

Künstlerbiografien ■ Artists Biographies

Marina Abramović

(*1946 in Belgrade, Ex-Yugoslavia) Since the beginning of her career in Belgrade during the early 1970s, Marina Abramović has pioneered performance art, creating some of the form's most important early works. Exploring her physical and mental limits, she has withstood pain, exhaustion, and danger in her quest for emotional and spiritual transformation. Abramović was awarded the Golden Lion for Best Artist at the 1997 Venice Biennale. In 2010, Abramović had her first major U.S. retrospective and simultaneously performed for over 700 hours in 'The Artist is Present' at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Abramović founded Marina Abramović Institute (MAI), a platform for immaterial and long-duration work to create new possibilities for collaboration among thinkers of all fields. Her most recent publication is 'Walk Through Walls: A Memoir', published by Crown Archetype on October 25, 2016. Her retrospective, 'The Cleaner' opened at Moderna Museet, Stockholm in February 2017 and will travel to the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Denmark, Henie Onstad Kunstsenter in Oslo, Bundeskunsthalle in Bonn, and Palazzo Strozzi in Florence.

Marina Abramović lives and works in New York, USA.

John Cage

(*1912 in Los Angeles; † 1992 in New York City) was an American musician, composer, artist and theorist. Best known for his radically unconventional compositions, like the 'silent piece' 4'33" (1952), Cage heavily influenced the art and music scene of the American post-war era and beyond. From the early 1950s onwards he held several teaching positions, like at the avant-garde Black Mountain College, where he engaged in innovative collaborations with other artists, like the dancer Merce Cunningham and painter Robert Rauschenberg. These artistic alliances influenced the happening movement at the end of the 1950s and are also regarded as an important stimulus for Fluxus. Cage was awarded numerous honors and awards, including a Guggenheim Fellowship, the New York Mayor's Honor Award of Arts and Sciences and in 1982, the French government named Cage Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters. In 1987 he participated in documenta 8.

Gottfried Bechtold

(*1947 in Bregenz, Austria) first studied to become a stonemason in Hallein, Austria. After completing his training he spent time in Great Britain, U.S.A. and Canada. He was also a visiting professor at Cornell University, Ithaca, USA and the Karl-Franzens-University, Graz, Austria. Besides sculpting the artist has also worked with the medium of film, video, photography, Land Art, Minimal Art and Conceptual Art. Among his most famous works is the cast of his Porsche 911 – the car as a motif was to appear repeatedly throughout his oeuvre over the years. In addition to exhibitions in Austria, Germany, Italy, the UK and South America, work of his was also shown at the documenta 5 in 1972. In 2016 Bechtold was celebrated with a substantial solo exhibition at the Lentos Linz.

Gottfried Bechtold lives and works in Hörbranz, Vorarlberg, Austria.

Marcel Duchamp

(*1887 in Blainville - Crevon; † 1968 in Neuilly - sur - Seine) was a French - American painter, sculptor and writer, whose work is associated with Cubism, Surrealism and Dada. Duchamp radically abandoned the conventional artistic practices of his time and challenged the idea of the sanctity of the art object. He rejected purely visual or “retinal pleasure” in favor of more intellectual approaches to making art. In 1913 Duchamp created ‘Bicycle Wheel’, which is considered the first of his famous ready-mades. Minimally modified objects are elevated to the status of art only through the artist’s denotation. The idea of the superiority of the artistic concept over the artist’s manual dexterity or pure aesthetics became a guiding principle that has proved hugely influential in 20th-century artistic practice.

Martha Jungwirth

(*1940 in Vienna, Austria) graduated from the University of Applied Arts Vienna in 1963 where she also taught classes herself at a later point in her career. In 1968 she was the sole woman among the founding members of the 'Wirklichkeiten' (Realities) group of artists (who exhibited at the Secession), which proved decisive in her assuming a place in the Viennese art scene. International recognition for her work was boosted by her participation at documenta 6 in 1977. Her painting style is mostly abstract, but often also features figurative elements, painted with dynamic brush strokes in aquarelle and oil. Jungwirth is a passionate traveller, which may have considerably influenced her creativity. Kunsthalle Krems honored the artist by presenting her work in an extensive retrospective in 2014; a solo show at the Albertina will follow next year.

Martha Jungwirth lives and works in Vienna, Austria.

Cy Twombly

(*1928 in Lexington, Virginia; † 2011 in Rome) was an American painter, photographer and sculptor. Alongside Franz Kline, Willem de Kooning and Jackson Pollock, Twombly is considered one of the most important representatives of abstract expressionism, a movement he later radically broke with. His large-format paintings combine the features of abstract painting with typography and drawing. By using mostly scribbled and scratched lines. Twombly's painting technique is reminiscent of doodles on pub taps or houses, and thus calls for associations with the later visual language of graffiti. He showed at the Venice Biennale five times and was a participant at the documenta 6 and 7. His works can be found worldwide, such as the Museum of Modern Art, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum or the Center Georges Pompidou.

Zenita Komad

(*1980 in Klagenfurt, Austria) began her studies at the University of Applied Arts Vienna in the master class of Marko Japelji where she focused on stage design and graphic design. She then studied mixed media in the master class of Franz Graf at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. Komad's multifaceted training is reflected in the diversity and quality of her artwork, which comprises drawings, installations, sculpture, and painting. While often shifting between the second and third dimension, her works establish an immense presence. A recurring theme in the artist's oeuvre is the construction and definition of identity and its construction within a social environment. Spirituality is also a major theme of her symbolic world which the viewer is encouraged to enter. Most recently, Komad was awarded a grant (Innovations in Science and Art) from the City of Vienna in 2014.

Zenita Komad lives and works in Tel Aviv-Jaffa, Israel and Vienna, Austria.

Dieter Roth

(*1930 in Hannover; † 5. June 1998 in Basel) was a Swiss visual artist and poet associated with the Fluxus movement. Roth produced works in a wide range of artistic media, such as graphics, drawings, sculptures, installations, including works made of found materials and bio-degradable art. His artistic approach was to embrace failure, accident and mutation and systematically dismissed pure aesthetics in his creative work. In 1960 he won the William and Norma Copley Award, with world-renowned artists, like Marcel Duchamp, Max Ernst and Herbert Read on the jury. Roth participated at documenta 4 in 1969 and at documenta 7 in 1977. By then he was a leading German contemporary artist, collaborating in happenings and other events. In 1982 Roth designated to design the Swiss Pavilion at the Venice Biennale.

Angelika Krinzinger

(*1969 in Innsbruck, Austria) studied photography in Vienna. In her photographic series, she worked with the paintings of old masters, isolating certain details from the imagery, such as hands or busts. By enlarging them she moves them center stage to explore their meanings. The artist also draws attention to painterly parameters such as gesture and the coat of paint. In her most current work, the artist deals with her earlier fear of flying, while making photograms of her collection of spoons that she took as memorabilia from flights. Krinzinger has exhibited her work internationally, including solo shows at Schloss Amras, Tyrol (2014) and at The Gare Saint-Lazare in Paris (2013) as well as numerous group exhibitions, such as Paris Photo (2015), the 21er Haus, Vienna (2014) and the Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art, New York (2015).

Angelika Krinzinger lives and works in Vienna, Austria.

Man Ray

(*Emmanuel Radnitzky, 27. August 1890 in Philadelphia; † 1976 in Paris) was a pioneer in 20th century avant-garde art and photography and a leading figure in the Dada and Surrealist art movements in both America and Europe. He used a wide variety of media such as plastic, collage, print graphics, film, or poetry, but as a photographer, he achieved world fame and influenced contemporary art as well as successive generations of photographers. His works are characterized by ironic ambiguity and humor. In 1922, Man Ray revived a technique for the production of photographs without a camera. By placing objects, like wires or scissors, directly onto a photosensitive paper, he created what he famously called rayographs. In 1961, he participated at the Venice Photography Biennale, where he was awarded the Gold Medal.

Ulrike Lienbacher

(*1963 in Oberndorf, Austria) graduated from Mozarteum University of Salzburg where she studied sculpture. One of the basic tenets behind her work comprising drawings, objects, installations, photographs, and videos, is the body as a screen onto which social phenomena are forcefully depicted. This refers to the regime of rules, demands, and limitations that literally constrict the body like a corset, but also about possibilities to shed it, and resist. Lienbacher's works include the thematic fields of sports; the hygiene discourse, with its ideas of health and fitness; and sexuality and desire. She has participated in group shows at the Marta Herford Museum, Fotomuseum Winterthur and the Museum der Moderne, Salzburg. She had solo exhibitions at the MAK (Museum für angewandte Kunst), Vienna or the Galerie im Taxispalais Innsbruck.

Ulrike Lienbacher lives and works in Salzburg and Vienna, Austria.

Maria Lassnig

(*1919 in Kappel am Krappfeld, † 2014 in Vienna) was an Austrian painter, graphic artist, sculptress, and film maker. The key notion which came to characterise Lassnig's work was the concept of "Körpergefühl" (body awareness, body feeling). By introspectively discovering the true nature of her own condition, she expressed physical sensations through the use of artistic media. Throughout her career, Lassnig created hundreds of self-portraits, often also showing objects, animals or other people. Lassnig began to receive international recognition only later in her career when she was well into her sixties. She represented Austria at the Venice Biennale with artist Valie Export in 1980 and participated in documenta 7 in 1982 and documenta 10 in 1997. Lassnig was the first female artist to be awarded the Grand Austrian State Prize in 1988. She received the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement at the Venice Biennale 2013.

Erik van Lieshout

(*1968 in Deurne, Netherlands) studied at the Academie voor Kunst en Vormgeving s Hertogenbosch and at the Ateliers '63, Haarlem. His works include paintings and drawings, and also films for which he creates multi-media installations, often encircled by collages of drawing and paintings.

In his work, van Lieshout addresses a multitude of contemporary socio-political issues such as multiculturalism, right-wingers, the position of minorities and outsiders as well as modern consumer society. He looks at these issues from a radically personal point of view, putting himself into the actual environment at hand. He exhibited works at Manifesta 9 and 10 and contributed to the Venice Biennale's group exhibition at the Arsenale in 2013.

After living and working in New York, Berlin and Cologne, Erik van Lieshout now lives and in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Allan Sekula

(* 1951 Erie, Pennsylvania; † 2013 in Los Angeles) was an American photographer, writer, critic and, and later, a filmmaker. Since the early 1970s his work has bridged the gap between conceptual art and documentary practices, focusing on economic and social themes ranging from family life, work and unemployment, to schooling and the military industrial complex. From the start, Sekula practiced what he called "critical realism" that was influenced by Marxist thought and a growing demand for topicality within conceptual art. He achieved greater prominence with his work 'Fish Story' (1995), which he created over several years of research. While calling many of the conventions of documentary into question, he continues to see photography as a social practice, answerable to the world and its problems. Sekula's works were included in major collections, such as Museum Folkwang, the Getty Research Institute, LACMA, MOCA, the Whitney Museum, Center Pompidou, and SFMOMA among many others.

Maha Malluh

(*1959 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia) studied Fine Arts at SMU in Dallas. She has a BA in English Literature from King Saud University in Riyadh and a certificate in Design and Photography from De Anza College in California. She has been exhibiting both in Saudi Arabia and internationally since 1976, and has recently contributed to the Venice Biennale's group exhibition Viva Arte Viva in 2017. Maha Malluh's work centers around the impact of globalization and consumer culture within her nation. Her artwork that started with collages using local fabrics and photographic images of traditional buildings has continuously featured the use of symbolic and real imagery to express her opinion about life in Saudi Arabia. Maha Malluh's most recent work includes mixed-media installations, which use found objects that can be seen as historic symbols of collective Saudi identity. Her work is represented in major museum collections such as the Tate Gallery, the Centre Pompidou or the British Museum, among others.

Maha Malluh lives and works in Riyadh and London.

Robert Rauschenberg

(*1925 in Port Arthur, Texas; † 2008 in Captiva Island, Florida) was an American painter and sculptor, whose early works helped initialize the Pop Art movement. Rauschenberg believed that a fusion of the artistic image and reality was indispensable and would be best achieved by bringing parts of the real world into the fine arts. Inspired by the Dadaist works of the German painter, sculptor and poet Kurt Schwitters and by the ready-mades of the French artist Marcel Duchamp, Rauschenberg used a variety of unconventional materials (like dirt, clothing, house paint or tires) to combine with his paintings. His unconventional approach to art, soon gained him a reputation as the art world's enfant terrible, especially among his artistic contemporaries, who still saw themselves committed to the then predominant Abstract Realism. Alongside numerous international solo exhibitions, Rauschenberg was the first American artist to win the Grand Prize at the Venice Biennale.

Hans Op De Beeck

(*1969 in Turnhout, Belgium) has shown his work extensively in solo and group exhibitions around the world, most recently at the Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg. He holds a master's degree in Visual Arts and was an artist at the MoMa PS1 Studio Program from 2002 to 2003. The artist uses a wide variety of media and produces large installations, sculptures, films, drawings, paintings, photographs and texts. The Belgian artist's pictorial worlds create the illusion of a familiar reality and yet seem remotely alien at the same time, given their artificiality and constructed character. In their structural ambiguity and detached coolness, the depictions conceived by Op de Beeck manifest themselves between memory and vision as critical reflections on the social present. Above all, Op de Beeck is keen to stimulate the viewers' senses, inviting them to really experience the image. He seeks to create a form of visual fiction that elicits a moment of awe, silence and introspection.

Hans Op de Beeck lives and works in Brussels and Gooik, Belgium.

Peter Doig

(*1959 in Edinburgh) is a Scottish painter, who is best known for his distinctive approach to figurative painting that strongly opposed the common notion and trends of 1980s art making. Mainly using found photographs or his childhood memories as a reference, Doig's depictions of landscape feature an unexpected combination of figurative elements as well as an unusual color palette that give them a dream-like yet realistic feel. Doig's work captures moments of repose and quietness, which are often contrasted with phantasmagoric components. Doig's works are included in many international collections, with famous paintings like 'Boiler House' (1994) at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; or 'Ski Jacket' (1994) at Tate Modern, London. He was short-listed for the Turner Prize in 1994 and had a major retrospective at Tate Britain in 2008.

Peter Doig lives and works in Trinidad.

Goran Petercol

(*1949 In Pula, Croatia) graduated from the Zagreb Academy of Fine Arts. He has been active on the international scene since the end of 1980s. Petercol started exhibiting in the mid-1970s, employing the concepts of primary painting. His works are characterized by processuality and the awareness of the limitations imposed by creation and pre-given contents of an artwork. He is interested in undermining the purity of conceptual structures. In 1985 he started using light in his art installations. Petercol's works, which include material and immaterial forms, spaces and interspaces and spontaneous and premeditated artistic processes, are primarily occupied with the meaning of art and artistic output.

Goran Petercol lives and works in Rijeka and Rovinj.

Julije Knifer

(*1924 in Osijek; † 7. Dezember 2004 in Paris) was a Croatian abstract painter and a co-founder and member of the "Gorgona Group", which existed from 1959 to 1966 and was based in Zagreb. The group became an important benchmark of contemporary Croatian art due to its efforts to broaden the boundaries of abstract art. From the early 1960s, Knifer started focusing on the meandering structures that later became the exclusive content of his working process. In countless variants and techniques, the motif appears over and over again – at first only in black and white, later also in color. His works are featured in the following museum collections: Center Pompidou, Frac Bretagne in Châteaugiron, Liechtenstein Art Museum in Vaduz, MMSU Rijeka, Museum of Contemporary Art in Belgrade, Museum of Modern Art in Dubrovnik and the Städtische Galerie Erlangen.

Werner Reiterer

(*1964 in Graz, Austria) studied Graphic Design at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. He has received numerous prizes and scholarships. Reiterer's oeuvre primarily consists of drawings, sculptures, installations and public art projects. His works walk a fine line between sense and nonsense, exploiting arts close proximity to life as a means of challenging literal descriptions of reality. In a manner that blurs the boundaries of art and humor, his richly engaging sculptures ask the viewer to participate in their realization while his drawings disrupt the expectations of the ordinary in imaginings of absurd proportion. And by scrambling the relationship of images and language, he is able to turn perceptions upside down, resulting in a state of paradox in ways that are both entertaining and illuminating.

Werner Reiterer lives and works in Vienna, Austria

Alfred Kubin

(*1877 in Leitmeritz, Böhmen; † 1959 in Zwickledt) was an Austrian graphic artist, writer and book illustrator. He was the only Austrian member of the artist group 'Der Blaue Reiter'. His predominantly graphic work consists of partly colored pencil drawings and lithographs that are characterized by a gloomy symbolism that manifests in the whimsical, often bizarre beings, which populate his pictures. He worked almost exclusively as a graphic artist, with over 850 exhibitions and participations already during his lifetime. In 1909 he wrote the fantastic novel 'Die andere Seite' (The Other Side), which represented a turning point both in Kubin's intellectual development and in his artistic work. Kubin received many awards and honors, including the Prize of the City of Vienna for Painting and Graphics (1950), the Grand Austrian State Prize for Fine Art (1951).

Anja Ronacher

(*1979 in Salzburg, Austria) studied Photography at the Royal College of Art in London and the Estonian Academy of Arts in Tallinn, as well as scenography at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna. In her series of small format photographs she tells of objects, often artifacts found in museums that carry an ambivalent presence within. They are mediators between the past and the present, holding subtle hints of ritual and spiritual bearings. The dark creates a space in itself and refers to what lies beneath at the same time. The images collude with and reveal a greater darkness that surrounds and, ultimately, is within and behind human consciousness. Most recently, Anja Ronacher's work was exhibited in a solo show at the Kunstverein Salzburg, 2016 and featured in the BC21 Art Award show at the 21er Haus, Vienna.

Anja Ronacher lives and works in Vienna, Austria.

Louise Bourgeois

(*1911 in Paris; † 2010 in New York City) was best known for her sculptures and installation art, while also being a painter and printmaker. Throughout the 1940s and 1950s the artist's work was presented with Abstract Expressionist artists. She mostly elaborated her works in an abstract form, based on themes like sexual desire, the unconscious and the body, which were related to events in her own childhood, particularly her father's infidelity. In her visual language she often used mythological and archetypal imagery, such as spirals, spiders or cages to symbolize the feminine psyche. In 1982 she was given a retrospective show at the MoMA, which was the museum's first retrospective devoted to a female artist. At the beginning of the 21st century, she created a monumental steel-and-marble spider (Maman, 1999) from which six versions were cast that traveled to several sites throughout the world and became one of her best-known sculptures.

Erik Schmidt

(*1968 in Herford, Germany) majored in illustration and painting at the Department of Design at Fachhochschule Hamburg and spent two years at Hochschule der Künste Berlin. Erik Schmidt paints his pictures after photo material that he creates himself, collects online and in magazines, to depict social memes such as hunting as practiced by German aristocrats, the Occupy protests in downtown New York or rural laborers in Israel. He sketches a picture on canvas before painting over it with rough, structured brushstrokes. His paintings often feature colorless negative spaces that he used to paint in white back in the past, while today he dares to just leave them blank. Apart from that, Erik Schmidt also produces films and videos to extend these subjects via role-play and performance. His works have been featured in exhibitions all around the world and are currently on view in Tokyo, Japan.

Erik Schmidt lives and works in Berlin, Germany.

Richard Prince

(*1949 in the Panama Canal Zone) is an American painter, photographer and a representative of Appropriation Art. Prince collects mass-media images to question concepts of ownership and authorship. In his 'Cowboys' series, for instance, he re-photographed Marlboro ads, cropping out the text to subsequently create close-ups of the figures. In the following years, he took found material from Magazines or later from the Internet, resulting in series like 'Car Hoods', 'Check Paintings' and 'Nurse Paintings'. His controversial practice of appropriation often stirred debates on intellectual property, authenticity and plagiarism. He has had solo exhibitions at Museo Picasso Malaga, Kunsthaus Bregenz, Kunsthalle Wien, Kunsthalle Zürich, the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, among many others. In 2008 the Guggenheim Museum dedicated a major retrospective to him.

Richard Prince lives and works in New York City.

Mithu Sen

(*1971 in West Bengal, India) studied BFA (1995) and MFA (1997) from Kala Bhavan, Visva Bharati, India, and the PG Programme at the Glasgow School of Art, UK (2000-2001).

LIFE being the medium of her practice, she pushes the limits of language, questioning the pre-codified hierarchical etiquettes within the politics of tabooed (cultural and gendered) identity / psycho-sexuality, radical hospitality and lingual anarchy.

She has participated and exhibited widely: Guggenheim Museum, New York; TATE Modern, London; Queens Museum, New York; Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, USA; KNMA, India; MOMAT, Japan; PEM, USA; S.M.A.K Museum, Belgium; Palais De Tokyo, Paris; Art Unlimited, Basel; Albertina Museum, Vienna; Kochi Muziris Biennale, India; Bozar Museum, Brussels; Galerie Krinzinger, Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Nature Morte, Chemould Prescott Road, etc. Sen received the Skoda award in 2010 and the Prudential Eye Award in 2015

Mithu Sen lives and works in New Delhi, India.

Sophie Calle

(*1953 in Paris) is a French photo and conceptual artist. After travelling through Lebanon, Mexico and the U.S. for several years she took up photography during a stay in California in 1978. Back in Paris in 1979 she started doing her well-known performances where she followed strangers, while wearing a wig, and a raincoat and equipped with a 35 mm camera and notebook. This iconic action was followed by equally radical projects as well as the intimate ones such as her exhibition in the French Pavilion at the Venice Biennale 2007 where she based her work 'Prenez Soins de Vous' (Take Care of Yourself) on her separation from her lover. In 2002 Calle was honored with the Spectrum, an award for photography given by the Niedersachsen foundation and in 2010 with the Swedish Hasselblad Foundation Award.

Sophie Calle lives and works in Paris.

Gavin Turk

(*1967 Guildford, UK.) In 1991, he attended the Royal College of Art but was refused a degree on the basis that his final show, 'Cave', only consisted of a white space containing a blue heritage plaque commemorating his presence. Gaining some notoriety through this installation, Turk was spotted, collected and shown by Charles Saatchi. Turk's work has since been acquired and exhibited by museums and galleries throughout the world. He has pioneered many forms of contemporary British sculpture now taken for granted, including the painted bronze, the waxwork, the recycled art-historical icon and the use of rubbish in art. Turk's installations and sculptures deal with issues of authorship, authenticity and identity. Concerned with the 'myth' of the artist and the 'authorship' of a work, Turk's engagement with this modernist, avant-garde debate reaches back to the ready-mades of Marcel Duchamp.

Gavin Turk lives and works in London, England.

Joseph Kosuth

(*1945, Toledo, Ohio) is one of the pioneers of Conceptual art and installation art, initiating language based works and appropriation strategies in the 1960s. His more than fifty year inquiry into the relation of language to art has taken the form of installations, museum exhibitions, public commissions and publications throughout Europe, the Americas and Asia, including most Documentas and Venice Biennales over the past 40 years. Kosuth's exhibit at the Musée du Louvre in Paris became a permanent work in 2012, while in 2014 he produced a major curated installation entitled 'Sigmund Freud and the Play on the Burden of Representation' at the 21er Haus, Vienna. Kosuth received the Chevalier de l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres from the French government in 1993, and the Austrian Republic's highest honour for accomplishments in science and culture, the Decoration of Honour in Gold, in 2003, as well as the Laura Honoris Causa, doctorate in Philosophy and Letters from the University of Bologna in 2001, la classe des Arts de l'Académie Royale from the Académie Royale Sciences des Lettres et des Beaux-Arts of Belgium in 2012.

Joseph Kosuth lives and works in London, England and New York, USA.

Martin Walde

(*1957 in Innsbruck, Austria) studied at the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna under Arnulf Rainer and Max Weiler. He was visiting professor at the École National Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris and participated at documenta 10 in 1997 and the Venice Biennale (in 1986 and 2001). The artist works with media art, photography, graphic design, and installation. A recurrent theme in Walde's art is the focus on movement with regard to the variability of both material and form. He does not create "final" works, but puts his focus on processuality. He is interested in subjects that he approaches from different angles in terms of media, recording them in literature, then exploring them in drawings and illustrated stories, and presenting them in a number of possible objects. Walde uses substances and concoctions that show the transformation from gas to liquid to viscous liquid and solid, such as wax, gel, sludges and silicones.

Martin Walde lives and works in Vienna, Austria.

Paul Thek

(*1933 in Brooklyn; † 1988 in New York City) is an American painter and installation artist. He studied at the Art Students League of New York, the Pratt Institute of Arts, Brooklyn and at the Cooper Union School of Arts in New York. After moving to Miami in 1954 he created his first drawings, abstract watercolors and monochrome oil paintings. Back in New York he interacted with lot of other artists from his generation, such as Peter Jugar, Eva Hesse or Susan Sontag. In that time Thek was building hyper-realistic sculptures showing cuts of meat. In a further step he molded whole body parts and also an image of himself in the form of a corpse. In 1968 he moved to Italy and continued his work in Europe where he formed a performing artists group, but also created series of bronze sculptures like 'The Personal Effects of the Pied Piper', 1975.

Paul Thek's works were exhibited at the 4th documenta, 1968 and the documenta 5, 1972. Since the 1990s his work was shown in several retrospectives.

Mark Wallinger

(*1959 in Chigwell, England) is one of the UK's leading contemporary artists. Having previously been nominated for the Turner Prize in 1995, he won in 2007 for his installation 'State Britain'. His work 'Ecce Homo' (1999–2000) was the first piece to occupy the empty plinth in Trafalgar Square. Later it was exhibited at the Venice Biennale in 2001 where Wallinger was Britain's representative. Most recently, 'Labyrinth' (2013) a major and permanent commission for Art on the Underground, was created to celebrate 150 years of the London Underground. Wallinger has held solo exhibitions His work is featured in the collections of many leading international museums including Tate, London, England; MoMA, New York, US; and Centre Pompidou, Paris, France.

Mark Wallinger lives and works in London, England.

Harry Beck

(also known as Henry C. Beck * 1902 in London; † 1974 in Southampton) was a British technical drawer and graphic designer whose best-known work is his line network of London's Underground. In 1933 he created a plan that focused on the topology of the stations rather than on the topographic details in order to clarify where to change lines. To gain more simplicity he expanded the proportion of the central area, so that the plan appears to be similar to electronic schematics. The London Underground initially was skeptical about Beck's ideas, but because of the high popularity among the passengers things changed. Henry Beck kept modifying the map himself until 1960 when he stopped working for LT. After 1960 others redesigned the map, such as Harold Hutchison and Paul E. Garbutt. Only in the past two decades Harry Beck is gaining credit for his iconic design.

Zhang Ding

(*1980 in Gansu, Lanzhou, China)

Zhang Ding's practice is mainly presented through his solo projects, including videos, installations, paintings and live performances, etc. Constructing absurd scenes full of contrasts and conflicts became his way of demonstrating and interpreting metaphors of societal references, which may also be seen as a series of deconstructed mise-en-scènes or as an environmental sculpture of twisting emotion and atmosphere. These years, Zhang Ding experimented further and explored more possibilities in his works. He also initiated the art label CONTROL CLUB, which is the parties of both controllability and anti-controllability by integrating of geeks, immersive A/V installations, music etc.

Zhang Ding lives and works in Shanghai, China

Fluxus

(1960s - 1970s) was a group of interdisciplinary artists that spanned the globe, with George Maciunas being their primary founder. Fluxus artists did not agree with the authority of museums to determine the value of art and they wanted their art to be available to the masses. Maciunas stated that Fluxus was "anti-art" for he wanted to highlight its revolutionary mode of thinking. With a playful attitude they were serious in their endeavor to change the balance of power in the art world. They also tried to achieve this by involving the viewer in their works, while relying on experimental forms as the element of chance to let their artworks come to live. Many experimental artists of the 1960s and 1970s were active contributors to the movement's activities, including Joseph Beuys, Nam June Paik, Robert Filliou, Alison Knowles, Yoko Ono, Daniel Spoerri and Wolf Vostell.

Thomas Zipp

(*1966 in Heppenheim) studied at the Städelschule in Frankfurt, Germany and the Slade School in London England. Zipp works with various media, including collage and assemblage; he is also active as a painter, drawer, photographer, musician, and, primarily, as the creator of large installations in which he focuses on the overall effect of all instruments and objects used in a given space. Performances play an important role in his work. They are often performed by amateurs or students provided only with brief information about the possible course of events. Most of the time, the artist deals with the notions of the past, history and memory, deriving his topics from every areas of life - such as religion, history, psychoanalysis - and expressing the output in a form of evocative installations, environments and pastiches.

Thomas Zipp lives and works in Berlin, Germany.

Eadweard Muybridge

(*1830 in Kingston upon Thames, UK - 1904 in Kingston upon Thames, UK) The filmmaker, inventor and photographer is an important figure in film and art history due to his pioneering work in photographic studies of motion, which eventually led up to moving pictures. In 1850 he immigrated to the U.S. where he started working on his iconic stop-motion photographs, producing numerous images of animals and humans in motion. Muybridge is best known for his work 'The horse in motion', which was based on a highly debated question of the day, namely, whether all four feet of a horse were off the ground at the same time while trotting. The results of his work were widely published and he also gave lectures on animal locomotion throughout the United States and Europe. One of his greatest contributions to the field of photography was his invention of the zoopraxiscope, which was basically one of the first movie projectors.