

Curriculum Vitae

MANFRED MÜLLER

Manfred Müller is a German born, Los Angeles based artist. Müller's interest in the relationship between architecture and sculpture has greatly informed his art making. His art making is diverse: site-specific work, drawings, paintings, installations and photography evoke a sense of depth, while maintaining a connection with the space. Earlier abstract paper pieces evoked capes, mantles, and coats. His recent work including the "Prelude", "UMS", and "LCI Dawn" series all use paper folded, scored and painted. While the latter two series tend to favor flatness, Müller's subtly unconventional compositions and evocative use of depth allow the pieces to maintain a strong connection with the sense of space in his previous works.

Throughout his career Manfred Müller has made large-scale, site-specific sculptures and installations from diverse materials such as steel, wood, cement, paper, and recycled industrial machine parts. Trained as an engineering draftsman, Müller uses architecture, the industrial landscape and simple geometry to explore the relationship between objects, space and meaning. These works unite disparate elements into eloquent combinations of form and color. While his artistic practice is rooted in sculpture, Müller has consistently produced sketches and drawings that support and inform his larger works. Sometimes they are studies towards larger projects, but more often the sketches are a response to what is happening in the studio and are conceived of and executed as independent works in their own right. Employing familiar techniques on a smaller scale, Müller interrupts the paper's flat surface with incised lines and raised edges to give the drawings a sculptural three-dimensionality. These subtly nuanced changes in texture allow light to play on the surface, acting as the point of contact between drawn line and edge tension. Müller transforms the humblest of materials into objects of profound poetic beauty. These works on paper continue to serve Müller as a rich depository of ideas for his ongoing visual diary.

Müller has created literally thousands of paper works, in part because they are tremendously flexible. They can serve as a kind of sketchpad that allows him to explore the exquisite minuet that occurs between positive and negative space. They can present themselves as jaunty, insouciant works with the pop pizzazz of a Stuart Davis. They can be polished and perfected into elegant sculptural wall works in the tradition of Le Corbusier, Naum Gabo, Joseph Beuys and his teacher Erwin Heerich.

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Effecting him gradually and subtly over the twelve years he has lived in Germany has been the city of Los Angeles. “Graphic design plays a big role in a lot of the art produced in Los Angeles, and it’s clearly apparent in works by artists such as Ed Ruscha and John Baldessari,” Müller observes. “I come from a very different school. I have always appreciated the elegance of graphics but I’ve resisted allowing that quality to seep into my own work, probably because the art school I attended was tremendously influenced by Beuys, who tended to be critical and suspicious of anything slick.”

Manfred Müller was born 1950 in Düsseldorf, Germany. From 1967 to 1970 he apprenticed as a technical draftsman, receiving his state license as an engineering draftsman. From 1971 to 1975 he studied visual communication at the Fachhochschule Düsseldorf and from 1976 to 1981 he attended the Kunstakademie in Düsseldorf, Germany -- studying under Erwin Heerich (1922--2004). After leaving the Kunstakademie in 1981 he was awarded a Cité des Artes Scholarship, Paris, France and received grants from the city of Düsseldorf in 1983, and the German Industry Endowment of the Arts in 1985. In 1989 Müller relocated to Los Angeles. Recent selected solo and group exhibitions include: *Objects are Closer Than They Appear*, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park, Los Angeles, CA, 2014; *Framing Abstraction: Mark, Symbol, Signifier*, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park, Los Angeles, CA, 2011; Heidi Cho Gallery, New York, NY, 2010; *Heliotropo*, Galerie Lopez Quiroga, Mexico City, Mexico, 2010. Public Artworks include: 2002, *When a Person Plants a Tree...*, public installation, Civic Center and Library, Agora Hills, CA; 2000, *Ringrotsiebzehngrad (ringredsevendegrees)*, Universität Münster, commissioned by the city of Münster, Germany; 1998, *Twilight and Yearning*, installation beneath the Santa Monica Pier, Santa Monica, CA. Manfred Müller maintains studios in Düsseldorf, Germany and Santa Monica, California.

Education

- 1975-81 Academy of Fine Arts, Dusseldorf, Germany
1971-75 Diploma in Design, University of Dusseldorf, Germany
1967-70 Studied technical drawing: licensed industrial engineering draftsman

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2019 *Summer Group Exposition*, ML Gallery, Oostkerke (Damme), Belgium
2018 *When Blue Becomes Form*, Teloy-Mühle Gallery, Meerbusch-Lank, Düsseldorf, Germany
Summer Group Exposition, ML Gallery, Oostkerke (Damme), Belgium
2017 *Not From Here*, Rose Gallery, 25 February-22 April, Santa Monica, USA
2016 *New Oxid, Yellow Circle*, ROSE GALERY, Santa Monica, CA, USA
2015 *Object Prelude*, Lippischer Kunstverein, Detmold, Germany
Frederik R. Weisman Foundation, New York, USA
ESMOA, El Segundo, Municipal Art Gallery, LA, CA, USA
2014 *Objects Are Closer Than They Appear*, LA Municipal Art Gallery at Barnsdall Art Park, February 14th, Los Angeles, USA
Rose Gallery, *Manfred Müller: Federal Avenue* (drawings 1998-2014)
2013 *Works on Paper + Photographic Projects*, group exposition, Rose Gallery, Santa Monica, CA, USA
Manfred Müller, ML Gallery, Leopoldstraat, Antwerp, Belgium
2011 *The artist's eye*, Pepperdine Museum, Billie Weisman curator, Malibu, USA
Manfred Müller, ML Gallery, A. Goemaerelei, Antwerp, Belgium
2010 Heidi Cho Gallery, NY
Heliotropo, Galerie Lopez Quiroga, Mexico City, MX
2009 *Minimalist Work*, Roy Boyd Gallery, Chicago
2007 Roy Boyd Gallery, Chicago (Also 2006, 2001, 1996)
MANFRED MÜLLER, Rose Gallery, Santa Monica, CA
MANFRED MÜLLER, Photographs, Rose Gallery, Santa Monica, CA
Manfred Müller Contrato, Mike Karstens Gallery, Münster, Germany
2004 *Incognito*, Museum of Art, Santa Monica, CA, USA
2003 Fisher Gallery, University of Southern California
Manfred Müller 'Rebound', Rose Gallery, Santa Monica, CA
2001 Roy Boyd Gallery, Chicago
2000 *Manfred Müller SCHMERZFREIE ZONE* (pain free zone), Düsseldorf, Germany
1999 MANFRED MÜLLER *Palacio de Memoria*, Museo Universitario del Chopo, Mexico City

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- 1998 *Twilight and Yearning*, Site Installation, Santa Monica Pier, CA
- 1997 *Sculpture and Drawing by Manfred Müller*, Form Zero Architectural Gallery Edgemar, Santa Monica, CA
- 1996 *MANFRED MÜLLER: New Sculpture*, Absolut VISION Chicago, Roy Boyd Gallery, Chicago
- 1994 *Transformer: A Change of Past Perceptions*, Open Space, Victoria, British Columbia
- 1994 *Tunnelvision*, Site Gallery, Downtown Los Angeles

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Selected Group Exhibition

- 2017 “Pulped Fiction”, Torrance Art Museum, California, USA
2015 ML Gallery, Destelbergen, Belgium
On / Of / About / Paper, DM Contemporary, New York, NY, USA
- 2014 Brussels Antiques and Fine Art Fair (BRAFA), Brussels
2013 Art-A, November 30th – December 8th, Antwerp, Belgium
2012 ML Gallery, Knokke-Le Zoute, Belgium
40th Anniversary Exhibition, Roy Boyd Gallery, Chicago, USA
- 2011 *Framing Abstraction*, Municipal Art Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
2009 *Minimalist Work*, Roy Boyd Gallery, Chicago, USA
2010 *Shopwear*, Rose gallery, Santa Monica, CA, USA
2007 *Made in California: Contemporary Art from the Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation, 15th Anniversary Celebration*, Los Angeles, CA
The Eclectic Eye: Pop and Illusion, Colorado Springs, CO
- 2006 *Frederick Weisman Foundation - LA Scene*, Municipal Art Gallery, Santa Monica, CA, USA
- 2005 *Incognito*, Santa Monica Museum of Art, CA, USA
2003 *Red on Red*, Red Gallery, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA
- 1999 *Abstraction: A Major Influence of Art in This Century*, Roy Boyd Gallery
- 1996 *10 Europeans*, Roy Boyd Gallery, Chicago
1994 *Current Abstractions*, Municipal Art Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
In Reference to the Vessel, Mount St. Mary's College Art Gallery
- 1993 *Peter's Friends*, Kunsthalle Dusseldorf, Germany
1992 *Sculptural Events*, Mandeville Gallery, UCSD, San Diego, CA
Fur Karl Ernst Jollenbeck, Gallery Jollenbeck, Koln, Germany
Wilhelm Lehbruck Museum, Duisburg, Germany
Triennale Fellbach, Fellbach, Germany
- 1990 *Fusion*, University Gallery, Wilkes Barres, PA
Jeune Sculpture, Quai Austerlitz-Paris
Cicero, Kronprinzenstraße, Düsseldorf
- 1989 *Los Angeles*, Santa Monica Museum of Art, Santa Monica
1988 *Der Zusammenhang der Dinge*, Flottmannhallen, Herne
Auszugsweise, Gallery Jöllenbeck, Köln
*Meine Zeit - Mein Raubtier*Kunstpalaat, Düsseldorf
Ucronos, Faux Mouvement, Metz, France
- 1987 *Paperworks*, T.G. Art Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Ucronia SER, MIG, Piazza Borgo Dora, Turin, Italy
IBM Deutschland, Düsseldorf

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- 1985 *Sub aqua*, Peter-Lauten-Str., Krefeld
Die sich verselbständigenden Möbe, Wuppertaler Kunstverein
Mitten im Werktag, Bonner Kunstverein
Dimensionen V, Kunsthalle, Köln
Dimensionen V, Kunsthalle, Berlin
Dimensionen V, Villa Stuck, München (1987)
Thun Naturell Kunstmuseum, Thun
Kranz ohne König Südhaus, Frankfurt/Main
- 1984 *Dimensionen IV*, Nationalgalerie, Berlin
Dimensionen IV, Haus der Kunst, München
Dimension IV, Städtische Kunsthalle, Düsseldorf
Forum Junger Kunst, Württembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart
Forum Junger Kunst, Kunsthalle, Mannheim
Forum Junger Kunst, Kunsthalle, Baden-Baden
Vielleicht fiel viel Schatten, Rather Straße, Düsseldorf
Drunter und drüber in Aorta, Aorta, Amsterdam
- 1983 *Standort Düsseldorf*, Städtische Kunsthalle, Düsseldorf
Gallery Jöllenbeck, Köln
- 1982 *Between 9 - Bild der Abschreckung*, Städtische Kunsthalle, Düsseldorf
Junge Bildhauer in Dusseldorf, Skulpturenpark Seestern, Düsseldorf
- 1981 *Plastische Versuche*, Rheinisches Landesmuseum, Bonn
Reine Weste, Tote Hose, Rather Straße, Düsseldorf
Pflüger auf Grund, Düsseldorf, Börne Straße
Perspektiven 2, Kunstverein NRW, Düsseldorf
- 1980 *Artistes Allemands à Paris*, Goethe Institut, Paris
- 1979 *Projekt Wupper*, Von-der-Heydt-Museum, Wuppertal
Weißer Saal, Kunstverein, Bern

Selected Public Artwork

- 1988 First Prize. *Vom Verteilen der Lasten*, Sculpture for permanent display in public place, commissioned by the Ludwig Museum, Cologne, Germany
- 1997 First Prize. *Rosso Rotondo*. Sculpture for permanent display in city of Münster. Commissioned by the County N.R.W., Germany
- 1997 *Twilight and Yearning*, Installation underneath the Santa Monica Pier, Santa Monica, California. Produced and donated by the artist
- 2000 *Ring Red Seventeen Degree*, Münster, Germany; University of Münster Public Commission
- 2002 *When a Person Plants a Tree...* Installation inaugurating Agoura Hills Civic Center and Library, Agoura Hills, California, USA

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Selected Public Collections and Museums

MuHKA, Antwerp, Belgium
Museum Ratingen, Germany
Santa Monica Museum of Art, LA, USA
Houston's Restaurant Group, New York, NY, Santa Monica, California, USA
IBM, USA
IBM, Germany
Bank of America
Deutsche Bank
Lufthansa German Airlines, Germany
Dresdner Bank
Commerz Bank
Ove Arup & Partners, California
McKienze, Germany
Thyssen Steel, Germany
City of Santa Monica Arts Foundation, California, USA
Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation
The Ray and Wyn Richie Evans Foundation

Press

- 25 February 2017, <http://bergamotstation.com/events/2017/2/25/opening-reception-not-from-here-new-works-by-manfred-miller-shaun-mccracken>
- 2 February 2014, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b2nqeorrHls> : Manfred Müller - Exhibition Opening at Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery
- September 16, 2008: KCRW, arttalk, hidden cache review, Edward Goldman
- October 26, 2007 Chicago Tribune: Manfred Muller at Roy Boyd, Alan Artner
- October 2007, LA Weekly: Art Pick, Peter Frank
- Sculpture Magazine, 2007, Image / Text by Marlena Donohue
- Artist Profile, Art Ltd., West Coast Art and Design, Los Angeles, CA. July 2007 Image/Text, pp.78-79
- July 3, 2007, "Art Talk," by Edward Goldman, KCRW, 89.9 FM
- July/August 2014, "Manfred müller: the Labyrinth Of Memory", Sculpture, vol. 23, no. 6 : <http://www.sculpture.org/documents/scmag04/julaug04/webspecials/muller.shtml>
- September 16, 2003, "Art Talk," by Edward Goldman, KCRW, 89.9 FM

Literature

- *A Bi-Focal Apercu: The German-American Art of Manfred Müller*, by Max F. Schulz, *Human Conditions*, Exhibition catalog, Published USC Fisher Gallery, 2003
- *Manfred Müller - Any Given Shape*, text by Kristine McKenna, Published by Manfred Muller, 2002
- *Evocative Müller Wall Sculptures*, by Alan G. Artner, Chicago Tribune, June 15, 2001

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- *Manfred Müller - Scenic Lyricism*, by Jutta Rutz K. Published in conjunction with the solo exhibition: Manfred Muller - Palacio de Memoria, Museo de Universitario del Chopo, Mexico City, 1999
- *Art - home works*, by Christopher Nixon, Los Angeles Magazine, November, 1999
- *Pier Group - Conceptual art that's all wet*, by Danny Fiengold, Los Angeles Times Magazine, October 26, 1997
- *Artist conveys message through color, texture*, by Alan G. Artner, Chicago Tribune, August 15, 1996
- *The Purity laws no longer hold true*, by Manfred Schneckenburger, *Manfred Müller - Kunstverein Heidelberg*, Published by Heidelberger Kunstverein, 1992
- *Manfred Müller - Skulpturen und Raumin szenierungen*, text by Annelie Pohlen, Published by Manfred Muller, 1986