassador and Children's Aid Organ Transplantation ambassador.



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Ralf Sonn

With a personal best of 2.39 m in the high jump in the Schöneberger sports hall in Berlin in 1991, Ralf Sonn is still in the top 3 of the all-time German Champions list almost 30 years later. Ralf was born in Weinheim in Baden-Württemberg, and lives today near Rosenheim in Bavaria. His outstanding performances include a total of seven German National Championship titles in the years 1989 to 1995, Bronze Medal in the 1992 European Athletics Indoor Championships in Genoa, 6th place at the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games, and 4th place in the 1993 Stuttgart World Championships in Athletics.

Edgar Itt

Edgar was one of the fastest hurdlers in the world and one of Germany's most successful athletes: German National Champion, European Cup winner, and Olympic medallist. A recipient of the Silver Bay Leaf award, the highest distinction for athletes in Germany, Edgar has been German Athletics Association motivational coach since the London Olympic Games in 2012. Edgar studied business economics and later drew on his great expertise, acting as a motivational speaker and inspirational coach. He advises companies in their strategic planning and coaches individuals in connection with their personal advancement. He has become one of the most sought-after keynote speakers in Germany and also conducts seminars.

Personal development and training are again key subjects in Edgar's involvement in social work. Offering disadvantaged people a chance in life and helping them discover new perspectives is a matter of particular concern for him. In addition, Edgar has been supporting Special Olympics National Games in Germany for many years. He is also an ambassador for the Berlitz Educational Foundation for Children.

Jürgen Hingsen

Jürgen is a former decathlete, who was an Olympic silver medallist and triple world record holder in the eighties. In recognition of these accomplishments, he was awarded the Silver Bay Leaf, the highest distinction for athletes in Germany, by President Carstens of Germany. He was twice European Vice Champion, also World Vice Champion and Olympic Silver Medallist. His 1984 world record of 8832 points is still a German national record.

Jürgen became the first Gold for Kristi Charity Project Sport Ambassador in April 2017 and has been sponsor of the school in Kristi since then. The donation of his dental old gold was the incentive for the foundation of the Gold for Kristi Concrete Art Project. He is also involved in many other children's and youth projects. In addition, Jürgen is currently Eagles Charity Golf Club ambassador and representative both in Germany and the United Kingdom.



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Project Initiative

The founder of the Gold for Kristi Charity Project is Markus Wössner, the son of two school teachers. Markus lost his sister, also a school teacher, in a plane crash in the foothills of the Himalayas in 2002. Together with certified first responders Markus provided the impetus for the foundation of the New Social English School some 800 metres from the scene of the crash. Markus visits the school regularly when on mountain bike trips in Nepal to take care of the allocation of financial and material support, thus ensuring the continued existence and development of the school. A disbursement of 100 per cent of all donations is guaranteed.

Markus sees his engagement for the school as a form of enablement. The school project aims to provide education irrespective of sex, and free of physical, social or financial restrictions in the developing country of Nepal, and in particular in the Kristi Region.

Dentists without Limits Foundation

The Dentists without Limits Federation is the successor organisation to the Dr Claus Macher Foundation, a private charity founded in Nuremberg in 2004. This non-profit charitable organisation sees itself as an independent European NGO. It supports dentists and their assistants in aid schemes, enabling them to offer humanitarian dental assistance in disadvantaged countries in an honorary capacity. The Gold for Kristi Charity Project was incorporated into the Dr Claus Macher foundation at its inception, and was included in the Dentists without Limits Federation until November 2018.

Radeln und Helfen e.V. (Bike and Help Foundation)

This non-profit charitable organisation is registered in Garching in the Chiemgau region of Bavaria. As a joint cycling platform with events open to all-comers, including ambitious recreational athletes, it makes an active contribution towards improving the lives of disadvantaged, handicapped or otherwise needy children.

In keeping with its motto "ALONE YOU ARE STRONG, TOGETHER WE ARE MUCH STRONGER" all funds and materials collected when biking together are disbursed to those needy individuals and / or organisations acting in harmony with the aims of the Foundation. The Bike and Help Foundation aims to bring together all helpers, sponsors, associates, participants, persons in institutions, the children's carers and relatives, uniting them as heroes in the common cause of providing additional benefit to all the people and organisations involved.

From now on the **Gold for Kristi Charity Project**, together with the "Sternstunden" Benevolent Project of the Bavarian Broadcasting Service, are only two projects supported by "**Radeln und Helfen e.V.**" (a Bike and Help Foundation).