

Protective Mantle Project - Newsletter 3 - Summer 2021

Dear participants in the Protective Mantle Project, dear interested people accompanying and supporting the Protective Mantle Project,

In my last Protective-Mantle letter to you I wrote: "What this project teaches me - among other things: it grows and unfolds 'plant-like' - in its very own rhythm". I would like to share with you what has grown from this seed in the meantime:

Mrs Bernhardt, who as a seamstress had carefully and expertly hemmed all the protective mantle parts until spring, made five cushions that will be found in the protective mantle.



Perhaps it is already a pleasant idea to lay one's head on it, to rest, to become still and to trace the protective mantle with its power.

I told you about numerous contacts with the company FAM West / Naturzelte / Bavaria, which took on the task of making this unique piece of a protective mantle tent.

It was touching when, after all the telephone calls and sketches, the first photos reached me.



Basic framework of the Tent



Fitting of the inner Tent



Assembly by four people

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After the completion of the tent, three packages were sent to me through a shipping company. That was the plan - but only one of the packages arrived.

In these days of anxiety, I nearly felt most sorry for the tent builder who had worked with his team for so long on this unique piece and was now doing everything in his power to find the missing packages. A glimmer of hope appeared: the packages had turned up in France. It took time for all three to arrive safely. You can imagine how deeply I breathed a sigh of relief!

After the safe arrival of all the Protective-Mantle packages, it was now time to set it up; four people are needed for this. The height of 3.30 metres and the width of 4.40 metres, however, far exceeds the size of my studio. A remedy was found in renting a nearby concert shell, where the Protective Mantle could be erected in the dry.

As you can see in the photo, the Protective Mantle, for reasons of stability, is made of a light-coloured undercloth.

Then above that: the actual (cinnamon-coloured) Protective Mantle, onto which the different mantle parts are sewn.

The walk-in inner tent is made of cinnamon-coloured fabric.

At present, the Protective Mantle pieces entrusted to me are sewn onto the outer shell and the inner tent of the coat. For a long time I looked for someone who would be up to this challenge. 26 metres of fabric, which challenge the skills of any seamstress, plus someone who has an appropriate studio (the open coat measures 6.60 x 4.40 metres).

I am very grateful that Mrs H.M. has expertly taken on this challenging task.



The shelter project involves not inconsiderable costs.

It gives me great pleasure to name two sponsors who have generously supported the protective mantle project:

Verein Andere Zeiten e.V. / Hamburg

Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts / Ministerium für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Kunst, Baden-Württemberg.

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In the development process of the Protective Mantle there are always unplanned discoveries; I would like to share two of them with you:

I read about the "Weltsticktag" / "World Embroidery Day", which took place for the first time in Sweden in 2011. On the 30th of July each year, people all over the world celebrate the expressiveness of embroidery art.

Maybe one of the next years the Protective Mantle will join in the celebration?!

I discovered (or maybe it found me) "The Red Tent Movement". What is it all about?

In earlier times, women in some indigenous cultures came together in so-called "Red Tents" when they were menstruating (the other women took over the work during this time :) or also to celebrate themselves and life. This movement has been finding expression in many countries for some years now with a lot of imagination and commitment ...and why I am writing this: the fabric of the protective cloak is a warm cinnamon red. At the time I chose it, I did not know anything about the "Red Tents"; for me a touching facet of the protective mantle idea.

The "birth of the Protective Mantle" teaches me patience and again and again the limitations of my "good will" - not always an easy exercise. Rainer Maria Rilke writes:

"There is no measuring with time, no year counts, and ten years are nothing.

To be an artist means not to calculate and count; to grow and ripen like a tree, which does not push its sap and stands confidently in the storms of spring, without fear that no summer may follow. It will come. But it comes only to those who are patient, who are simply there, as if eternity were before them, so carefree, silent and far."

I am pleased to announce that the protective mantle will be on public display for the first time next year in the church of St Mary Magdalene / Freiburg, before it will then go on tour. The modern, impressive church building of the Maria Magdalena parish in Rieselfeld is shared by the Protestant parish and the Roman Catholic parish. Corona is still making planning difficult; here, for example: how close will the seating in the church need to be, how much space in between will be needed?

As soon as the dates become more concrete, you will of course be informed.

With a grateful heart and all best wishes.

Be wrapped in a Protective Mantle.



Astrid J Eichin

Astrid J. Eichin Bildende Kunst
Kreuzstr. 40 79 540 Lörrach
Tel / Fax +49 (0)76 21 / 59 12 24
email kontakt@astrid-j-eichin.de
Insta astrid_j_eichin.de
Home www.astrid-j-eichin.de