

Michael Klant

## PLANT FLOWERS AND TREES

### The Beuys Flight Project For New York City

Corresponding Action to the Art Flight over Kassel

**form.xx**

Cultural Management

Hans-J. Schwarzer

Jacobistr. 47 • 79104 Freiburg • Germany

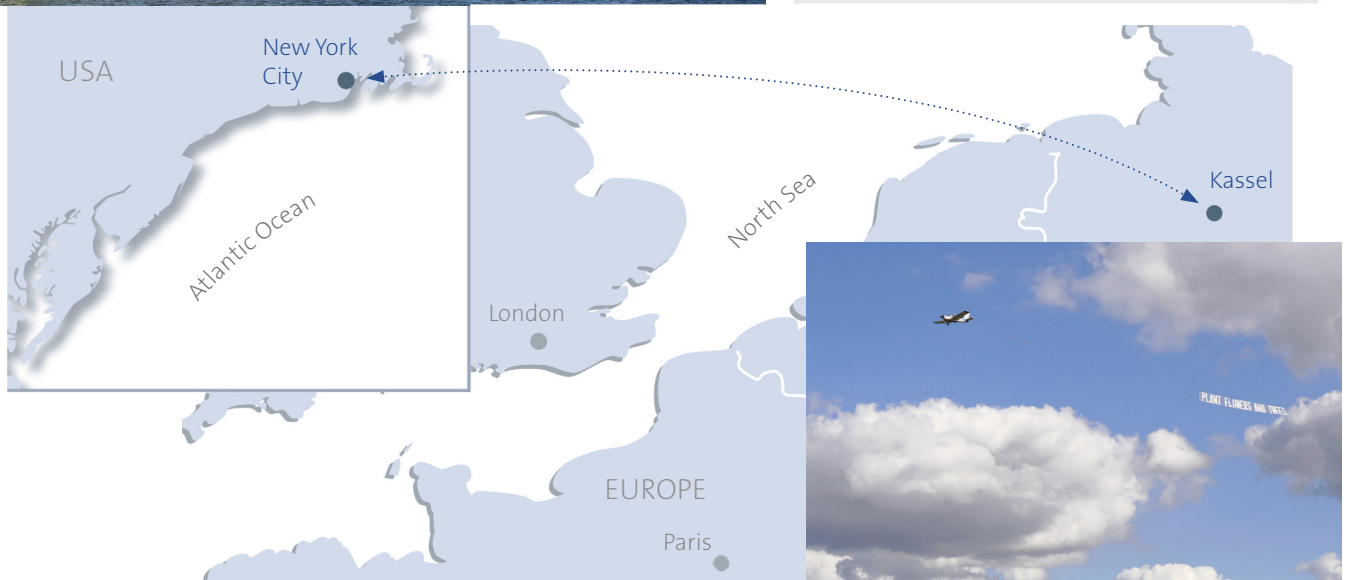
<https://formixx.de> • [info@formixx.de](mailto:info@formixx.de)

tel. 011-49-761-559 260

Montage by M. Klant based on photo by Sergii Figurnyi, shutterstock



- Banner flight over NYC composed of 20 white custom-made interlinked single letters (7' x 80')
- Inspired by Joseph Beuys' project »7000 Oaks« for documenta 7/1982 in Kassel, Germany
- Complemented by flowers, symbols of peace
- Action related to the flight for the »7000 Oaks Foundation« in Kassel on UN International Day of Peace in 2022 during »documenta 15«
- In respect of the continuation of Beuys' tree project by Dia Art Foundation in Chelsea, NYC
- Altitude over the East River and the Hudson River 500 feet, over downtown area 1000–1500 feet
- Executing Company Justin Jaye, FlySigns.com
- Climate-neutral through CO2 compensation



**PROJECT OUTLINE** A text banner in tow of a small plane hovers over and around Manhattan Island and other boroughs of New York City. White capital letters convey the message PLANT FLOWERS AND TREES. The wording extends the basic idea of the epochal artwork »7000 Oaks« by German artist Joseph Beuys, who initiated the planting of trees, each accompanied by an upright basalt stone, as a contribution to »documenta 7« in Kassel in 1982. It also draws attention to the 38 trees that were planted in the spirit of Beuys on West 22nd Street in New York's Chelsea neighborhood. Possible dates are the anniversary day of the first oak planting by Beuys on March 16, or the UN International Day of Peace on September 21.

On that date in 2022, which concurred with the last week of the »documenta fifteen«, Freiburg-based artist Michael Klant already directed part I of the banner flight project for the »7000 Oaks Foundation« in Kassel, the curator of Beuys' pioneering artwork. Given Russia's invasion of Ukraine a few months earlier, Klant added flowers to the call to plant trees. The banner thus implies both the demand for ecological »social sculpture« and for peace through diplomacy. In view of the global increase in conflicts, the significance of Klant's metaphoric banner project for New York City, home of the United Nations, has only grown, sending a message of encouragement and hope.



Michael Klant: PLANT FLOWERS AND TREES (Part I). The Beuys Flight Project for Kassel. Flight action over Kassel and surroundings, 9/21, 2022 (UN International Day of Peace). Above: Flight over the Friedrichsplatz and the main documenta exhibition building Fridericianum with two oak trees in front. Pilot: Capt. Heiner Bredhorst



- Art Flight NYC
- Art Flight Kassel
- Catalogue Klant

<https://bit.ly/4b5qd88>

Photo: M. Klant 2022



## PRESS PREFLIGHT

### Flying Call for Peace and Conservation

If you look up toward the sky over New York City, you will experience an intriguing art performance. A small plane can be seen towing a text banner that does not advertise a product as usual, but instead proclaims the metaphorical message PLANT FLOWERS AND TREES. The single, interlinked letters subtly change their hue from bright white to various soft and dark shades of gray, depending on the sun's angle of incidence.

The performance was conceived by German artist Michael Klant who has been designing banner flights since 1999, some of which took place in the US, in Italy, France, Spain, Austria, and Germany. They include translocations of huge hand painted sky pieces from one country to another and flying phrases on fleeting phenomena such as time, happiness, and memory.

Klant's plan for New York City is part II of a bilateral art flight project he began two years ago for the »7000 Oaks Foundation« in the documenta city of Kassel, Germany. It was here that the outstanding artist Joseph Beuys had created his legendary oak planting campaign for documenta 7 in 1982. To Beuys' call to plant trees, Klant has added the request to plant flowers. The ephemeral yet emphatic appeal stands both for the demand for peace and for nature conservation.

The flight route covers several boroughs and leads specifically along the Chelsea Gallery District, where Beuys' idea has already borne fruit and oaks and other trees have been planted by the Dia Art Foundation. »Today, trees and flowers are more urgently needed than ever as a symbol of a holistic ecology of peace«, explains Klant. His manifold appeal is likely to attract attention in the vibrant city and promote the debate about the paths to peace.

Interested parties have the opportunity to support the campaign through sponsorship and patronage. They are publicized in the extensive media work. Post-flight, the 20 white letters can be displayed in different ways, either in full length or reduced to small scrolls in a glass display case—an art object with its own inscribed history.

Michael Klant: PLANT FLOWERS AND TREES –The Beuys Flight Project for NYC Art Flight Project for New York City (Part II). White ripstop nylon, 7' x 80'  
View over the Hudson River towards Manhattan



View over Brooklyn Bridge towards the Financial District with the banner seen from the rear

For more info on Sky Pieces by Michael Klant:  
<http://michaelklant.de/index.php/sky-work>  
For communication in German → [info@formixx.de](mailto:info@formixx.de),  
both German and English → [michaelklant@t-online.de](mailto:michaelklant@t-online.de)