

Feb. 28, 2023

Dear President Keen,

We understand senior administration has recently discussed creating a policy and procedure to remove art and address campus visual culture, and we support this initiative. In the meantime, however, we are asking that the sculpture by Georg Kolbe in Tiernan Fieldhouse be removed from public view now. We know that this action is within the power of you and the board, and given its negative effect on our students, we ask you to please bring this matter to the board's attention and remove the sculpture from view immediately while the college establishes a policy and procedure.

Lily Dunkin's [February 2022 article](#) in The Student Life significantly informed the RJE-funded Scripps College Visual Culture Project, during which we contacted art historian Wolfgang Brauneis to get information about the sculpture and understand the extent of Kolbe's service to the Third Reich. While Scripps College's records say the sculpture was made in 1925 and titled "Young Woman" ([documentation](#)), it was made in 1942 and is titled "Lauschende" and it (or another identical casting) was included in the Third Reich's 1942 Great German Art Exhibition ([documentation](#)). Kolbe was tapped for Third Reich commissions including the 1936 Olympics ([documentation](#)), a ring of statues at "Aryanized" Rothschildpark in Frankfurt ordered in 1941 and installed in 1954 ([documentation](#)), a military sculpture for the Buckesfeld barracks in 1936 ([documentation](#)), and a war memorial in 1935 ([documentation](#)). Kolbe accepted a commission to create a bust of Spanish dictator Franco, and one of the casts was gifted to Hitler ([documentation](#)). In 1944, Hitler also placed Kolbe on his "God-gifted list" of artists who were exempt from military duty ([documentation](#)). Hitler personally purchased another of Kolbe's works, "Junges Weib," from its display at the 1938 Great German Art Exhibition ([documentation](#)). Eminent National Socialist art historian, Wilhelm Pinder, wrote a book admiring Kolbe's sculpture from his racist, nationalist perspective ([it can be requested here](#)).

With support from the O'Brien Lecture funds, Brauneis will deliver a lecture on his research and Kolbe on Wednesday, April 5. We would like to be able to discuss Scripps' decisive action to remove its Kolbe sculpture from view during this event. We know this is not the first letter Scripps has received about the sculpture. Last year many students and alums embarked on a letter-writing campaign to ask Scripps to remove the sculpture from Tiernan. We ask you to act on this now.

Respectfully,

Lily Dunkin *Scripps '24, Junior Class Co-President and Tiernan Lifeguard*
Jasmine Baetz *Lincoln Visiting Professor in Ceramics*

[Affinity Group Leaders at Scripps College](#)

Aviva V. Maxon Kehillah President (Scripps Jewish Student Affinity Group) and Past President of Claremont Hillel

Ella Lehavi Art major, Kehillah board member, Chabad board member, 4th gen holocaust survivor

Cafe Con Leche Board Members (Scripps Latinx Student Affinity Group)

Watu Weusi Board Members (Scripps Black Student Affinity Group)

Alexandra du Manoir President of Family (Scripps LGBTQ+ Affinity Group)

Gabrielle Boles Events Coordinator of Family

Abigail (Archer) Gothard Community Coordinator of Family

Willow Lehrich Treasurer of Family

Kae Chin Co-Head of Asian American Student Union

Kerry Wong Co-Head of Asian American Student Union

Rhea Malhotra SCORE International Intern and Scripps International Community Cohead

SAS Representatives

Tsion Mamo Student Body President

Simran Kaur Sethi Diversity and Inclusion Chair

Tara Zhang Student Organizations Commissioner

Abbie Oh Arroyo Faculty and Staff Relations Chair

Blessing Roland-Magaji Co-Treasurer

Shelby Luster Co-Treasurer and Tiernan Customer Service Associate

Kathryn Parker Secretary and Peer Health Educator

Loren Mello Sustainability Chair

Melina Duree Vice President of Student Activities

Alexandra Hamilton 5C Events Chair

Rina Nagashima Judicial and Academic Review Chair

Rebecca Yao First Year Class President

Shalini Shyam Kumar Sophomore Class President

Avalon Brice Junior Class Co-President

Ishi Gupta Senior Class Co-President

Elaine Yang Senior Class Co-President

Tiernan Employees

Emily Cady Lifeguard

Ruby Hoffman Former Bike Tech

Mary Iris Allison Coordinator

Katherine Graham Lifeguard

Susan Stitt Lifeguard

Eden Mahdavi Former Coordinator

Lila Dressler Former Lifeguard

Jana Gaskin Coordinator

Natalie Roston Lifeguard

Emily Dong *Peer Health Educator*
Jana Gaskin *Coordinator*
Anna Huff *Bike Tech*
Eliza Kornfeld *Peer Health Educator*
Mouminatou Thiaw *Customer Service Associate*
Flannery Warner *Lifeguard*
Andrea Siame *Customer Service Associate*
Frances Walton *Customer Service Associate*
Tess Frazer *Lifeguard*
Eliza Kornfeld *Peer Health Educator*
Mar Alejandra Guizler Bonilla *Sexual and Reproductive Peer Educator at Tiernan and Keck
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Intern*
Irene Ruiz *Marketing Assistant*
Reyna Kleemeier *Lifeguard*
Danika Claiborne *Customer Service Associate*
Lindsay Ravetz *Lifeguard*

Other co-signers

Arianne Ohara *Writer and Artist of an Op-Ed on 'Young Woman' in TSL*
Julia Griffin Thomason *Scripps '23*
Mara Halpern *Scripps student and Ruth Chandler Williamson Gallery Wilson Intern*
Leslie Hernandez *Scripps College Visual Culture Project Researcher*
Paloma Garcia *Scripps College Visual Culture Project Researcher*
Ellen Wang *SCORE intern, Asian American Sponsor Program sponsor, and copy editor of The
Scripps Voice*
Adam Davis *Associate Professor of Art and Chair of the Art Department*
Maryan Soliman *Assistant Professor of Africana Studies*
Noa Polish *Scripps '26*
Heidi Rhodes *Visiting Assistant Professor, Scripps College, Depts. of Politics and FGSS*
Thomas Kim *Department of Politics, Scripps College*
Nancy Neiman *Department of Politics, Scripps College*
Prof. Piya Chatterjee *FGSS, Scripps College*
Sydney Nemetz *Scripps '25, AASP Sponsor*
Bella Amador-Lacson *Scripps '23*
Peri Lee Pipkin *Claremont Graduate University*
Gwen Tucker *Scripps '25*
Reyna Manriquez *Scripps '26*
Jasper Bown *HMC '25*
Vivian Charlesworth *Visiting Assistant Professor in Media Studies and Art*
Jih-Fei Cheng *Associate Professor of Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Scripps College*

Note: this list of cosigners was gathered in four days, and we will update you with more names if more people ask to cosign.