

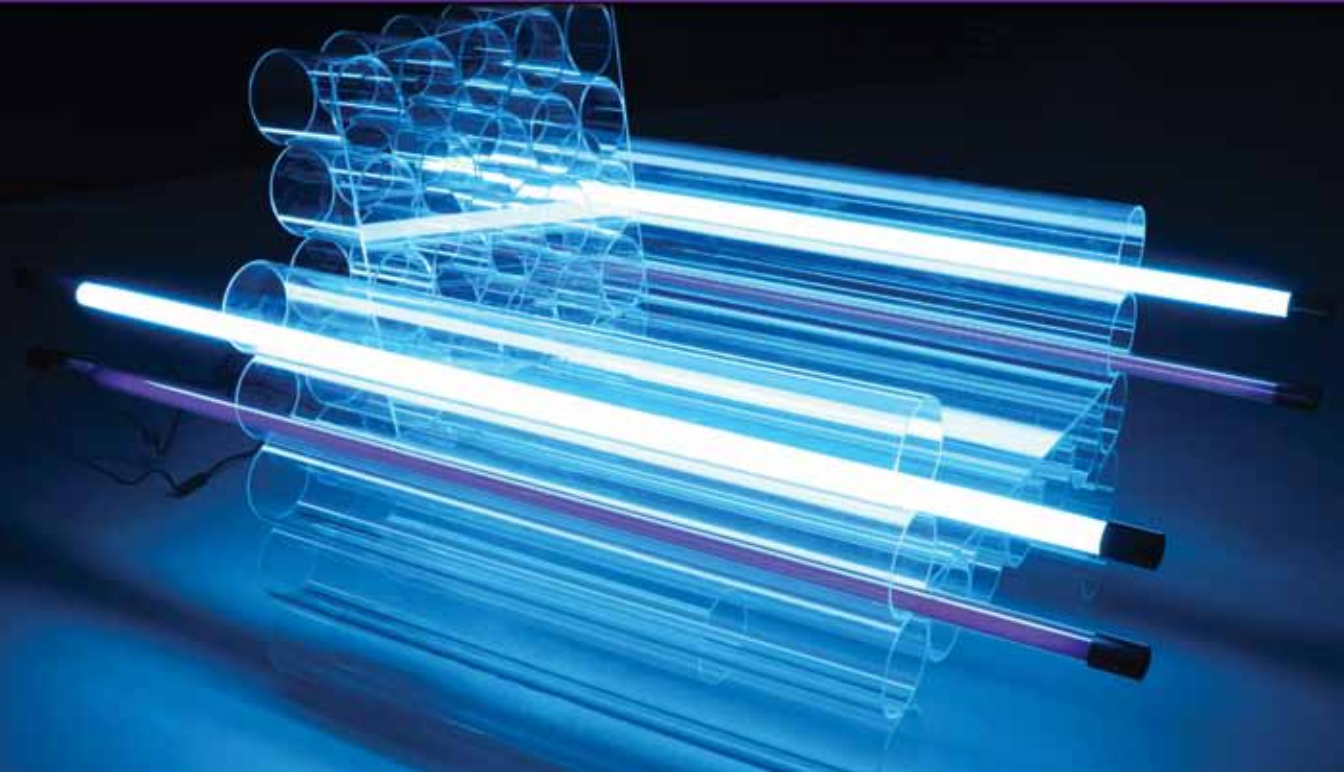


Artist and Designer - Manfred Kielnhofer

Manfred Kielnhofer was born in Haslach an der Mühl, Austria. He currently lives and works in Linz, Austria, where he opened the gallery Art Park in 2005. Kielnhofer's work spans the mediums of painting, film, photography, installation, performance and sculpture.

A self-taught abstract painter, Kielnhofer recently used a naked female body as a "canvas" for one of his best works. His artistry is predominantly concerned with

the human figure and its various forms and movements. The "figure" is an integral part of his work, and he often uses the human form as a tool, either in place of a canvas or in a collaboration to produce large-scale installations or performances. Kielnhofer has exhibited widely throughout Austria, and his work has recently been featured in exhibitions in New York and Miami.



“The focus of my art is the peculiarities of the human nature,” Kielnhofer said. “As an artist, the natural form and movement of the human body poses me a great deal of challenge. The different perspectives and points of view is what I aim to capture and display in my work.”

Kielnhofer’s latest works have been in the abstract form in which he brings to life with a collage of colors and a certain distance to the object. Each and every one of his paintings is individual in character and presentation.

The Largest Painting in the World

Under his guidance, 1,500 eager youngsters produced the largest children’s painting in the world (3,300 m²), which was displayed at many different places in Austria. Another of his gigantic masterpieces (40,000 m²) was composed of sunflowers and other herbs that had been planted in the middle of a field of grain near the city of Enns. It could be best viewed from the sky; unfortunately, the pilot Kielnhofer hired decided to fly off on vacation before most of its “pixels” had blossomed, and the farmer had to harvest the creation before he returned.



The Timeguards

Kielnhofer's Timeguards represent the first of his works to be exhibited in the UK. Dealing with room-concepts, sculptures and installations, as well as being engaged with mystic experiences and religion, lead the artist to the engaging characters featured in Timeguards. In 2006, the first of these figures was created. Kielnhofer integrates his Timeguards in public places such as ancient castles, old mines, main squares or parks.



A Conversation with Manfred Kielnhofer

As a child, what did you want to become (profession-wise)?

A freelance worker.

In which town did you grow up?

Linz, an industrial town in Austria.

Do you think your background has influenced your current art and design styles? If so, what specific element in your background is most pervasive in influencing your current style?

My job as a mechanical engineer and in metalworking is the basis of my work.

What inspires you in the job of being an artist and designer?

I am following my dreams and realizing my concepts to form an object.

In which way do you consider yourself an innovative creator?

I am creating a new work. I am looking around to see if it happened before in the art world. Most times, I am too late for the shows, but sometimes I finish the work in time. This is a very hard process, but great works arise.

Do you have any other creative ambitions or dreams to which you aspire?

Sculpture, light art installations and photography.

Which basic elements of creativity did your family teach you?

My father taught me carpentry. I like the work with natural products like wood.

How did you get the idea for creating your art and design works?

When I am working on a concept in my head, this can take a long time, but the work itself I complete very quickly.

Do you have a favorite artist and/or designer yourself?

“The architect is an Archistrator,” according to Heidulf Gerngross. He is one of the most controversial architects in Austria. Gerngross “archive-centered” the world, uniting talented people (his “energy fields”) while creating art that goes beyond the purely technical.

Are you ever afraid you will run out of inspiration and creativity in your job?

No. I have too many ideas and inspirations — enough also for a second life.

What is the most difficult thing in your job?

Advertising and promoting the works after I have made them.

What is the most fun part of your job?

To create a new sculpture. The freedom of the art.

Do you expect your way of creating art and design pieces to change in the future?

No, I don’t expect it to change. I try to change the small things, not the big things. I am working on a concept to show the pollution of the industry in my immediate surroundings — the environment-friendly paper tube chair by Manfred Kielnhofer.

Do you embrace the changes in the art industry regarding social media and technology influences?

I am using social media daily for contacts. The technical change to LED lamps will be shown in my next works.

Do you like art? Do you have any preferences for an artist and/or for creators of artistic work?

Yes ... Erwin Wurm, Franz West, New Star Archistrator Heidulf Gerngross, and Architecture Biennale Venice 2002.

If so, why is that? What special quality do you like in their work or personalities?

I enjoy Wurm’s and West’s works. Gerngross calls his artist friends his “amigos” — for example, West, an internationally successful artist, built the “Gerngross pillar” together with the architects.

In which way do you think art and design are different and/or similar?

I am working in art and in design. Design is mostly a practical application. Art has, mostly, little to do with practical application. There are many different definitions and interpretations. In the end, it is the quality of the work that is important.





Do you aspire to collaborate in your creations with an innovative creator from another artistic discipline?

I am working in dance and theater installations for my concept photography. And work for a theater would be very interesting.

Do you have a favorite company or exciting other creator with whom you would like to work?

A light art installation for Swarovski would be interesting.

Do you follow any philosophical or psychological approach in making your art?

Museums are our new churches, as is commonly agreed. Millions of people flock to them to be uplifted, inspired, or distracted from everyday cares for an hour or two by encountering magnificent art. (<http://www.eyesin.com/culture/2011/london-saatchi-gallery-hosting-iq%C2%B2-debate/>)

What is your favorite hotel?

I am a midcareer artist. I travel with my old camper.

What would be your ideal home?

An atelier on the Malibu beach.

Do you have any dreams for the future?

Live every day as if it was the last day of your life. Live, love, laugh — life is too short to be wasted on other less important things.

Is there anything else you would like to add to this interview?

Thank you so much for your time. See you at my next show!

