

# BJÖRN SCHÜLKE

b.1967, Cologne, Germany

Lives and works in Cologne, Germany

Björn Schülke is a sculptor, whose works are a unique blend of utopian and dystopian machinic visions. Scientifically investigative, Schülke's works are operable yet non-functioning flying machines, solar contraptions, and vision instruments. Referencing Leonardo da Vinci's engineering inventions, the Russian avant-garde, and popular science fiction, his kinetic, open form sculptures are imaginative apparatuses, gesturing toward an unknown future. Appearing wholly synthetic, the works take on animist characteristics, imbued through solar panels, infrared surveillance, and air propulsion, all of which trigger the sculptures to move or resonate in unexpected, unpredictable ways.

Recent exhibitions of his work include Minnesota Street Project, San Francisco, CA; Boghossian Foundation – Villa Empain, Brussels, Belgium; National Art Museum, Beijing, China; Borusan Contemporary, Istanbul, Turkey; Telfair Museum of Arts, Savannah, GA; Museum Villa Rot, Burgrieden, Germany; KulturBahnhof, Kassel, Germany; Circulo de Bellas Artes, Madrid, Spain; Verbeke Foundation, Stekene, Belgium; Neue Gesellschaft für Bildende Kunst, Berlin, Germany; and the Biennale of Electronic Arts, Perth, Australia.

Schülke holds a postgraduate diploma from the Academy of Media Art (KHM) in Cologne, Germany.

## EDUCATION

- 1997-2000 Resident Artist, German National Research Center for Information Technology, St. Augustin  
1995-1998 Postgraduate Studies, Academy of Media Art (KHM), Cologne  
1988-1993 FH Bielefeld

## SOLO AND TWO PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 *Vision Instruments*, bitforms gallery, New York, NY  
2015 *Wunderkammer*, Kunstverein Worms, Worms, Germany  
2014 *Björn Schülke – Orgamat*, Luftmuseum Amberg, Germany  
*Björn Schülke*, Burlington City Arts, Burlington, VT  
2013 *Björn Schülke and Dierk Maass*, Lagerhaus 62, Zürich, Switzerland  
2012 *Luftraum*, bitforms gallery, New York, NY  
2011 *Selected Work: 2003-2010*, Telfair Museum of Art, Savannah, GA  
2008 *Überschall*, bitforms gallery, New York, NY  
2006 *Björn Schülke and Peter Vogel*, bitforms gallery, Seoul, South Korea  
*Björn Schülke and R. Luke Dubois*, bitforms gallery, New York, NY  
*Björn Schülke: Kinetic-Interaction-Robotic*, Kornhaus Gallery Lirchheim/Teck, Germany  
2003 *Aerosalon*, Galerie Rachel Haferkamp, Köln, Germany  
European Media Art Festival, Video and Sound Sculptures, Gallery Anette Rohr, Osnabrück, Germany  
2001 *Controlled Voltage*, Galerie Rachel Haferkamp, Cologne, Germany  
1999 *Modulator#1 and other Installations*, Circulo de Bellas Artes, Madrid, Spain  
1998 *Medieninstallationen*, Gallery 68elf, Cologne, Germany  
1996 *Bar jeder Zeit, 10<sup>th</sup> International Photo Scene*, Cologne, Germany  
1995 *Zoetrope and Other Works*, Artists Unlimited Gallery, Bielefeld, Germany  
1994 *In Progress*, Exit Art, Cologne, Germany  
*Landung*, KAOS-Gallery, Cologne, Germany

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 *Erwarten Sie Wunder*, Museum Ulm, Ulm, Germany  
2016 *Fifteen-Year Anniversary Exhibition*, Minnesota Street Project, San Francisco, CA  
*THE VIEW*, Sommerausstellung, THE VIEW CONTEMPORARY ART SPACE, Salenstein, Switzerland  
*Magie und Macht - von fliegenden Teppichen und Drohnen*, Museum Marta Herford, Germany  
*Where are we going?*, Kunstverein Emsdetten, Emsdetten, Germany  
*Witness*, New Media Gallery, New Westminster, British Columbia, Canada  
*To See Without Being Seen: Contemporary Art and Drone Warfare*, Kemper Art Museum, St. Louis, MO, curated by Svea Bräunert and Meredith Malone  
2015 *From Heaven to Hell. Flying Carpets and Drones*, Boghossian Foundation, Villa Empain, Brussels, Belgium  
*Playing Future*, Kunsthalle Kiel, Germany  
2014 *Luminous Flux*, Art House, Santa Fe, NM  
*Transmission / Frequency: Tesla and His Inspiration*, Interdisciplinary Experimental Arts at Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO  
*thingWORLD*, International Triennial of New Media Art, National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China, curated by Zhang Ga  
*Szenarien des Umheimlichen*, Kunstverein Neuhausen, Germany  
*Transform: A State of New Media*, Wasserman Projects, Detroit, MI  
*PublicPrivate*, Spring/Break Art Show, New York, NY  
2013 *Kinesthetics: Art Imitating Life*, Pratt Institute, New York, NY  
*Transposition: Motion is Action*, National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China  
2012 *Klang*, Künstlerverein Walkmühle, Wiesbaden, Germany  
*Denkmal an Wagner*, Kunstverein Worms, Worms, Germany  
2011 *Works from the Borusan Contemporary Art Collection*, Perili Köşk Museum, Istanbul, Turkey  
*Pulse*, Telfair Museum of Art, Savannah, GA  
2009 *Martin-Mullen Gallery*, SUNY Oneonta, New York, NY  
*Sound and Tone in the Contemporary Art*, Museum Villa Rot, Burgrieden-Rot, Germany

- 2008 *Vision in Motion – Motion in Vision*, Verbeke Foundation, Stekene, Belgium  
 2007 bitforms gallery, New York, NY  
 2006 *Cybernetic Sensibility*, Daelim Museum, Seoul, South Korea  
*War in the World*, Hunterdon Museum of Art, Clinton, NJ  
*Sound of Music*, Maison Eclésièr 5, Toulouse, France  
 2005 St. Michael & John Church, Dublin, Ireland  
*Field Research*, Gallery Brigitte Schenk, Cologne, Germany  
 2004 *TAINMENT*, Neue Gesellschaft für Bildende Kunst (NGBK), Berlin, Germany  
*Sequences*, Peterborough Museum, Peterborough, England  
 Biennale of Electronic Arts, Perth, Australia  
 Raima Biennale Balticum, Rauma, Finland  
*Der elektronische Raum*, Skulpturenmuseum Glaskasten, Marl, Germany  
*Privatgruen*, Kunstraum Fuhrwerkswaage, Cologne, Germany  
 Z33, Hasselt, Belgium  
*Cyclic Eye*, Museu Paulista, São Paulo, Brazil  
*Monitoring*, Kulturbahnhof, Kassel, Germany  
 2003 *jeune création*, Exposition Internationale d'Art Contemporain, Paris, France  
 2002 *Sentient Cog*, 5th Gallery, Dublin, Ireland  
 2001 *Koeln Quartett 01*, Kunstraum Fuhrwerkswaage, Cologne, Germany  
*Skif-5*, Sergey Kuryokhin International Festival, St. Petersburg, Russia  
 2000 Biennale Arte Emergente, Torino, Italy  
 Stein der Weisen, Bonn, Germany  
 1998 Edison-Station, Leipzig, Germany  
*Licht*, Museum Jena, Germany  
 1997 *Gute und Boese Maschinen*, Cologne, Germany

## AWARDS

- 2002 German Video Installation Award for *Drone #2*, Marl  
 2000 Torino Emerging Art Biennale, Amica Award for *Modulator #1*

## PUBLIC COMMISSIONS

- 2010 *Space Observer*, a permanent sculpture for the San Jose International Airport, Terminal B

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2017 Waleczek, Agata. "Berlin is gaining momentum in the side streets," *Welt*, September 16  
 Dunne, Susan. "Real Art Ways' 'Nothing To Hide?' Examines Surveillance," *Hartford Courant*, March 8  
 Stewart-Sanabria, Denise. "The Future of Electronic Art Opens Up at KMA's New 'Virtual Views' Exhibit,"  
*Knoxville Mercury*, February 8  
 Nunes, Andrew. "'Spider Drones' Sculptures Marry Surveillance and 60s Sci-Fi," *Creators Project*, February 3  
 "Extended until March 4: bitforms fifteen-year anniversary exhibition at Minnesota Street Project," *ArtDaily*,  
 January 7  
 2016 Wurche, Bettina. "KINETIC Automobile. Skulpturen. Musikmaschinen," *ARTMAPP*, December  
 "bitforms Gallery: 15-year anniversary," *Wall Street International*, December 14  
 Morris, Jane. "Can you digit? A media art pioneer celebrates 15 years," *The Art Newspaper*, November 11  
 Pangburn, DJ. "Bitforms Gallery Celebrates 15 Years with a Retrospective in San Francisco," *Creators  
 Project*, November 8  
 "You're Being Watched: WITNESS set to open at New Media Gallery," *The NewWestminster Record*, August 29  
 2014 Heißenbüttel, Dietrich, "Im Blick der neugierigen Kameraaugen," *Styttgater Zeitung*, June  
 Simpson, Judy. "Burlington Sculpture Exhibit, New Interactive Experience," *WCAX.com*, June 13  
 2012 Meier, Allison, "Our Robots, Ourselves," *Hyperallergic*, December 4  
 "Mechanical Life Forms at bitforms: Björn Schülke's 'Luftraum'," Press release of the *German Missions in the  
 United States*, November 15  
 Ayhan Demirci, "Science Fiction in Kölns Hafenstrasse," *Express*, July 30  
 2011 "Commissions: Art + Technology," 22-23. *Sculpture Magazine*, April  
 Gorbet, Matt, Gorbet, Susan LK, Bannerjee, Banny, "Collaboration with the Future: An Infrastructure for Art +  
 Technology at the San José International Airport", *Leonardo*, 4: 334–345.  
 2010 Ashok, Mala, "Flight of fancy to Silicon Valley," *Deccan Herald*, July 20

- Kiefer, Peter, *Klangräume der Kunst*, 35. Kehrer Verlag, Berlin.
- Baskas, Harriet, "High-tech art welcomes passengers at San Jose International Airport," *USA Today*, July 14
- 2009 Björn Schülke, bitforms gallery
- Woolfolk, John, "Giant space robot headed for San Jose," *San Jose Mercury News*, April 16
- Salau, Julien, *Antennae*, 9: 69-72. Spring.
- 2008 Brillson, Leila, Renzi, Jen, and Zhong, Fan, *Surface*, 72, 88-93. July
- Troika (Freyer, Conny; Noel, Sebastien; Rucki, Eva), *Digital By Design – Crafting Technology for Products and Environments*, 90-93, 273, 296. Thames & Hudson, New York.
- 2007 *Esquire North: A New View*, 14, 18-19, 55.
- 2006 Hwang, You-mee, "Cutting-edge Art Experiments with New Media," *The Korea Herald*, October 17
- "Explosion Futurista," *Neo2*, August
- Listing, *Time Out New York*, July 13
- 2003 Kisters, Jurgan, "Liebenswerte Monster: Björn Schülke faehrt bei Haferkamp Fangarme aus," *Koelner Stadt Anzeiger*, October 31

## SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Argor Collection, Luxemburg  
 Bank of America Collection, United States  
 Borusan Contemporary Art Collection, Turkey  
 Jonathon Carroll Collection, England  
 Neiman Marcus Collection, United States  
 The City of San Jose, California, United States  
 Progressive Art Collection, United States  
 Research Centre Juelich, Germany  
 Sculpture Museum, Glaskasten Mari, Germany  
 Sharjah Art Museum, United Arab Emirates