

How could a work be transferred to another site, changing its purpose/ impact?

Shalekhet (Fallen Leaves) is an artwork that contains over 10,000 iron plates shaped as faces with their mouths cut open created by Menashe Kadishman and on display in Jüdisches Museum Berlin. The purpose of the installation is for guests to walk across that faces which replicates the sound of the chained jews walking through the concentration camps.

"Maybe art is not about changing anything. It's about telling you reality." -

Menashe Kadishman (*Shalechet (Fallen Leaves)*) Menashe work is focused on retelling what's already happened, and this piece is a good example of that. Germany is responsible for the holocaust so having this piece based in Germany reminds them and holds them accountable for their history and mistakes, having this piece based in any other country wouldn't change this piece's meaning but it would change the intentions behind the installation and how it is viewed and received by guests. This piece would no longer be about holding countries accountable for their history but about remembering those who died during the holocaust if this piece as moved. Regardless of location, this piece would still be a retelling of history and would keep the same meaning but how it is viewed changes.

In Port-Talbot Banksy created a piece called Seasons Greetings that focuses on the area's reputation. The work portrays a child with their mouth open, seemingly eating what they believe is snow. However, when the other side of the artwork is revealed, it becomes clear that the "snow" is actually soot from a fire. Port- Talbot is known for the steel works that cover a large area of land and produces a lot of waste and pollution, so this work tackles that head on and similarly to 'Shalekhet' this work holds the area and the steel works accountable for the pollution and waste that it creates daily. But where 'Shalekhet' meaning slightly changes when moved, 'Seasons Greetings' meaning stays the same but instead of being targeted at that specific area and the steel works, it would target the whole world and every single person that contributes to pollution. Moving this piece changes the specific meaning and turns It into more of a blanket meaning and targets a much larger group of people.

Both works are similar in relation to the question because they both convey significant aspects of the area's history. When relocated, they retain their original meaning but are changed in subtle ways. However, the way they change differs between the two pieces. For *Shalekhet*, its purpose shifts; it moves from serving as a form of holding a country accountable for its past to becoming a memorial for the victims of the Holocaust. On the other hand, *Seasons Greetings* takes on a new form that broadens its impact. Instead of being specific to the local area, its message becomes more universal, appealing to a much wider audience.

“Menashe Kadishman” *Shalechet (Fallen Leaves)*, 1997 2001 curated., curatednow.ca/menashe-kadishman-shalechet-fallen-leaves-1997-2001/. Accessed 21 Oct. 2024.

“Shalekhet – Fallen Leaves” *Jewish Museum Berlin*, 23 Oct. 2024, www.jmberlin.de/en/shalekhet-fallen-leaves. Accessed 21 Oct. 2024.