

THE DOLDER GRAND

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Press release

The provocative artist and his Easter egg at the Dolder Grand

The floral Easter egg at the Dolder Grand will feature a pattern by the Finnish artist Jani Leinonen for the first time.



This year, Jani Leinonen, a world-renowned artist, is responsible for the impressive floral Easter egg in the Steinhalle of the Dolder Grand. The installation “Seed in Their Pocket” can be enjoyed alongside it, whereby Leinonen implemented themes of current social issues for both the installation and the Easter egg design. The Finn has a long-standing relationship with the traditional Zurich hotel, which made this art coup possible.

He is one of the most sought-after artists in the world and his works always captures the pulse of the times. The Finnish artist has recently completed a particularly special project for the Dolder Grand – he created the design for the annual 2.5-meter-high Easter egg, which can be enjoyed at the main entrance as of 13 April 2022. Decorated with over 12,000 carnations by the in-house florist team over several days of craftsmanship, it bears the incomparable signature of the artist. “When the Dolder Grand approached me with this Easter project, I was amazed by the fact that it was made of real flowers. These colourful and beautiful organisms are of great cultural importance,” says Leinonen.

120 famous works of art, including Dalí, Murakami and Tinguely, enhance the ambiance of the Dolder Grand. The Finnish artist's works have been exhibited at the hotel since 2009, and there are currently six pieces on display. Getting the 43-year-old artist to design the Easter egg this year was a major coup, not least because Jani's unmistakable style and his unique ability to create pieces that reflect societal issues in a provocative way have made him famous across the globe. “I'm not particularly religious, but I live in a Christian culture and grew up with stories from the Bible,” says

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Leinonen. For him, the story of Easter is one of the most fascinating. For Jani, Jesus' last words on the cross are the most important aspect: Forgive them, for they know not what they do. "These words are as relevant today as they ever were, as he says these words to the soldiers who are blindly following orders from their superiors." He therefore decided to bring across this message on the Easter egg with just a single word: FORGIVE.

The "Seeds in Their Pockets" installation is also on display alongside the egg. It comprises dried flowers the artist collected in war zones, each with a tag bearing the name of the country in which Leinonen found it. On the day Russia invaded the Ukraine, the Finn read a newspaper article and wrote a poem. It is the story of a Ukrainian woman who meets a Russian soldier and tells him to put sunflower seeds in his pocket so that flowers grow at the place where he dies. "For me, this is a really strong image of war. I discovered that flowers grow on many of the battlefields in these war-torn countries, and it's mostly the national flowers of the countries."

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The Dolder Grand

With its 175 luxurious rooms and suites, exquisite cuisine, a spa encompassing 43,056 sq ft with a separate ladies 'and gentlemen spa, generous banqueting and seminar facilities and a remarkable art collection, the Dolder Grand is a member of the Leading Hotels of the World and Swiss Deluxe Hotels. The Hotel's elevated location between pulsating city and invigorating nature provides guests with magnificent views over Zurich, the lake and the Alps. The 5-star-deluxe property carries the signature of architects Norman Foster as well as Sylvia Sepielli and is one of Zurich's most famous landmarks.

Jani Leinonen

Jani Leinonen is known for creating provocative yet playful pieces that put the spotlight on capitalism and, in the artist's words, the "self-centred consumerist society". He addresses contemporary issues and presents them in a way that holds up a mirror to our modern society. "I often use finished products and items from the real world, like cereal boxes or beggar's signs. I turn this junk into art." He finds inspiration for this in popular culture, in big corporate brands and marketing strategies.