

**The Modern Thinker (Le Penseur Moderne) - by Gaby Barton**  
**Participation in the competition at MACHT KUNST - your sculpture for Berlin**  
**Deutsche Bank and Art-Invest Real Estate - 5.11. - 8.11.15**

**The concept**

The figure represents a variant and contemporary interpretation of the world-famous Sculpture by Auguste Rodin depicting Le Penseur.

The thinker does not simply look somewhere or within himself, but looks directly on the screen of a smartphone. This describes a situation which has become an everyday perception and experience for all of us.: Smartphones or tablets can be used to quickly get information or advice no matter where you are: where do I need to go, should I buy this, etc. ... Or you get distracted from a boring situation or look for entertainment. The device is always in use.

If you don't use this modern companion yourself, you'll see others everywhere who are turned away from their surroundings, leaning slightly forward and looking at a small screen. The medium has become ubiquitous.

In the setting with the thinker sculpture, the smartphone stands as a symbol for the modern technology that enables today's man to keep up with the whole thing.

Being connected to the world and having access to information, knowledge and insight. (Re)thinking is therefore inextricably linked to a technical device.

This dependency should raise the question of how far the quality of thinking is concerned. When the thinker can consume, without his own effort, solutions and ideas.

The name ›The modern thinker‹ refers to the dimension that we are all part of it and affected. Sculpture is one of the oldest art forms known to man, dating back 10,000 years BC. By using the classic material bronze, the sculpture is placed in the context of cultural history. Also thinking about yourself and God and the world has a long tradition. Only today it got a new dimension.

Is this an advantage or a disadvantage?

**Detail info sculpture:**

1st figure 19cm high, 11cm wide, 2nd smartphone 11.8cm high, 6cm deep

Materials: unfired clay, acrylic paint, smartphone.

Signed "Beeb" in the base.

Gaby Barton has been a part-time artist since the 1970s.

Working and experimenting with materials. Her ideas reflect current issues. So she worked on the sculpture, while the Langenscheidt publishing house awarded in 2015 the Youth Word of the Year: Smombie.

A sculpture with potential on the art market.

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