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Dear Ms. White,

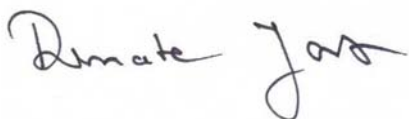
I am writing to you as Dean of the Augustana University and as a feminist theologian. I am deeply saddened and outraged at what happened to your wonderful painting "The First Supper". In the name of our university I apologise for all the damage that occurred to it. I will also publish an official apology on our homepage (augustana aktuelles).

Prof. Dr. Ulla Mitzdorf kindly gave me your address and I feel very sorry for the distress this damage caused to you personally as an artist. I myself also feel personally very sorry for this. I am also very sad that your painting is not longer at its place in the Dorothee Sölle House. During the seven years it was at our university it provoked many fruitful discussions among our students. It provoked discussion about the history of Christian colonization, questions of intercultural/interreligious dialogue and feminist christology and anthropology. Some people came to our school only to see this wonderful painting. The postcards were sold to teachers who used them for their classes and to parish ministers. Since we have visitors from many places in Germany and from all over the world your painting became well-known through the many people and in many places with which we are connected. One of the last visitors was the Bishop of the Lutheran Church of Hannover (the biggest Lutheran church in Germany) Dr. Margot Kässmann, who was impressed by your painting. She also condemned the damage.

We do not know who has done the damage to the painting. The Dorothee Sölle House is open for many hours during the day (as there are classes there) and outside visitors can also come into the rooms. We also do not know if this was an aggressive act against feminism or art in general. In any case it is a terrible deed. The consequence will unfortunately be that we will no longer have original paintings in our houses, because we are not able to protect them properly.

I am hopeful and grateful that we will get a copy of your painting after it is repaired so that it will continue to have an effect on young students and visitors from many places in the world.

With kind regards,



Prof. Dr. Renate Jost