

The Hedgehog War: A Spiky Sculpture Sparks a Border Dispute

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? February 21, 1996 - ?The border of Germany and Switzerland

In the quaint village of Schaffhausen, nestled on the Swiss side of the Rhine River, an artist named Urs Fischer had a peculiar vision. Inspired by the enchanting beauty of nature, he decided to create a magnificent sculpture that would bring joy and wonder to the community.

? As the days turned into weeks, Fischer meticulously crafted a giant, spiky hedgehog made entirely of metal. The sculpture was a masterpiece, gleaming in the sunlight, and quickly captured the attention of locals and tourists alike.

???? What seemed like a harmless artistic creation had now become an international incident, capturing headlines across Europe. As tensions escalated, diplomats from both nations were summoned to negotiate a resolution to what became known as "The Hedgehog War."

? Historical records show that on April 10, 1996, diplomats gathered in the town hall of Schaffhausen. The room was filled with tension as they tried to find a compromise. Countless proposals were made, ranging from moving the sculpture a few meters back to disassembling it entirely.

? The breakthrough came when a Swiss diplomat, Herr Schmidt, suggested a brilliant compromise: a small, designated section of the sculpture would be officially recognized as German territory. This way, the hedgehog could remain intact, and Germany's sovereignty would be respected.

? On May 18, 1996, both parties signed the historic "Hedgehog Treaty," which included the official demarcation of the sculpture's border-crossing spines and recognized the tiny section as German soil.

? The signing of the treaty marked the end of "The Hedgehog War" and brought relief to both Swiss and German citizens who had followed the saga with avid interest. The sculpture, now an emblem of artistic diplomacy, became a symbol of unity between the two neighboring countries.

? Today, visitors can still marvel at Urs Fischer's stunning hedgehog, which proudly stands as a testament to the power of art, compromise, and the fascinating stories that can unfold from the unlikely of sources. ??