Evergreen Corona

On the square outside of KHiO this year, in 2020, there is a different X-mas tree. Evergreen Corona is a sculpture using the construction principles used by sculptor Kenneth Snelson (1927-2016) in many of his sculptures. The titles he gave his works were simple and common, sometimes referring to places. The stairs outside of KHiO have become a local public symbol.

The idea and initiative for this year's alternative X-mas tree is Nicolai Fontain, Worksmaster at the school's Model- & Prototype Workshop. The sculpture is composed of 6 green wooden rods: same number as our departments at school—opera and fine arts academy, design and dance, arts & crafts and theatre. The rigid elements are joined by wire: it holds the stretch and keeps up the tree.

The title—*Evergreen Corona*—refers to the crown of a needle-tree. We have been, are and will be a bit "green" at this school. Both with regard to nature, the school environment and the wider world. We start with zero: *always*. It is our method. We want to open ourselves. No matter which subject. We trail unseen paths. We were caught in a tempest with #METOO, Corona, Black Lives Matter.

The rebellion at Evergreen College in 2017 made us think. It arose within a school with no fixed curriculum, based on individual paths of education and learning. The topic was *structural racism*. Like anything relating to structures it was at first difficult to discern. Both from inside and outside the school. Time was spent on understanding the rebellion. While it happened and in the aftermath.

The idea of using the tension between rigid and flexible elements to provide this year's "X-mas tree" a sustainable structure, rests on the communication between all the elements. It defines *tensegrity*: an idea of integrity that can hold tensions—freedom of expression—developing new forms of contact under the restrictions of the pandemic. Wishes for a time of learning and respect.

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