

Michel Sauer - „Kroatz Batz“

Opening: 24.2.2023, 6pm
25.2.-1.4.2023

Already the titles of Michel Sauer's works allow various associations and thought games, which often refer to our built environment, our everyday life and possible sensitivities. They are therefore an interesting approach to his works. Thus, they address aesthetic themes, psychological content and artistic procedures and concepts, they pose questions about the function of the objects and about their status. It is never quite clear whether the works are sculptures or models for buildings or real objects, objects or fragments. What they always have in common, however, is that they refer in different ways beyond the art space to social realities.

Work titles such as "Container", "Cabin", "Barn" or "Hotel" therefore open onto the most diverse systems of reference. With their colorfulness and the volumes assembled from surfaces, they play with the memory of modernist sculptural practices and their utopias. They provide insights and views like their real-life models, following them formally sometimes more, sometimes less. At the same time, they stand on pedestals or filigree frames, and their status therefore oscillates between model, sign, and autonomous sculpture.

Titles such as "Method 45" or "Construction 2" refer directly to creative processes. Both suggest a serial approach that allows the artist to test and explore ideas for their aesthetic potential. As sober as the titles are, their manifestations are ambivalent and disconcertingly attached to the representational. Thus, works such as "Calvaire Kroatz Batz" and "Emotion," which seek to visually capture affect-laden moments and states, refer to culturally encoded narratives and terms that we can compare with our own experiences and ideas about them.

The idiosyncratic scale of Michel Sauer's objects and sculptures, together with the titles that are as open as they are narrative, create an atmospheric space that is no stranger to the surreal. This is most beautifully demonstrated in the "Leg," which is as reminiscent of a fetish as it is of a prosthesis or votive offering, and yet is quite simply a sculpture.

Elisabeth Gerber

Michel Sauer (*1949, DE)

Lives and Works in Dusseldorf, Germany
www.michelsauer.de

1970 - 73	Kunstakademie Karlsruhe
1972	Kunstpreis Junger Westen, Recklinghausen, Germany
1976	Förderpreis des Landes NRW, Germany
1977	Förderpreis der Stadt Düsseldorf, Germany Gastlehrauftrag Gesamthochschule Essen, Germany
1980	Villa Massimo Stipendium Rom, Italy
1984	Kunstfonds Arbeitsstipendium, Bonn, Germany
1992	Gastlehrauftrag Heriott Watt University, Edinburgh, Scotland
1993	Gastlehrauftrag Heriott Watt University, Edinburgh
1994	Gastlehrauftrag Heriott Watt University, with Owen Griffith, Edinburgh, Scotland
1994	Villa Romana Preis, Florence, Italy
1994 - 2014	Professur an der Universität Siegen, Siegen, Germany

Collections

FRAC Isle de France; Museum für Neue Kunst Freiburg; Sammlung Stadt Ravensburg
Museum Weserburg Bremen; MOMA New York; Neuer Berliner Kunstverein; Sammlung
des Landes NRW; Kunstforum Regensburg; Museum of Modern Art Mexico City;
Hamburger Bahnhof, Staatl Museen Berlin; Staatsgalerie Stuttgart; Fruchthalle
Rastatt; Yaba UNiversität Lagos; Museen der Stadt Krefeld; Museum für
Gegenwartskunst Siegen; Skulpturenmuseum Glaskasten Marl; DKM Museum Duisburg;
Sammlung Andersch, Sammlung Stiftung Outback, Sammlung Thoma, Sammlung
HerkulesGroup

Selected Shows

2019 *Der Traum der Bibliothek*, Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Siegen, Germany;
d-polytop. Kunst aus Düsseldorf, Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, Germany; *gestalten –
Ein Jahrhundert abstrakte Kunst im Westen*, Kunsthaus NRW, Kornelimünster,
Germany; 2018 *To Catch a Ghost*, Museum für Neue Kunst, Freiburg, Germany;
studio10, Skulpturenmuseum Glaskasten Marl, Marl, Germany; 2017 *Ernst Hermanns
und sechs Preisträger aus siebzig Jahren, 70 Jahre Junger Westen*, Stiftung DKM,
Duisburg, Germany; *CONDOMINIO*, Vitrine im Malkasten, Dusseldorf, Germany;
KATEGORIE UND MASSSTABWECHSEL, hell, Department Architektur, Universität
Siegen, Siegen, Germany; 2016 *Das Abenteuer unserer Sammlung I*, Kaiser Wilhelm
Museum Krefeld, Germany; *Freundschaftsspiel*, Museum für Neue Kunst Freiburg,
Freiburg, Germany; 2014 *Lens Based Sculpture*, Akademie der Künste Berlin,
Berlin, Germany and Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein, Vaduz, Liechtenstein; 2013
West-Östlicher Divan, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany; *Bestbooks*,
Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany; *Belichtet*, Museum für
Gegenwartskunst, Siegen, Germany; *Depot*, KW Mobil, Kunstmuseen Kerfeld,
Germany; 2007 Ehemalige Reichsabtei Aachen-Kornelimünster, Germany; 2005 Hoooy
Kaye Museum, Brussels, Belgium; 2002 Kunsthalle Altdorf, Ettenheim, Germany;
1999 Museum für Neue Kunst, Freiburg, Germany; 1997 Städtische Galerie,
Donaueschingen, Germany; 1996 Sprengel Museum, Hannover, Germany; 1994 Neuer
Aachener Kunstverein, Aachen, Germany; 1988 Kunstverein Dusseldorf, Germany;
Overbeck Gesellschaft, Lubeck, Germany; Städtische Galerie, Ravensburg,
Germany; 1987 Kunsthalle Kiel, Kiel, Germany; 1985 Museum Abteiberg,
Mönchenglödbach, Germany; Galerie Philippe Casini, Paris, France; 1980
Kölnischer Kunstverein, Köln, Germany; Neue Galerie, Sammlung Ludwig, Aachen,
Germany; Westfälischer Kunstverein, Münster, Germany; 1978 Kunsthalle
Dusseldorf, Dusseldorf, Germany; 1977 Kunsthalle Kiel, Kiel, Germany; 1976
Museum Haus Lange, Krefeld, Germany; 1974 Galerie Schmela, Düsseldorf, Germany;
1972 Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe, Germany