



Art for Hope's Sake

In an attempt to unite the world using sculpture as a medium for hope, artist, Lehna Edwall, set about on an ambitious, global art initiative called the Unite Hope Project. Martha Hammond explores how the idea first came about and looks at its plans to complete the task ahead.

In September, seven sculpted angels were set in place in countries around the globe. The location of the effigies started the *Unite Hope Project*, a unique art initiative that intends to form a web symbolising the hope that could unite the world.

The seven sites can be found in Russia, Canada, Mali, Peru, Hawaii, the South Pacific and Australia, and when all the locations are linked, 42 new intersecting points are created: sites for more angels. In total, there will be 49 in situ across the world, acting as symbols of love, hope and light. Each will be a gift to its location representing hope for world unity.

Swedish artist, Lehna Edwall, came up with the idea when she was working on an angel sculpture in 2004. Catastrophic

world events and negative media were making her feel helpless and she began to re-evaluate the meaning of the piece she was sculpting. The bombings in Madrid were a turning point and brought a new sense of purpose to her angel. "I wanted to manifest love, hope and light with this angel," Lehna explained. "It was obvious that it was necessary to do this globally and that I would need many more angels to cover the world."

Funding for the initial seven angels was achieved with the aid of a not-for-profit organisation who helped devise the strategy for the project's realisation. Future plans involve the creation of a documentary and book about the work of *Unite Hope* once the remaining angels

have been put in place. Lehna is now encouraging involvement from people around the world. Those interested can make a donation or for 1,000 Euros, about £680, they can buy their own angel and, in doing so, finance the long journey of its 'twin' to one of the unfilled destinations.

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One of the initial seven angels
in Brösarpsbackar, in south Sweden
Photo: © Mattias Edwall

