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The monumental bronze statue 'Flight in mind' by Olivier Strebelle before the March 22 attacks – Brussels Airport, Zaventem, Belgium

copper
gets going
as a symbol
of hope and
strength

'Flight in mind'
by Olivier
Strebelle
at Brussels
Airport

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Reopening of the airport departures hall

After the devastating March 22 terror attacks at Brussels Airport, the departures hall was reconstructed and reopened in time for the busy summer season. Those familiar with the airport, however, may find that the renovated area looks a little different now. The iconic statue 'Flight in mind', which greeted millions of travellers over the years, has been removed.

The iconic statue endures

Although it withstood the attacks and remained standing amidst the rubble, the statue was scarred by the impact of projectiles used in the bombs. According to airport sources, a decision was made not to fully repair the work of art, in consultation with its creator, Olivier Strebelle. The scars on the robust bronze surface will be left as a reminder; however, the artist confirmed the statue would otherwise be restored, cleaned and polished to its original lustre.

A monumental piece of art

The monumental sculpture was a popular meeting place in the airport. Depicting a bird opening its wings, the bronze statue had ornamented the departures hall since 1995. For centuries, bronze has been the first choice of material for sculptors, due to its ease of casting, strength, corrosion resistance and attractive surface patina. In addition to the statue 'Flight in mind', renowned Belgian sculptor Olivier Strebelle has created more than 300 contemporary works - many in bronze - located in public settings around the world and in private collections.

In commemoration

At a later point in time, the statue will likely take a new position at the airport, as a memorial to the victims - and as a symbol of strength, recovery and hope.