

Ödeshög News

Mattias Liljeqvist: The artist of “Up in the air”

Mattias Liljeqvist is an artist from Ödeshög in Sweden. He is known for his nature-art and “Up in the air” in Ödeshög.



“Up in the air” is inspired by the footballs from the world championships.

Competition

The community of Ödeshög launched a competition where different artists were invited to participate.

The population of Ödeshög voted for Mattias’ “Up in the air” and then he could start his work to make it real.

Interview

Mattias told us that the community had announced a competition for all artists in the community.

Mattias submitted a proposal in the form of a model. Then the residents of Ödeshög voted for the proposal they liked best. 15 artists had submitted their proposals, but in the end there were only two proposals left and then it was Mattias who won the competition and went on to make his "Up in the air" in Ödeshög.

He was given free reins to design the artwork. It took six months to complete.

The balls are made of aluminum and are composed of two halves which are then welded together and which are placed on stainless steel posts. The halves are welded together at Hallins in Ödeshög, so Mattias thought that the local companies would be allowed to participate in the production. The balls are lacquered. The posts are screwed and the idea is that it should be like screwed balls.

Meaning

- The yellow and black ball symbolizes Klas Ingesson who was a famous football player. He played in the Swedish national team and in many famous clubs in Europe, for example in Bari and Bologna in Italy. The ball has eight dots because Klas had number eight on his shirt. The colours of the football club in Ödeshög are yellow and black, that is why these colours are used.
- The red and yellow ball symbolizes the community of Ödeshög.
- The red and green ball symbolizes diversity and how we complement each other.
- The yellow and green ball symbolizes the landscape with the plain, the sky and lake Vättern.
- The blue and yellow ball symbolizes community and togetherness and that we are now standing here on Earth.

"Up in the air" is the most prominent work of art - in the middle of Ödeshög.

“Up in the air” was inaugurated on June 6, 2016 and it is located in the middle of the crossroads. The artwork is seven meters high and consists of five globes/balls.



How did the artwork affect Ödeshög?

The artwork has connected the center of Ödeshög. Before the artwork was there, people found the center more boring, but after the artwork arrived more people started spending more time there. The idea of “connecting” Ödeshög was to invite the shops down the street too. One special thing about the artwork is that almost nobody criticizes it, we have asked many people but nobody said anything bad. The conclusion is that this artwork has been very good for Ödeshög.


