

Dornach, the 17th of November 2023

Dear Mr. Kumlander,

Although some time has passed since the Albert Steffen Foundation sold the series "Tree of Knowledge" by Hilma af Klint to you, we would like to address you again and explain that we are very dissatisfied with how this sale has been handled.

First and foremost, we want to emphasize that the board of the Albert Steffen Foundation sold the paintings to you under the assumption that you represented the Kristallen Foundation, as communicated to us by you. Also, the Vidar Foundation, where you are or have been a part of the board, was mentioned as being involved in the negotiations. However, only your name is stated in the purchase contract.

Before the sale was finalized, several meetings and phone calls had taken place with you, supplemented by written correspondence. You had presented to the board of the Albert Steffen Foundation that Rudolf Steiner had said that Hilma af Klint's works should remain in Northern Europe. This was noted in one of Hilma af Klint's notebooks.

Furthermore, you also sent us photos of a project draing for a planned Hilma af Klint Museum in Järna, which was supposed to house our series. The museum's builder is the Kristallen Foundation, to which we believed we were selling our series.

All of this, along with our understanding that you were an anthroposophical friend, convinced us to sell the series to you (it was urgent for you) and not pursue several other offers that we had received, well aware that we could have negotiated a higher price from them.

To now learn that the series was sold by you to America, furthermore to a buyer who has no anthroposophical interest but seemingly is solely interested in money, astonishes and deeply upsets us. Your sale was made through the major art dealer David Zwirner in New York. He had personally written to us and expressed his interest in purchasing the series. We have declined his proposal.

When you responded to Frau Winiger's inquiry about the fate of our series via email: "Our intention is, if we were to make a profit, to use it to support cultural and artistic activities with an anthroposophical focus," it feels like a mockery to us. On the one hand, we are of course not so naive as to think that you, who truly wanted to acquire this series, sold it to David Zwirner and waited to see if there might be a profit for

you. Of course, you have profited greatly from this, as has David Zwirner. The ones who lose out are we.

Similarly, it must feel like a slap in the face to us when you wrote in that email to Frau Weniger that you, we don't know if it was before or after the purchase, had consulted "the two people who are most knowledgeable about Hilma af Klint and her work." "What has emerged after careful consideration was that the works should be in a well-known museum in your home country, or ideally in another country than Sweden. Most of her works are here in Sweden, and to get the attention she deserves, the works must be internationally accessible and available to the public."

This is the exact opposite of what you presented to us as the motive for the purchase and on which we based our decision to sell the work to you or to a foundation represented by you.

Furthermore, the purpose of the Albert Steffen Foundation obligates us to use the entire volume of the Albert Steffen Foundation's work and assets to care for and spread Steffen's work. Against this background, we now experience that our trust has been abused by you. The financial resources generated by the sale are being transferred to other anthroposophical institutions. In this way, we, deceived by a fraud, have unknowingly acted against the purpose of our Foundation.

The brief summary of this letter is that we are disappointed and feel deceived and cheated. It is particularly bitter because we have prioritized idealistic motives over financial ones.

This experience of disappointment cannot, of course, be compensated with money. Nevertheless, we would welcome and consider it appropriate if you were to contribute a portion of your earnings to the Albert Steffen Foundation, as it is intended to support "cultural and artistic activities with an anthroposophical focus," as quoted from your statement above.

We expect that you can understand our disappointment and request that this letter be forwarded to your colleagues at the Kristallen Foundation.

With kind regards from Dornach,

The board of the Albert Steffen Foundation

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