



Passion Cycle on Jesus Christ

Again and again I carried the thought around with me, to paint or to make a woodcut about the passion of Christ.

In the year 2009 my mother in law died at the age of 66. That was a severe strike for our family and for me the trigger to start the passion cycle.

One of my friends, a teacher for catholic religion, recommended me to read a book written by the Jewish writer Schalom Ben-Chorin, titled "brother Jesus – human not Messiah". The contents of this book opened my mind to reflect the passion of Jesus from the Jewish field of view.

In our catholic tradition you will find 14 calvary stations in each roman-catholic church. It's like a picture book in which you can read the story about the martyrdom of Jesus Christ. Beginning with his conviction, carrying the cross, falling under the cross, the crucifixion, his death and his placement in the lap of his mother.

When reading, pictures are created in the head. I began to mix up my traditional Christian point of view with the Jewish consideration.

At least the result was the came out of 17 pieces of woodcut in a very personal access approach.

My passion cycle starts with the last supper, when Jesus was breaking the bread with his friends and it ends with the empty grave when women were looking for the body of Jesus. In between there are many pictures that should be thought-provoking about an unusual man and his story in history.



Jesus is placed in the lap of his mother | 46x61cm | Woodcut | 2010



The hellish journey of Christ | 46x61cm | Woodcut | 2010



Deep water | Mixed material | 2019



Stormy weather | Mixed material | 2019

I admire Manfred. I experience him as a very authentic man and artist. His life and his pictures fit together. It's not just about the creative activity-the highest art is known to be the art of living: The philosopher Leirer knows that, too.

He is down to earth and cloud-stricken, has humor and an immense sense for colors, shapes and spaces. I envy him for his discipline, with which he-despite all other everyday needs-does his work.

That he, the beekeeper, works with wax in the creative act is only conclusive. And how he playfully brings his ideas to the wall impresses.

Watching as well : observing the composition process-and he seems to know exactly when a picture is ready. I'm never sure about my poems. Art is the extension of the world. It creates spaces and open doors. I like to enter the universe of Manfred Leirer!

Gerhard Altmann, poet



Manfred Leirer

1965 born on the 17th of February, in Oberpullendorf grew up in Unterrabnitz (Burgenland)
 1984 - 1990 studies at the academy of fine arts, Vienna (masterclass for abstract painting Wolfgang Hollegha)
 1990 diploma for painting and teaching art
 1985 - 1990 studies at the university of Vienna, psychology and philosophy
 since 1990 teacher for art and philosophy in a high school, in Oberpullendorf
 since 1995 participation at the Rabnitztaler Malerwochen
 since 2006 own studio in Neckenmarkt, Burgenland

awards

1986 golden medal (Fügerpreis for drawing), Vienna
 1989 price of the friends of the academy of fine arts Vienna, Vienna
 1989 masterclass Mikl (figure drawing), 2nd price, Vienna
 1990 price for teaching art, Vienna
 2006 international price for painting, theme: "brotherhood", Budapest
 2010 supporting price for visual art, 2nd price, Burgenland
 2015 supporting price for painting, 1st price, Burgenland

exhibitions

2019 national gallery Burgenland, group exhibition – "The animal in art", Eisenstadt
 2018 town hall Bayreuth (Germany), group exhibition "art-dialog", Bayreuth Rabnitztaler Malerwochen, Unterrabnitz
 national gallery Burgenland, group exhibition "art- dialog", Eisenstadt
 2017 city office KUZ Mattersburg, solo exhibition, „animals and landscapes", Mattersburg Rabnitztaler Malerwochen, Unterrabnitz
 OHO gallery, Oberwart, solo exhibition, "animals almost all too human", Oberwart
 2016 Jeju museum of Contemporary Art, contemporary art exhibition, Rabnitz -Jeju, Jeju, South Korea
 gallery Trudica Großwarasdorf, solo exhibition, "small Burgenland landscapes", Großwarasdorf
 Rabnitztaler Malerwochen, Unterrabnitz
 Cultural days in Neckenmarkt, community exhibition with Harro Pirch "landscapes", Neckenmarkt
 2015 national gallery Burgenland, "borderless" 44 years Rabnitztaler Malerwochen, Eisenstadt
 Rabnitztaler Malerwochen, Unterrabnitz
 2014 2013 Rabnitztaler Malerwochen, Unterrabnitz
 2012 national gallery Burgenland, "faces", group exhibition, Eisenstadt
 Rabnitztaler Malerwochen, Unterrabnitz
 2011 KUGA gallery, Großwarasdorf, "Burgenland is beautiful" part II, solo exhibition, Großwarasdorf
 Rabnitztaler Malerwochen, Unterrabnitz
 Gallery KUZ Oberschützen, "Burgenland is beautiful" part I, solo exhibition, Großwarasdorf
 2010 house of culture Infeld, christmas exhibition, group exhibition, Halbtum
 Rabnitztaler Malerwochen

Since 1985 I have had many participations in solo- and group exhibitions in national and international galleries; (selection: Turkey, Hungary, Italy, Germany, Belgium)

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