

FUENGIROLA, IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF BARBARISM, INTOLERANCE AND HUMAN UNREASON

"The soul has illusions, like the bird has wings. That is what sustains it". Victor Hugo

Play: The Soul of the World

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"There was never a good war or a bad peace" Benjamin Franklin.

This artwork symbolizes the souls that, taking flight, leave the world behind. It can be observed that originally, all of them are united and bound together, forming a whole in which a deep scar remains open due to the absent ones.

It is a sphere installed in the Parque del Sol, floating above the water, symbolizing the position of the Earth itself floating in the midst of an inconceivably vast universe. In the face of this universe, our planet, with its disputes, joys, aspirations, and miseries, can only feel utterly insignificant. We are just a small blue speck floating in the immense vastness of the universe, and we must all work together to make the short time we have to live on it something relevant that adds to our greatness, instead of causing pain and loss.

"Perhaps all men possess a single soul, of which we all are a part, all faces are the same man, a single being". Jim Caviezel.

With this sculpture, the City of Fuengirola intends to honour the memory of those who died in countless war conflicts and their subsequent repression. It aims to remind us that, as human beings, we are part of a unique and indistinguishable community, and that if there are distinctions for any reason imaginable (gender, religion, race, affiliations...) they are mere inventions that we too often use as an excuse to justify the unjustifiable.

In February 2016 and August 2018, two plenary agreements were approved to remember some of these execrable acts, honouring the memory of those who lost their lives in them. It was intended to acknowledge the existence of recognized residents of Fuengirola, known by their names and surnames, who were murdered during some of the most brutal armed conflicts of the 20th century: the Spanish Civil War and World War II.

But we should not stop there, because as is well known, those who do not remember their past are condemned to repeat it, and it is not only those stories that should move us because they are the ones we can remember with names and surnames. Fuengirola is a city open to the world, and all continents, races and sensibilities are represented in it through its citizens. On some occasions, fully-fledged neighbours with whom we live day by day have asked their political representatives to remember genocides or similar tragedies that have occurred in their countries of origin, and we cannot hold the firm belief that we are all equal if we do not attend to the demands of all those who speak to us with equal attention.

There have been many attempts to find a symbol that would understand the ultimate goal: the idea of a meaningful remembrance of those who unjustly lost their lives, combining mourning for the absent with an appeal to the brotherhood of all human beings. Combining both concepts was essential so that anyone, whatever the loss they mourned, would feel represented and hopeful in the selected work. After a long search, we finally have the sculpture that encompasses everything that the city of Fuengirola intends to convey, as described at the beginning of this text.

In particular, we would like to have a special remembrance for the following neighbours:

- Mr. José Marfil Escalona, Mr. Francisco Díaz Burgos, and Mr. José Leiva González, victims in the Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp.
- The 147 Fuengiroleños killed during the civil war.

"All wars are civil, because all men are brothers." - François Fénelon.

Let this sculpture, therefore, serve as a reminder of those mentioned as an example of how human irrationality is capable of the greatest cruelties, and as an incentive to always seek dialogue with serenity and a spirit of justice, as advocated by Adolfo Suárez during the establishment of our democracy, as the only acceptable way to resolve conflicts. Let this be a record of the collective aspiration of the whole of Fuengirola society to achieve the noble objective of living in a world at peace and in harmony with nature, in which there are no armed conflicts such as those which, at the time of its inauguration, are being suffered in places such as Ukraine, Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, Somalia, Libya, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Mali, Palestine...

May the memory of the fallen teach us a path of hope and learning.