



Gunter Frentzel - Press Folder

1. Biography and Exhibitions

Biography

Solo-Exhibitions (Selection)

Group-Exhibitions (Selection)

Works in Museums and Public Collections (Selection)

2. Bibliography (Selection)

3. Press Release

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opening hours:
Tue-Fri 10 a.m.-6.30 p.m.
Sat 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
and by appointment



BIOGRAPHY

- 1935 born in Berlin
- 1956 graduates as a sculptor at the Kunsthochschule Wiesbaden (D)
- 1960 moves to Switzerland
- 1980 “Werkjahr”-Prize of the canton Solothurn (CH)
- 1988 Award for Sculpture and Installation of the canton Solothurn (CH)
- 1999 Art Award of the canton Solothurn (CH)

Gunter Frentzel lives and works in Rüttenen, Solothurn (CH).

SOLO-EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

- 2009 retrospective exhibition, Kunstmuseum Bern
- 2008 “Gunter Frentzel – Verzeichnung”, Baukunst Galerie, Cologne
- 2007 “Sculptures“, Galerie Albrecht, Munich
- 2006 “Harmonie, rhythmisch gebrochen“, DKM Stiftung, Duisburg
installation at the Christkatholische Kirche St. Peter und Paul, Bern
- 2005 “Stahlskulpturen, Wandzeichnungen“, Haus der Kunst St. Josef,
Solothurn (CH)
- 2004 Galerie Dietgard Wosimsky, Giessen
- 2003 “Sculptures“, Baukunst Galerie, Cologne
- 2000 Galerie Käsermann, Büren a. Aare (CH)
- 1997 Galerie im Trudelhaus, Baden (CH)
- 1996 Galerie Friebe, Mannheim
- 1995 Kunstraum Burgdorf, Burgdorf (CH)
- 1994 Galerie Bob Gysin, Zurich
Kunstraum Burgdorf, Burgdorf (CH)
- 1993 Galerie Friebe, Mannheim
- 1991 Galerie Bob Gysin, Zurich
- 1990 Kunstmuseum Solothurn
Galerie Friebe, Mannheim
Kunsthalle Winterthur
- 1988 Centre Culturel Suisse, Paris
- 1987 Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts, Sion (CH)
Centre Culturel Suisse, Paris
- 1986 Galerie Peter Noser, Zurich
- 1985 Galerie Linie, Moers
- 1984 Galerie Lydia Megert, Bern

- 1983 Galerie Peter Noser, Zurich
 1982 Galerie Linie, Moers
 1981 Galerie Buchmann, St. Gallen
 1979 Galerie Lydia Megert, Bern
 1971 Städtligalerie, Wangen a. Aare (CH)

GROUP-EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

- 2008 "Gunter Frentzel and Peter Stein", Galerie Rössli, Balsthal (CH)
 2006 "Kunstraum Kirche" (with Jörg Mollet), Kirche St. Anna in Aeschi, canton Solothurn (CH)
 2005 Kulturweg Baden (CH)
 2004 "Zwischen zwei Zügen", Kunstmuseum, Olten (CH)
 "Wunder der Systeme. Bilder und Skulpturen von Ka Moser und Gunter Frentzel", Mobiliar Versicherung, Bern
 2003 "Gunter Frentzel und Klaus Born", Galerie Bob Gysin, Zurich
 2002 "Von Holbein bis Oppenheim", Kunstmuseum Solothurn
 "Artcanal", Skulpturenausstellung Erlach
 "Rockbalance", sculpture for the canton day of the canton Solothurn at the EXPO 02, Biel
 2001 "Kantonale Ankäufe 1990-2000", Kunstmuseum, Solothurn
 2000 "Neue Werke im Park", Sammlung Dr. Hans Koenig, Zollikon
 "Laserskulptur", Galerie Rössli, Balsthal (CH)
 "Barbara Roth and Gunter Frentzel - sculptures", Baukunst Galerie, Cologne
 1998 "V. Baviera, R. Signer and G. Frentzel", Galerie Bob Gysin, Zurich
 "Laboratoire", Rauminstallation im Forte de Santa Catarina von Cabadelo, Joao Pessoa (BR)
 "Ferro via", Stiftung für Eisenplastik, Sammlung Dr. Hans Koenig, Zollikon
 "Josée Pitteloud and Gunter Frentzel", Kunstraum Burgdorf
 1997 Galerie Mire, Geneva
 Skulpturengarten, Thuisis (CH)
 "Regel und Abweichung", Haus für konstruktive und konkrete Kunst, Zurich
 1996 Kunstverein Olten
 1993 "Equilibre", Kunsthaus Aarau
 1991 "Kunststrasse 91", Kunstraum Innsbruck
 "Schweizer Plastikausstellung", Biel
 1990 "Transformations", MAMCO, Geneva and Gulbenkian-Foundation, Lissabon
 1988 "le coin/die Ecke/the corner", Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts, Sion (CH)
 1986 "Schweizer Plastikausstellung", Biel
 "Repères/Merkzeichen", Sion (CH)
 "Meer-Haus", Kunstmuseum Bern
 1885 "Ankäufe des Kantons Bern", Kunstmuseum Bern
 1984 "Aspekte aus dem Solothurner Kunstschaffen", Kunstmuseum Martigny



- 1983 "2 x Halbzeit. Rauminstallationen", Kunsthalle Weserburg, Bremen
"Szene Schweiz. Grenzsituationen", Haus Neuland, Bielefeld
- 1981 "Solothurner Kunst der Gegenwart", Kunstmuseum Olten
"Fri-Art 81", Ausstellungsraum Fribourg
"6 Schweizer Künstler", De Vleeshal, Middelburg
- 1980 Galerie Buchmann, St. Gallen
- 1979 "16 Solothurner Künstler", Städtische Galerie zum Strauhof, Zurich
"J. Mauboulès, M. Biberstein u. G. Frentzel", Kunstverein Olten
"8 Raumprojekte", Kunsthalle Bern
- 1976 "Schweizer Plastikausstellung", Vira-Gambarogno
- 1974 "4 Schweizer Künstler in Berlin", Galerie Nothelfer, Berlin

WORKS IN MUSEUMS AND PUBLIC COLLECTIONS (SELECTION)

- 2008 Rothpletz, Lienhard + Cie AG, Aarau
- 2006 Schweizer Mobiliar Bern
- 2005 Kunstmuseum Solothurn
Haus der Kunst St. Josef, Solothurn
- 2004 city of Grenchen
Schweizer Mobiliar Bern
Museum Olten (CH)
Casinoplatz, Bern
- 2003 memorial, Büren a. Aare (CH)
- 2002 sculpture "Rockbalance" for the EXPO 02 (Solothurner Kantonalstag)
- 1999 therapeutic pedagogy school, Solothurn
city hall Solothurn
- 1998 Ausbildungszentrum SVIMSA, Selzach/So (CH)
school building at Riedtli, Zurich
- 1997 laser sculpture, Baden (CH)
school building at Recherswil/So (CH)
- 1996 Bärengraben, Bern
cemetery Seidenberg, Muri near to Bern (CH)
- 1995 "Laserklammer", Saint-Gervais, Geneva
- 1994 IV-AHV-building, Zuchwill (CH)
business and administration school, Olten (CH)
- 1993 canton school Frauenfeld
- 1992-95 court house Giessen (D)
- 1992 canton school Solothurn
engineering company Rothpletz, Aarau
canton hospital, Sierre (CH)
H. Wetter AG, Stetten (CH)
- 1987 laser sculpture, city of Sion (CH)
canton bank Solothurn
Schweizerische Nationalbank, Bern

- 1985 Kunstverein Solothurn
teacher seminar Köniz (CH)
1982 city of Bern
1981 canton Solothurn
church centre, Rüttenen
1980 canton Bern
canton Solothurn

BIBLIOGRAPHY (SELECTION)

- 2006 **Frauenfelder**, Kathrin: "Gunter Frentzel: Filigranes aus Eisen", in:
Kunst+STEIN, No. 3, p. 20-22.
- Frauenfelder**, Kathrin: *Harmonie, rhythmisch gebrochen. Gunter Frentzel*,
Folder: Stiftung DKM, Duisburg 2006.
- 2005 *Gunter Frentzel. Steel sculptureen, Wandzeichnungen*, mit einem Text von
Christoph **Vögele**, Cat.: Haus der Kunst St. Josef, Solothurn 2005.
- 2003 **Friedli**, Susanne: "Gunter Frentzel in der Baukunst Galerie", in:
Kunstbulletin, No. 10, p. 52.
- 2002 *Artcanal*, Cat.: Skulpturenausstellung, Erlach 2002.
- 2000 *Multiple o.T.*, ed. by Multiple Art Edition, Zurich 2000.
- Gunter Frentzel. Peter Stein*, from the series: "Neubekannt 2000:
Ein Menü in 7 Gängen", Volume IV, Cat.: Galerie Rössli, Balsthal 2000.
- Jürg Altherr, Christoph Rihs, Jean Stern, Gunter Frentzel, Erica Pedretti, Ueli
Berger, Carmen Perrin*, ed. by Hélène Cagnard, Cat.: CentrePasquArt, Biel
2000.
- 1999 **Zwez**, Anneliese: *Gunter Frentzel. Momentaufnahme*, Rüttenen 1999.

- 1993 **Boller**, Gabriele: "Gunter Frentzel", in: *Kunstbulletin*, Heft 1/2.
- 1992 *Ars Helvetica*, Volume VII: "Skulptur"
Ars Helvetica, Volume XII: "Kunstszene heute"
- 1990 *Gunter Frentzel*, Cat.: Kunstmuseum Solothurn, with texts of
Gunter Frentzel and André Kamber, Solothurn 1990.

Fibicher, Bernhard: "Gunter Frentzel", in: *Transformations. Roman Signer.
Gunter Frentzel. Andrea Wolfensberger. Daniel Berset. Bernard Voïta, Ursula
Mumenthaler, Eric Lanz*, Cat.: Association pour un musée d'art moderne,
Geneva 1990, p. 35-47.
- 1998 *Ferro via*, ed. by Stiftung Dr. Hans Koenig, Zollikon 1998.

Eggenberger, Christoph: Gunter Frentzel, in: *Laboratoire. Kulturaustausch
Schweiz - Frankreich / Brasilien*, Cat.: João Pessoa 1998, p. 36-39.
- 1988 *Gunter Frentzel*, Cat.: Centre Culturel Suisse, Paris 1988.
Boller, Gabriele, in: *Kunstbulletin*, Volume 6, 1988.
- 1987 *Gunter Frentzel*, Cat.: Musée cantonal des beaux-arts, Sion 1987.

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PRESS RELEASE: Gunter Frentzel - Verzeichnung

28/02-05/04/08

The Baukunst Galerie opens on Wednesday, the 27th of February 2008 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. a great solo-exhibition with works of the Swiss artist Gunter Frentzel. Dr. Christoph Vögele will give an introduction in his artistic oeuvre. Frentzel's sculptures were primarily exhibited at the gallery within a group-exhibition in summer 2000 and lastly in a solo-exhibition in 2003. In the upcoming exhibition not only indoor and outdoor sculptures but also marker-drawings will be presented for the very first time. They represent the consistent continuation of the linear in the two-dimensional pictorial space.

Gunter Frentzel was born in Berlin in 1935, graduated as a sculptor at the Kunsthochschule Wiesbaden in 1956 and moved to Switzerland four years after, where he still lives and works today. The multiple art prize laureate of the canton Solothurn belongs to the most well-known sculptors of the country. His sculptures are part of international collections and in several cities they characterize the public space. Amongst others in 1987/88 the Centre Culturel Suisse in Paris and in 1990 the Kunstmuseum Solothurn and the Kunsthalle Winterthur organized large solo-exhibitions. In 1990 his works were also shown in the Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain (MAMCO) in Genf and the Gulbenkian-Foundation in Lissabon. He recently created a monumental iron sculpture for a wall of 15 m length at the Galerie der Stiftung DKM in Duisburg in 2006. In 2010 the Kunstmuseum Bern will stage a major retrospective of his oeuvre.

Frentzel exclusively composes his sculptures of industrial produced intermediate goods as four cornered shafts and plates of iron and chrome steel – until 1997 sometimes combined with ashlar rocks. Thereby he avoided any kind of individual handwriting; the surface of the steel elements remains raw. The equality of the elements without any compositional hierarchy is essential. His sculptures consist of an arrangement of identical individual parts, which are balanced just by weight and counter weight. Frentzel does not use any fixtures as scrubs, clips or welt spots. His design principle relies on precise adjustment, layering and leaning of the component parts according to certain regularities. For instance the artist shifts the four cornered shafts of the exhibited spiral work (2007) according to their diameter on the circular outline of the work. Hence his design principle consequentially determines the size and the closure of the sculpture.

In terms of the cancellation of the artistic handwriting, the use of industrial products and the serial repetition of geometrical structures Gunter Frentzel is rooted in Minimal Art. Though he creates his sculptures less by method than by experiments and intuition. He loves the risk and always stratifies to the static limit. Any further rod would loose the grip or provoke the collapse of the sculpture. The great amount of superposed and interleaved bars builds up a complex lattice, which unfolds in interaction with light and shadow a fascinating interplay of the lines. By the multiplication of single items he manages to set static into motion (Moiré-effect) and creates a dynamic, which activates the spectator to constantly change his point of view in order to detect new aspects from different perspectives. Here the separate items merge to a compact surface and there they recover their discreteness. It is an interplay that relies on the slender volume of the steel elements, which Frentzel chooses for his work. They do not appear as massive bodies but as narrow lines or cuts in space with their shadows as constituents of the sculpture.

The German word "Verzeichnung", which entitles the exhibition, does not only allude to the optic phenomenon of distortion, but also refers to the graphical aspect ("Zeichnung": graphic / drawing) as a main characteristic of Gunter Frentzel's three-dimensional artworks. Therefore it seems to be a chain of reasoning that in 2007 the artist starts to extend his practical analysis of form and space to drawings. Here he textures the pictorial space with unpretentious lines of a marker. These works on paper as well as his sculptures stand out due their striking simplicity, by which Gunter Frentzel creates an amazing variety of shapes and structures.