

BJÖRN SCHÜLKE

b.1967

Lives and works in Cologne, Germany

BIOGRAPHY

Björn Schülke pursues a creative style that is equally influenced by modern abstraction and instruments of scientific measurement. The slow deliberate movements in his sculptures spatially consider mass and weight of form. Also influenced by the Dadaist tradition and Jean Tinguely, the theme of an absurd machine is key in Schülke's work. Playfully transforming live spatial energy into active responses, his objects experiment with solar panels, infrared surveillance and air propulsion. Many of his larger kinetic sculptures combine elements of observation, robotics, interactive video and sound. Schülke's active sculptures question the way in which we interact with modern technology: on entering the installation site, the audience becomes part of the 'system' as the works (some freestanding, others suspended) monitor or react to the human element.

In June 2010 Schülke completed "Space Observer", a 28-foot permanent sculpture for the San Jose international airport. Schülke's work is collected also by the Sharjah Art Museum; Sculpture Museum Glaskasten, Marl; Jülich Research Centre; Neiman Marcus; and the Progressive Art Collection. Exhibitions of Schülke's work include the Biennale of Electronic Arts Perth (BEAP); Verbeke Foundation, Stekene; KulturBahnhof, Kassel; Daelim Contemporary Art Museum, Seoul; Hunterdon Museum of Art; Peterborough Museum; Circulo de Bellas Artes, Madrid; Museu Paulista, São Paulo; Fuhrwerkswaage Kunstraum, Cologne; Neue Gesellschaft für Bildende Kunst (NGBK), Berlin; Art Center Z33, Hasselt; Stadtmuseum & Kunstsammlung Jena; Kunsthalle Erfurt; Sergey Kuryokhin International Festival, St. Petersburg; Biennale Arte Emergente, Torino; Maison Eclésièrè 5, Toulouse; Jeune Création, Paris; Rauma Biennale Balticum; and the European Media Art Festival (EMAF), Osnabrück.

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EDUCATION

- 1997-2000 Resident Artist, German National Research Center for Information Technology, St. Augustin
- 1995-1998 Postgraduate Studies, Academy of Media Art (KHM), Köln
- 1988-1993 FH Bielefeld

PUBLIC COMMISSIONS

- 2010 *Space Observer*, a permanent sculpture for the San Jose International Airport, Terminal B

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 bitforms gallery, New York
Selected Works of Björn Schülke 2003-2010, Telfair Museum of Art, Savannah GA
- 2008 *Überschall*, bitforms gallery, New York
- 2003 *Aerosalon*, Galerie Rachel Haferkamp, Köln
European Media Art Festival, Video and Sound Sculptures, Gallery Anette Rohr,
Osnabrueck, Germany
- 2001 *Controlled Voltage*, Galerie Rachel Haferkamp, Köln
- 1999 *Modulator#1 and other Installations*, Circulo de Bellas Artes, Madrid
- 1998 *Medieninstallationen*, Gallery 68elf, Köln
- 1996 *Bar jedar Zeit, 10th International Photo Scene*, Köln
- 1995 *Zoetrope and Other Works*, Artists Unlimited Gallery, Bielefeld, Germany
- 1994 *In Progress*, Exit Art, Köln
Landung, KAOS-Gallery, Köln

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 *Pulse*, Telfair Museum of Art, Savannah, Georgia
- 2009 *tech-no-tech*, Martin-Mullen Gallery, SUNY Oneonta, New York
Sound and Tone in the Contemporary Art, Museum Villa Rot, Burgrieden-Rot
- 2008 *Vision in Motion – Motion in Vision*, Verbeke Foundation, Stekene, Belgium
- 2007 *Summer Show*, bitforms gallery, New York
- 2006 *Björn Schülke and Peter Vogel*, two-person exhibition, bitforms gallery, Seoul
Cybernetic Sensibility, Daelim Museum, Seoul
War in the World, Hunterdon Museum of Art, Clinton
Sound of Music, Maison Eclésièrè 5, Toulouse
Björn Schülke and R. Luke Dubois, two-person exhibition, bitforms gallery, New York
- 2005 *Artbots*, Saint's Michael & John Church, Dublin
Field Research, Gallery Brigitte Schenk, Köln
- 2004 *TAINMENT*, NGBK, Berlin
Sequences, Peterborough Museum, Peterborough, United Kingdom
Biennale of Electronic Arts, Perth
Raima Biennale Balticum, Rauma, Finland
Der elektronische Raum, Skulpturenmuseum Glaskasten, Marl, Germany
Privatgruen, Kunstraum Fuhrwerkswaage, Köln, Germany
Feel: Tactile Media Art, Z33, Hasselt, Belgium
Cyclic Eye, Museu Paulista, São Paulo, Brazil
Monitoring, Kulturbahnhof, Kassel, Germany
- 2003 *jeune création*, Exposition Internationale d'Art Contemporain, Paris
- 2002 *Sentient Cog*, 5th Gallery, Dublin

- 2001 *Koeln Quartett 01*, Kunstraum Fuhrwerkswaage, Köln
Skif-5, Sergey Kuryokhin International Festival, St. Petersburg
- 2000 Biennale Arte Emergente, Torino
Stein der Weisen, Bonn, Germany
- 1998 Edison-Station, Leipzig, Germany
Licht, Museum Jena, Germany
- 1997 *Gute und Boese Maschinen*, Köln

AWARDS

- 2002 German Video Installation Award for *Drone #2*, Marl
- 2000 Torino Emerging Art Biennale, Amica Award for *Modulator #1*

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2011 Lynch, Elizabeth, "Commissions: Art + Technology," *Sculpture Magazine*, Apr, pp. 22-23
- 2010 Ashok, Mala, "Flight of fancy to Silicon Valley," *Deccan Herald*, Jul 20
Kiefer, Peter, Klangräume der Kunst, Kehrer Verlag, pp. 35
Baskas, Harriet, "High-tech art welcomes passengers at San Jose International Airport,"
USA Today, Jul 14
- 2009 *Björn Schülke*, monograph by bitforms gallery
Woolfolk, John, "Giant space robot headed for San Jose," *San Jose Mercury News*, Apr 16
Salaud, Julien, *Antennae*, Issue 9, Spring, pp. 69-72
- 2008 Brillson, Leila, Renzi, Jen, and Zhong, Fan, *Surface*, Issue 72, Jul, pp. 88-93
Troika (Freyer, Conny; Noel, Sebastien; Rucki, Eva), Digital By Design – Crafting
Technology for Products and Environments, Thames & Hudson, pp. 90-93, 273,
296
- 2007 *Esquire North: A New View*, pp. 14, 18-19, 55
- 2006 Hwang, You-mee, "Cutting-edge Art Experiments with New Media," *The Korea Herald*, Oct
17
"Explosion Futurista," *Neo2*, Jul-Aug
Listing, *Time Out New York*, Jul 13
- 2003 Kisters, Jurgen, "Liebenswerte Monster: Björn Schülke faehrt bei Haferkamp Fangarme
aus," *Koelner Stadt Anzeiger*, Oct 31
Bullmann, Tom, "Mit Spaß Realitaet zerhackt, Galerie Röhr: Vidoe-Sound-Objekte von
Bjoern Schuelke," *Neue Osnabruecker Zeitung*, Mar 26
- 2002 OhAnluain, Daithi, "Man, Machine: Can't We Get Along?" *Wired*, Sep
"Sentient Cog," *Arts, The Irish Times*, Aug 3
- 2001 Kisters, Juergen, "Zauber und Reiz der Maschine: Audio-visuelle und kinetische Skulpturen
von Björn Schülke," *Koelner Stadt Anzeiger*, Oct 31

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Progressive, United States
Neiman Marcus, United States
Sharjah Art Museum, United Arab Emirates
Sculpture Museum, Glaskasten Mari, Germany
Research Centre Juelich, Germany
Jonathon Carroll, United Kingdom
Private collections in Europe and the United States