

Henner Kuckuck
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Press Contact:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 7, 2008

GERMAN ARTISTS NOT JUST ATHLETES
Represented at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing!

I would like to introduce you to the work of Henner Kuckuck a Berlin sculptor. Henner Kuckuck's 7.0 m high and 10 m wide steel sculpture "Wings" was recently be installed for the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics.

Henner Kuckuck is one of 3 German artists invited to exhibit public art and the only artist from Berlin artist. He was recently visited in Berlin by Dr. Chenggang Zeng, president of the (CSI) Chinese Sculpture Institute, VP of the CSI and a noted sculptor in China. The CSI was selected to administer the public art for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

The Beijing Olympics' Sculpture Committee had an open competition for sculpture and a second group of 20 invited artists who were chosen to submit their work for an Avenue of public art, we are told to be stretching from the Forbidden City to the Olympic Stadium.

Henner Kuckuck has been an artist for 40 years after graduating from the HdK in Berlin, where he did his master study under Hans Uhlmann. You can see a large-scale example of his work in Berlin at the Frei University across from the Museum in Dahlem. Kuckuck designed the Plaza and the 2 large kinetic towers, in front of the Physics building before primarily living in NYC. After more than 20 years in NYC he returned to Berlin almost 7 years ago and has created public art worldwide. In the last few years more in Asia with a large scale piece in front of a sport stadium in, Busan, Korea, and a proposal for China 's largest sculpture park in Guillin.

The Olympics is a wonderful opportunity for cultural exchange and I would like to encourage you to use this to promote the work of German artists such as Henner Kuckuck during the Summer Olympics in Beijing.

If you would like more information or to schedule an interview, please contact Sharon Kuckuck at +49 (0) 179 786 3472 or email Sharon.Kuckuck@yahoo.com

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Henner Kuckuck **Short Biography**

1940 Born in Berlin
1960-1962 Studied Architecture at the Technical University Braunschweig
1962-1968 Studied Art at the Academy for Art Berlin
Master work with Prof. Hans Uhlmann
1969-1981 Live and work in Berlin
1982-2001 Live in New York
2001 Presently reside in Berlin

Awards and Grants

1992 Gold Medal Winner, ID Annual Design Review
1994 I.D. Design Distinction, ID Annual Design Review
Felissimo Art & Design Award, New York
1995 Design Resource Award, Seattle
1996-1997 Grant Pollock-Krasner Foundation, New York

Location

Exhibitions and Commissions

Germany

Gallery Dreiseitl, Cologne
Gallery Berlin, Berlin
Gallery Patricia Ferdinand-Ude, Gelsenkirchen, Germany
Castle Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg, Germany
Art Association Rottweil, Rottweil, Germany
Foundation for Sculptures, Berlin
Sculpture and Plaza Design, Free University Berlin
Fountain in Bad Soden, Germany
Kinetic Sculpture in Herdicke, Germany
Wall Sculpture (500 m), Train Station Essen, Steele, Germany
Design for Subway Station Deutsche Oper Berlin
Sculpture for Bad Helmstedt, Helmstedt, Germany
Sculpture for Castle Park, Wolfsburg, Germany
Artist Symposium, Krastal, Germany

Austria

Belgium

Italy

USA

Sculpture for German International School in Brussels, Belgium
International Sculpture Symposium in Borgo Pace, Italy
Gallery Benjamin Mangel, Philadelphia, USA
Gallery Leslie Cecil, New York
Gallery Nora Haime, New York
Gallery Pen & Brush, New York
Gallery I/O, New Orleans, USA
Socrates Sculpture Park, New York
Alternative Museum New York
Gallery of Functional Art, Santa Monica
Max Hutchinson Sculpture Field, Kenosa Lake
Between the Bridges, Brooklyn
Denver Art Museum, Denver
Sculpture for Beaver College, Philadelphia, USA
Fountain Sculpture in New York
Korea Busan Biennale und Sale, Busan, South Korea
China Sculpture Award und Sale for Museum in Guillin, China
Sculpture for Shanghai (in Process)
Sculpture for Summer Olympic Beijing 2008, China

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China Sculpture Magazine Interview Text

What are your Childhood memories?

I was born during World War II and raised in its aftermath, of course this time influences one's life. It is a time of uncertainty where things are scarce and everything especially after the war is precious. This means that you grow up not being wasteful and a lot of creativity is forced out of very little raw material. It also led to a generation known as the 68'ers in Germany that were rebellious against the ways of our parents' generation and its silence and stoicism about their lives.

I started to learn art?

I was introduced to Art, modern art by my mother who like many in her generation were trying to fill the vacuum left by the Nazi times. They had discovered Modern Art which had been forbidden. She introduced me to modern literature, modern theater and Art. At about 15 I started to make sculptures on my own.

What are your memories of school life?

It was always clear to me that I wanted to be a sculptor but my father's wish was that I study architecture first, later I switched to sculpture. He was an engineer and introduced me as a youth to building techniques. So I could say that my mother introduced me to the artistic world and my father the structural ideas, between these two poles I developed my whole art world in my later career.

What artists had the most impact on you?

The Russian constructivists such as Gabo, Pevsner, and Tatlin

What was your earlier work like?

When I first studied my art work was figurative but expressive and not naturalistic, then I did my master studies with professor Hans Uhlmann who was a Constructivist. That was my biggest influence at the time. So after studying I started to develop modules in aluminium that led to my first large commission for a German School in Brussels.

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China Sculpture Magazine Interview Text cond't

What important exhibitions have you participated in?

When I arrived in NY I worked and exhibited at Socrate's Sculpture Park, a large urban sculpture park in NYC developed by Marc de Suvero. This exhibit helped introduce me to the NY art scene. Later in the 90's I simultaneously did art and design, at which time I twice won an ID magazine Gold award which led to inclusions of my sculptural furniture in museum collections and put me into the design world in the USA.

What is your present art concept and working methods?

I have always worked with flat materials to create three dimensional forms, both in my art and my design to define space and create volume.

Tell us something about Joseph Beuys and Anselm Kiefer?

Both artists don't interest me at all. My concept is totally different.

What do you think about Karl Marx..?

I never read Marx but I read Karl May who was a German author in the 30's who never travelled to America but spent his life writing about a fictional brave American Indian outwitting the white man.

Shopenenhauer said something that I like about truth:

All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident.

Briefly introduce your thoughts on contemporary art in Germany?

As an artist for the last 40 years I have always been an Outsider and I have never been part of a movement or school of thought. I am aware of what is going on in the contemporary art world but I leave the opinions on art to the art critiques.

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China Sculpture Magazine Interview Text cond't

Do you know anything about Chinese culture?

My experience of Chinese culture is mainly based on my visits to China as an artist. I saw some modern Chinese work from painters and I could see two sets of influences, one referencing Chinese history and the other western modern art. I found it very interesting to see modern work through a lens of Chinese history.

Do you want to say anything to China and its people for the Olympics?

It is great that that the Chinese Olympic committee has chosen to show so much work from international artists because it so important to remember how vital art is to whom we are as people.

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**Sculpture for the Beijing Olympics
Interpretation "Wings"
Henner Kuckuck**

Joy and exuberance are exhibited in this classical piece of kinetic sculpture!

I have used iron sheets to frame a base and column, and flexible steel sheets to create the wings. The sheets are bent naturally by their weight. The wings are attached by cable to the column from above and anchored with large rings from below. This allows the wind to move the wings gently in a variety of directions, each wing moving independently from the other.

Standing in the shade of the wings the viewer experiences the massive static form and the lightness of the floating wings. The 3 sided tapered columns derive their strength through their use of strong geometric forms. The wings transform simple rectangular sheets of steel with cables into a complex organic form.

This sculpture connects the earth and the sky with its massive base and elegant wings. The wings are part of our dreams transporting us anywhere we want to go. The base roots us to the earth.

Proposed Sculpture "Wings" H 7.0m, L 9.0m, W 3.0m
Material: Column & Base: Iron plates
Wings: Steel plates
Suspension: Steel cable

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About My Work

by Henner Kuckuck

In a time when the third dimension seems lost to television, film and computer, I think it is important as a sculptor to show that we live and experience a three dimensional world. My work has always been open to experience space. For over 30 years I have worked on sculptures that have been developed out of flat materials, in a way to create objects that hold and enlarge space. My earlier work was more angular and rigid, whereas, now I bend sheets to create large organic forms.

As the viewer walks around and through my large-scale sculptures I want them to discover its beauty and experience its contradictions, through space and express the spirit of a hopeful humanity.

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June 9, 2008

Office of the Mayor of Berlin
Mr. Joerg Tramm
International Relations, East Asia
Berliner Rathaus
10871 Berlin

Dear Mr. Tramm,

It was a real pleasure to finally meet you last week at the Chinese Embassy, your introduction and support were invaluable in arranging the warm reception we received for Professor Zeng, Henner Kuckuck and Michael Suh from Mr. Dong. I speak for all of us when I say that this meeting was not only warm but a very productive start to further projects between Berlin and China.

Professor Zeng's tenure as president of the Chinese Sculpture Institute and head of the Olympic Committee for public Art heralds a new era of openness with the international sculpture community, evidenced by their selection of international artists for half the public Art projects at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. It is a great honor for Henner to be chosen in this group and a source of pride to be there as an artist from Berlin. We are hopeful that when you and the Mayor travel this summer to Beijing you will have time to visit this piece in the Olympic City.

Enclosed is a photo of Henner's work installed in the Olympic City. I will send you a more precise description of the location when Michael Suh returns at the end of June to Beijing. We appreciate your continued support for the artistic connection between China and Berlin

Sincerely yours,

Sharon and Henner Kuckuck

Encl: photo
cc: Prof Zeng, Michael Suh

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June 9,2008

Mr. Stahlhut
Titel
Berlinische Galerie
Alte Jakobstrasse 124-128
10969 Berlin

Dear Mr. Stahlhut,

It is a special memory for all of us, to remember the moment we entered the space of the Berlinische Galerie and the lights were flipped on. I was not aware that the museum was closed on the day I had arranged for the tour. Professor Zeng, Michael Suh, Henner Kuckuck and I enjoyed the very intimate view of your wonderful collection. Henner and I have always appreciated the small delicate models and sculptures by Naum Gabo and the grand sculpture of Vedova but we all now see the seminal work of HÖDICKE'S moving Mondrian through your eyes and have found new art to understand and admire.

It was our pleasure to introduce you to Professor Zeng and Michael Suh of the Chinese Sculpture Institute and the Olympic Committee for Sculpture and we hope that this will initiate a direct line of communication for an exchange of art and ideas. It is a great honor for Henner to be invited to exhibit at the 2008 Olympics and a source of pride to be there as an artist from Berlin. It would be very kind of you when you have time to make an appointment for a visit to Henner studio where you can see the latest development in a body of work that spans 40 years from Berlin to Ny to Berlin.

Enclosed are photos of Henner's newest work and his piece in china installed

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June 9,2008

Mr. Maruhn
Director
Kulturwerk
Osloer Str.102
13359 Berlin

Dear Mr. Stahlhut,