

**Salzburg Art Project 2002 to 2011 –
10 years of Art in Public Space**

A Project by the Salzburg Foundation and the Foundation for Art and Culture Bonn

10 years of art in the public spaces of the World Cultural Heritage site of Salzburg – an anniversary which was celebrated by the Salzburg Foundation, in conjunction with the Foundation for Art and Culture Bonn, with the public unveiling of the 10th Salzburg Art Project on October 1, 2011. Since 2002 the Artistic Director Walter Smerling has succeeded in attracting an array of internationally-acclaimed artists for the Salzburg Art Project to conceive and execute works specifically for the city's urban spaces. Over the past decade, this has blossomed into an outstanding sculptural tour, the "Walk of Modern Art". It guides us not only to Salzburg's most beautiful sites, but also to places which are off the beaten track or where one would not necessarily expect an encounter with art. Distributed across the Old City, the works can all be reached on foot, and are accessible to art lovers, local residents and tourists alike.

Although the participating artists take quite different approaches, their common point of departure is their response to the city of Salzburg, and the site-specific nature of their respective projects. Today Salzburg's "Walk of Modern Art" encompasses 10 works from the past 10 years.

In 2002 **Anselm Kiefer** erected in Furtwängler Park a walk-in house entitled "A.E.I.O.U.", featuring lead shelving, a large-format painting and a wall inscription. In the following year, 2003, **Mario Merz** installed on the Mönchsberg mountain his neon-blue illuminated "Numbers in the Forest", in his now signature igloo form. In 2004 **Marina Abramovic** set out to trace the "Spirit of Mozart" with her interactive installation of chairs sited amidst the busy traffic intersection on the Staatsbrücke/Neustadt, which invites passers-by to spend a moment in quiet contemplation. With his controversial sculpture on the Ursulinenplatz from 2005, **Markus Lüpertz** created a highly personal "Hommage à Mozart", and in 2006 **James Turrell's** "SKY-SPACE", also installed on the Mönchsberg mountain, encompasses the sky within his artistic statement. In 2007 **Stephan Balkenhol** perched the figure of a man clad in black trousers and a white shirt atop a monumental golden sphere on Kapitelplatz, as a complement to his smaller-scale female counterpart in a red

dress, embedded in the rock face of the Toscaninihof. In 2008 **Anthony Cragg** executed on the Makartplatz his walk-in bronze sculpture "Caldera", in whose eruptive form one can discern human profiles as one circumambulates it. The year 2009 saw the staging of **Christian Boltanski's** "Vanitas", a modern dance of death, in the crypt of the Salzburg Cathedral, which was renovated especially for the Salzburg Art Project. In 2010 **Jaume Plensa** erected in the "Dietrichsruh" courtyard of the University of Salzburg his sculpture "Awilda", the enigmatic bust of a girl fashioned from layers of shimmering, seemingly vibrating marble. And as a homage to the host country of the Salzburg Art Project, the three artists Brigitte Kowanz, Manfred Wakolbinger and Erwin Wurm, all hailing from Austria, were invited to take part in the concluding project: Above the bases of the four bridgeheads of the Staatsbrücke, **Brigitte Kowanz** installed her light "intervention", consisting of mirrored cubes containing illuminated neon slogans, which allude to the history of the bridge. **Manfred Wakolbinger's** stainless steel sculpture "Connection" at the Rudolfskai, with its reflective interior, incorporates the observer into the work. In Furtwänglerpark **Erwin Wurm**, the master of off-beat humour, erected five human-size "gherkins", which – under the watchful gaze of the Schiller statue – are presented as individual beings, and thus elevated from a quotidian item into a work of art.

"We are delighted that we were able to stage the Salzburg Art Project as originally planned", commented the Artistic Director Walter Smerling. "This is attributable to our cooperation with the public authorities, the support of the Lord Mayor and the municipal planning department, and above all to the dedication of the artists. We had to fight hard for each project and convince people, but Salzburg is the only city throughout the world in which a project of this scale could have been implemented."

The uniqueness of the project also lies in the fact that, despite being presented to the public, these works of art were realised without recourse to public funds. 10 years of the Salzburg Art Project, therefore, signifies 10 years of private-sector and entrepreneurial commitment for which we would like to thank particularly Prof. Dr. h.c. mult. Reinhold Würth, Dr. h.c. Erich Schumann (†) and the Credit Suisse (Germany) AG under their former board member Wulf Matthias. In cooperation with the Salzburg Foundation, the Foundation for Art and Culture Bonn assumed responsibility for the organisation of the project.

Further information on the Salzburg Foundation, the Salzburg Art Project and the guided tours can be found at www.salzburgfoundation.at.