



### Group 3: 7000 Oaks – City Forestation Instead of City Administration (1982-1987)

**A. Look at the entire timeline of pictures (from 1982 – today) and discuss the questions.**

**Important: You have 5 minutes for this part. Once you're done, go to the next page.**



Click [here](#) to see the images of Beuys' project.

Alternative: Open the QR-Code:

SCAN ME



1. What do you see on the images?
2. What is Beuys doing in the images?
3. Which materials/objects can you identify?

### B. Find out more about the project.

**Important: You have 5 minutes for this part. Once you're done, go to the next page.**

**The project:** Starting in 1982, Beuys planted 7000 oak trees over the course of several years in Kassel, Germany. To finance and coordinate the project, Beuys specifically founded a coordination office in cooperation with the city of Kassel.



**The material:** For this project, Beuys used young trees as well as basalt stones. At the start of the project, he piled up all 7000 basalt stones on the Friedrich square in Kassel. Every time a new tree was planted, a stone was removed from the pile and placed as marker next to each planted tree.



**The solidarity:** A project of this magnitude was difficult for a single person to complete let alone finance. Over the years, Beuys was assisted by many volunteers. For 500 Deutsche Mark (ca. \$280), anyone could sponsor a new tree. Furthermore, the project was only completed in 1987 – one year after Beuys had passed away.



### Discuss:



**What may have been the meaning behind the project?  
Why do you think Beuys used trees and basalt stones in this project?**

### C. Find out more about the symbolism and meaning behind the artwork.

**Important:** You have 5 minutes for this part. After this, the group exercise stops.

**The background:** The project was a response to increasing urbanization developments in Germany. Beuys considered the project an artistic and ecological intervention, with the goal to sustainably change the environment.



**The materials:** Beuys wanted to restore nature's rights by growing the tree population. Knowing that the small scope of the project was at best a symbolic beginning, he chose basalt columns as the marker for the new start. The gradual completion of the project was meant to symbolize progress towards the goal of ecological restoration.



**The reception & legacy:** In the beginning the project was met with some controversy. People thought the basalt markers were ugly or possibly posing a risk to motorists. Over time, acceptance increased and today, Beuys' project symbolizes an integral part of the Kasseler cityscape.



### Discuss:

1. Though Beuys clearly expressed his personal intentions, art is always open to interpretation.

What does this project mean to you? Which thoughts does it evoke?

2. How do you feel about this performance? Why?

*interested / curious / surprised / unsettled / shocked ...*



### SOURCES

7000 Oaks. (2021, July 28). In *Wikipedia*. Retrieved September 29, 2021, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/7000\\_Oaks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/7000_Oaks)

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