

# STORY OF ORIGIN

The angel was created at a sculpture symposium from one of the oaks that had stood on the banks of the Elbe river before the construction of the bridge Waldschlösschenbrücke in Dresden. The construction of this bridge had been very controversial, the city's community had developed deep fissures and Dresden had lost its UNESCO World Heritage title.

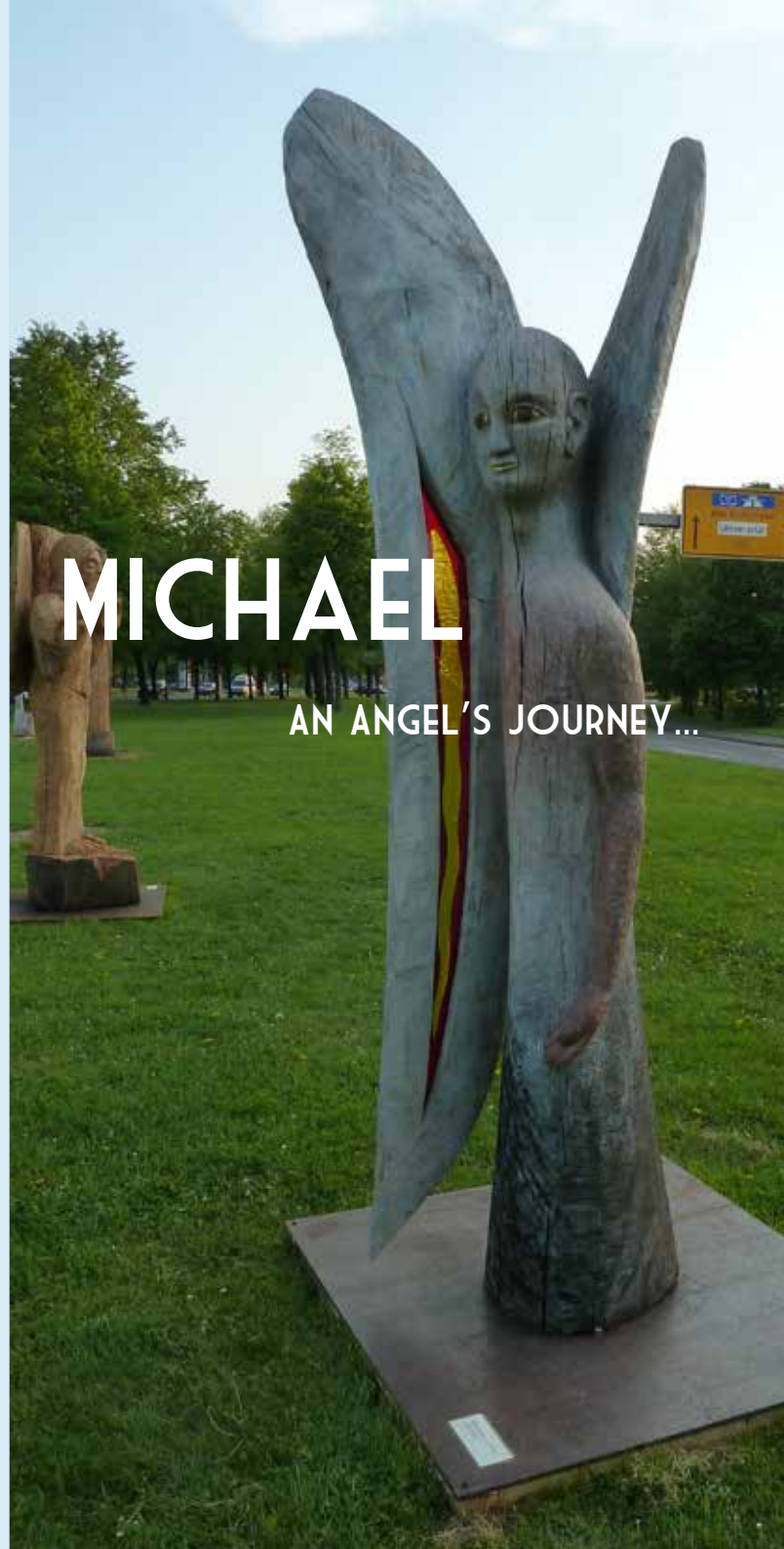
The symposium was intended to send a conciliatory signal: The tree trunks to which people had chained themselves in protest at the time the bridge was built, were transformed into ten very different angels twelve years later. In 2018, around Easter, they were set up for four weeks opposite Dresden's city hall as messengers of peace.

# TECHNICAL DETAILS

Sculpture made of coloured oak wood, created in 2017/18.

Height approx. 290 cm,  
maximum width and depth approx. 90 cm  
Weight approx. 500 kg

The sculpture stands on a 10 mm thick steel plate with the dimensions 120x120 cm.



# MICHAEL

AN ANGEL'S JOURNEY...

# IDEA

My name is Reinhard Pontius, I am a sculptor and live and work in Dresden.

In autumn 2020, I sent my wooden sculpture „MICHAEL“ on a journey through Europe – wishing it might be a messenger of peace and reconciliation.

It is to be displayed in St Michael's churches, in places where spiritual exchange takes place and in places where reconciliation is at stake.

All information about this special journey can be found on my website:

[www.reinhard-pontius.de](http://www.reinhard-pontius.de)



# THOUGHTS

We know the Archangel Michael as a fighter and as the patron saint in wars and freedom fights. With my sculpture I would like to invite a different understanding: Michael - the angel of peace.

I have deliberately dispensed with the familiar attributes of spear, flaming sword and scales

in order to allow a new, free approach to this angel.

The Archangel Michael stands for a spiritual power that is universal and at the same time very personal and that wants to support us to live courageously and peacefully.

Peace starts with myself: Am I at peace with myself? Have I reconciled with myself?

Michael shows himself as a messenger of peace when I reinterpret his characteristics:

For me, the spear is an image of consciousness. As a human being, what I pierce with my consciousness becomes the ground on which I stand, just as Michael stands on the dragon.

In various traditions, Michael is seen as the angel who drives Adam and Eve out of paradise and as the angel who weighs souls on the so-called „Last Day“. I understand these stories as images of birth and death.

Michael shows the soul the way into life with his flaming sword. At the end of life, Michael weighs the different parts of the soul with the scales and separates them: What is earthly and must remain behind? What are the eternal parts that can ascend back into divine existence? Michael thus stands at both thresholds of life as a helper of the human soul.

Since the figure of Michael is known in many religions and cultures, he can also be seen as an ambassador for interreligious and intercultural dialogue.