

# DEMOLITION OR INTO THE MUSEUM?

Responses to building-related artworks from East Germany are as diverse as the interests of society. The question "to preserve or demolish?" comes up again and again. Often, the decision lies somewhere in between. In this room, curated by young people, the question is: where to put the state-supported East German art?

## Demolition or into the museum?

Where to put construction-related art from East Germany? Choose from the available options and use the space on the map for your arguments and opinions...

- Into the museum
- Ignore it!
- Restore it!
- Away with it!

**"Dedicated to the Children of the World", 1982  
Werner Wagner, Stolberger Strasse in Nordhausen**

Photo: Heidelore Kneffel

The mural has been hidden under a layer of insulation since 1991.



**"Man Conquers the Cosmos," 1972 Fritz Eisel,  
Computer Center Potsdam**

Photo: Martin Maleschka, 2016

The mosaic has been on the heritage list since 1977 (confirmed in 1991). The future of the building is uncertain due to the reconstruction of the Garrison Church. The shell of the new church tower has already been completed.



**"Hippo", 1985  
Karl-Heinz Appelt, Gera**

Photo: Ettersberg Foundation, 2021

The restoration of the concrete sculpture was commissioned in late 2022. The funds stem from a grant, a donation and a contribution from the city.



**[unknown title], 1971  
Helmut Steindorf, State Community School  
Herbsleben**

Photo: Ettersberg Foundation, 2019

The school in Herbsleben has been under renovation and expansion for several years. What will happen to the mural is still unclear.



**"The idea becomes material violence when it  
seizes the masses", 1977/78**

**Erich Enge, Mainzer Strasse in Erfurt**

Photo: Ettersberg Foundation, 2022

On Mainzer Strasse, the plaster is crumbling. The mural by Erich Enge is one of the largest murals in Europe. There have been demands to preserve the painting for years. The building is privately owned. In 2022, there are preliminary studies for a restoration. The financing remains an open question.

## Your search for traces

You are now invited to search for yourself. Where can you still find works of art from East Germany or the Communist era in your neighbourhood? Is the relief in your neighbourhood from East Germany, for example? Or who designed the mosaic at the shopping centre? Send us your photo of a building-related work of art from East Germany and tell us about your connection to the artwork. Maybe you also know an exciting story about it?

Send your message via Instagram to

@vor\_dem\_verschwinden

or by email to

stroeer@stiftung-etttersberg.de.

Submissions will be published continuously on Instagram until the end of 2023. The discussion "Demolition or into the museum" can be continued there.

## To be continued!

It is still unclear what will happen to the Suhl mural by Willi Sitte. Here are two panels. What could a present-day creative approach to the mural look like? Continue the existing lines and shapes according to your own ideas and design a tile for this large community artwork.