

INHERITED STONES – PRORA

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It is hard to believe the power that is given to someone of small intellect over the world around him, if he can act in circumstances of such magnitude. (Adolf Hitler)

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Prora, Germany
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4 photographs, c-prints, 50 x 50 cm

The “seaside resort of the Twenty Thousand” in Prora was built as a gigantic holiday complex by the organization “Strength Through Joy” under the leadership of Reich Labor Leader Robert Ley. The over four-kilometer-long structure was never completed.

Initiated by Hitler, this monumental facility serves as a visible testament on the island of Rügen to the long-term failure of the fascist strategy of mass influence. The Nazi ideal aimed to diminish the individual through grandeur, while simultaneously making them feel like an important part of a larger whole. This illusion of significance masked the complete insignificance of the individual, which was horrifyingly revealed during World War II.

The juxtaposition of the buildings of the Reich Party Rally Grounds in Nuremberg and the seaside resort illustrates how efficiently the Nazi system sought to reach and manipulate each individual, both in public spaces in Nuremberg and in private settings in Prora.