











Horror Classics

1 I took art into my biography myself.

2. The power of change is always attributed to art, and it changed me. I have already said, that art became my main way. It gave my life meaning and a

I didn't dwell on the structures of capitalism at that time, neither on a new world order. I wasn't political at that time. We already spoke about my socialization, and it just surfaced from it, that I didn't belong to the movement of 68. Moreover, Munich was where I finished a major part of my law studies, and it was never a center of the 68-movement, if compared with Berlin, Frankfurt or Marburg. Despite of the Schwabing riots that were foreshadows of the coming rebellious times. Let me say it this way: I was more interested in quickly terminating my studies and sailing on the Starnberger Sea than to study Marx' Capital.

- 3. It never came to political conversations between my grandfather and I. The conversations were mainly about the introduction of the grandsons into
- 4. Therefore I am very grateful, that Klaus-Dieter Lehmann, President of the Foundation of Prussian Culture Tenure, ordered the Munich Institute of Contemporary History to scientifically investigate the role of my grandfather in the "Third Reich" and after the war.

 I will finance this work to avoid raising any suspicion, that this is about a complacency report.

5. (But I decided against a deposit into the forced laborer fund. Decisive for me was, that the fund was not fulfilled in 2001 and a deposit from my side would have had the consequence, that the guarantees or a certain amount of the fund given by hig corporations would have diminished for my deposit, the total amount of the forced laborer-fund not being increased. Moreover the former Flick-corporations had paid -partially disproportionate- into the fund.)

I don't understand, not at all, all the commotion over the sentence, that it would be nice to see brighter side added to the dark side of my family history. Once again, with this exhibition I don't want to beautify or make forgotten even the actions of my grandfather. I do not want to instrumentalize art. But who can blame me for nurturing the hope, that there may be a brighter future for my family, too.

6. The tax-refugee-discussion, which recently takes place in Germany, has nothing to do with my case and the considerations I took in 1975.

I don't think it's right to judge my by those personally motivated positions with the perspective of today, and with the emotions which are attached to this theme today.

Personally, I got into this public tax-discussion of certain media only because I bring my collection to Germany. If that wasn't the case, I would not have any adversaries. Anyway, none, that write in the newspapers about me.

- 7. I deviated from the Zurich plans, because there were heavy oppositions for the reasons, which we discussed at the beginning.
- 8. Let me start with your question about the art-market. I just can say, that it functions like any other market-following the laws of supply and demand.
- But there are really no ways around it, that the museums financially bled to death look for cooperation partners,
 But still nobody can force a museum to sign something it doesn't want.
- 10. And here the sphere of personal trust, the "chemistry" among people, begins to play a very important role. I never had the impression, that you accuse me of wanting to exert power in the Hamburger Bahnhof.
- 11. Compromises have to be made one way or another, that is always the case, when a contract is made.
- 12. I don't consider art untouchable, and it must be possible, to decorate art institutions more and more to be event-stages for big corporations, to give corporations the opportunity to present themselves for a fee in a sensational context.
- 13. A due death duty according to the value of my collection would be so high, that the heirs would have to sell in order to settle it. Maybe the lawgiver should think about, if he shouldn't change the rules, at least as far as inherited art is concerned.

(quoted after interview with Eugen Blume in Museum fuer Gegenwart, Berlin 2004) translation* Michalis Pichler, 2004







