

**Written greeting
by the initiator of the reconstruction of the Berlin castle
Wilhelm von Boddien
to the award of the "Art Prize Germany" 2019**



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When I received the request, whether I would be the patron of the Art Prize Germany 2019 with the theme "Architecture | Power/s | Identity ", I was a little surprised, because I am in this field only a self-taught, with learning acquired knowledge of architecture and architectural history.

For years, as the initiator of the reconstruction of the Berlin Castle, I had to overcome a perfectly organized, powerful resistance, especially from the architects' and the art history functionary lobby, and see the topic of this year's prize as a great opportunity for future urban development, institutional crusting and dogmatism, and perhaps so even initiate a first course for a new direction in the architecture of our cities.

Rebuilding the castle first meant overcoming the incredible power of modernism and its institutions, which, with its highly successful lobbying, has made a decisive impact on post-war building history. It dominates the universities, universities and construction institutions and dominates the urban design of the competition judges' winners, usually in consultation with the state authorities. The modern age, especially in our destroyed by the bombing and the demolition of the post-war cities, this has in the reconstruction so partly made faceless. Without the few surviving historic buildings and the surrounding landscape, they would all look alike because, since the end of the war, they have more likely given in to an anonymous form, dictated by the same price-cost-benefit calculation.

But this also led to more and more civic engagement for the reconstruction of valuable, identity-building historical buildings and ensembles, in Berlin, Potsdam, Hannover, Hildesheim, Braunschweig, Münster, Dresden, Mainz, Frankfurt am Main and many cities more, up to Kleve am Lower Rhine.

So I see for myself the concept of the lost urban identity and individuality of our municipalities in this art prize on an equal footing with the other two topics, even as a challenge to them, to deal with the issue of power and the orthodoxy of modernity in the award of the prizes.

I see this year's art prize as a great opportunity to begin a change of direction here in the institutions, which, as in earlier times, restore the primacy of the city's beauty to its economic or beneficial interests.

Only if, as listed in the title of the Art Prize Germany 2019, a fair equality of the three terms "Architecture | Power/s | Identity "and these involve the interests of the inhabitants of the cities, our cities are again diverse and beautiful. Architecture as the mother of the arts was intended primarily to serve the people affected and their needs - and not to a large extent only to the validity requirement of the so-called star architects and investor lobby.



Wilhelm von Boddien