

Stephan Balkenhol

Portfolio

About

As one of the most important sculptors of his generation, Stephan Balkenhol's (1957, Fritzlar, Germany) predominately figurative works have influenced the contemporary idea of sculpture in an enduring way. Lodged in the temporal and stylistic continuity that extends from ancient Egypt, through medieval polychrome wood statuary to Renaissance portraiture, his archetypical figures, usually carved out of one massive block of wood, are a kind of twenty-first century "every man" or "every woman." Neither idealized nor individualized—frozen in mundane postures, representing nobody in particular—the figures do not seek to impose or represent. Instead, the lightness, appeal, and simplicity emerging from the wood give them an enigmatic presence, unpretentious in their character of play.

With Balkenhol's work, one is encouraged to observe. There is no pathos speaking from the figures' gestures and expressions—every emotion would already be a reading which would pin down the figure—and as they are only what they are, they become astonishingly open for the viewer, liberated from all political, religious or allegorical implications, free in their own reality; one that, though in a way seemingly "not of this world," still belongs to our present time. As Balkenhol himself comments, his figures are, in some way, "exactly like us," as they "say a lot and nothing." The wood corresponds to the tempo of Balkenhol's thoughts and labour. Where stone is "too slow," and plaster and clay are "too fast," wood is both resistant and alive, material that can be researched in the process of chiselling. The sculptural possibilities are, in a way, already hidden in the wood of the tree trunk.

Stephan Balkenhol studied at the Hochschule für Bildende Künste in Hamburg in the class of Ulrich Rückriem, and has exhibited widely in galleries and museums around the globe, including major solo exhibitions at the Austrian Landesgalerie Linz (2014-2015), Kunstmuseum

Ravensburg (2014), Skulpturenpark Waldfrieden in Wuppertal (2014), Musée de Grenoble (2010-2011), Deichtorhallen Hamburg (2008-2009), Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden/Baden (2006), the National Museum of Art, Osaka/Tokyo (2005), Fries Museum Leeuwarden (2001), and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C. (1995). He has made a number of sculptures for the public space throughout Europe; e.g. Germany, France and the Netherlands. Balkenhol was recently awarded the French Order of Arts and Letters (2014).





Overview Stephan Balkenhol at AKINCI 2015
(photo Peter Cox)



Mann mit blauem Kopf
2016, wawa wood, 29,5 x 29,5 x 170 cm



Kreidezeichnung 4
2015, charcoal on paper, 31.7x24 cm
(photo Peter Cox)



Woman with white pleated dress
2015, wawa wood, 230 x 55 x 101 cm
(photo Peter Cox)



Flower board
2015, wawa wood, ink jet, paint, 60 x 40 cm
(photo Peter Cox)





Relief - man with flower
2015, wawa wood, inkjet, paint, 158 x 120 cm
(photo Peter Cox)



Overview Stephan Balkenhol at AKINCI 2015
(photo Peter Cox)

Stephan Balkenhol

Fritzlar, Germany, 1957

Lives and works Meisenthal, France

Professor at Akademie für Bildende Künste, Karlsruhe, Germany, since 1992

Education

1976-1982 Hochschule für Bildende Künste, Hamburg, Germany

Solo exhibitions (selection)

- 2016 Stephan Balkenhol, MMOMA, Moscow, RU
- 2015 Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Palais Gogolevski, Moscow, Russia
New Sculptures, AKINCI, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Stephan Balkenhol, Landes Museum, Linz, Austria
- 2014 Stephan Balkenhol, Kunstmuseum Ravensburg, Germany
Stephan Balkenhol - Skulpturen, Skulpturenpark Waldfrieden, Wuppertal, Germany
- 2013 Inauguration of the Wagner Memorial Sculpture, Leipzig, Germany
Big Head Column, Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, Italy
Galerie des Wetzlarer Kunstvereins, Wetzlarer, Germany
Sotheby's, Beyond Limits: A Selling Exhibition, Chatsworth, Derbyshire, England
- 2012 Stephan Balkenhol in St. Elizabeth, St. Elizabeth Church, Kassel, Germany
A Sign in the Forum of Caesar - Stephan Balkenhol more and more, Valentina Bonomo Gallery, Rome, Italy
Unlimited Bodies - Corps Sans Limite, Palais d'Iéna, Paris, France
- 2011 Kunstforum Würth, Turnhout, Belgium
Chateau de Malbrouck, Lorraine, France
La Halle Verrière, Meisenthal, France
AKINCI, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2010 L'Art et la Manière Musée de Grenoble, Grenoble, France
Nosbaum & Reding Art Contemporain, Luxembourg, Luxembourg
Dörrie Preiss, Hamburg, Germany
- 2009 Druckgrafik 1992-2008, Kunstverein Augsburg e.V., Augsburg, Germany
Deichtorhallen, Hamburg, Germany
- 2008 This is Not to be Looked At, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, USA
AKINCI, Amsterdam

- Valentina Bonomo Roma, Rome, Italy
- 2007 Paixóns Privadas, Visións Públicas, Collections D.O. Galicia, Museo de Arte Contemporánea de Vigo, Vigo, Spain
MKM Museum Küppersmühle für moderne Kunst, Duisburg, Germany
Kabinett Für Aktuelle Kunst, Bremerhaven, Germany
Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea, Milan, Italy
Wenzel Hablik Museum, Itzehoe, Germany
Museum der Moderne, Salzburg, Austria
- 2006 UMRAUM, Architektur und Objekt, Wenzel-Hablik-Museum, Itzehoe, Germany
Museum der Moderne Salzburg Mönchsberg, Salzburg, Austria
Regen Projects, Los Angeles, USA
Homme-girafe, CEAAC, Strasbourg, France
Staatliche Kunsthalle, Baden-Baden, Germany; toured to Museum der Moderne Salzburg, Austria and MKM Museum
Küppers mühle für Moderne Kunst, Duisburg, Germany
- 2005 CRG, Los Angeles, USA
National Museum of Contemporary Art, Osaka, Japan
Tokyo Opera City, Tokyo, Japan
- 2004 Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel-Aviv, Israel
Monica de Cardenas, Milan, Italy
Galerie Lohrl, Monchengladbach, Germany
Dorrie & Priess, Hamburg, Germany
- 2003 Sprengel Museum, Hannover, Germany
Le Rectangle and Goethe Institute, Lyon, France
Stephan Balkenhol und. . . , Stadtische Galerie Fellbach, Germany
- 2002 Stephan Balkenhol: Installation, Landeshauptstadt Erfurt, Germany
Stadtverwaltung, Erfurt, Germany
Begegnungsstätte Kleine Synagoge Erfurt, Germany
Regen Projects, Los Angeles, USA
AKINCI, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2001 Kunstforum Baloise, Basel, Switzerland
C.G.A.C (Centre Galego de Arte Contemporaneo), Santiago de Compostela, Spain
Barbara Wein Verlag/Galerie Berlin: S.B-Photographien, Germany
Fries Museum, Leeuwarden, The Netherlands
Museum de bildenden Kunste Leipzig, Germany
- 2000 Kunstverein Oldenburg, Oldenburg, Germany
The Contemporary Arts Centre, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA
St Louis Arts Center, St Louis, Missouri, USA

Centro Galego de Arte Contemporánea, Santiago de Compostela, Spain
Centre for Contemporary Art, Cincinatti, USA

Group exhibitions (selection)

- 2016 Philippe Cognée, Stephan Balkenhol & Marie Bovo, Fondation Fernet-Branca, Saint-Louis, France
Figure on Display: Stephan Balkenhol and Jeff Wall, Leopold Hoesch Musuem, Duren, Germany
- 2015 Inventory, Vol.5: Acquisitions from 1992 to 1996, FRAC Haute-Normandie, Rouen, France
- 2014 Collector's Room #5 - Pleasure, Deweer Gallery, Otegem, Belgium
Study from the Human Body, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, England
- 2013 The Art of the Present, Helga de Alevear Collection, Centro Centro, Madrid, Spain
Truth, ESMoA, LA, California, USA
Je t'aime... moi non plus, Musée des Beaux-Arts Eugène Leroy, Tourcoing, France
Lost in LA, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
Art is beautiful but hard work too, Kunstabau, Munich, Germany
- 2012 Unlimited Bodies, Palais Diena, Paris, France
- 2011 Twenty Years of Presence, MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt, Germany
Art Set Free, Museum Kunstpalast, Dusseldorf, Germany
Melting Point, AKINCI, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Invisibleness is Visibleness, Museum of Contemporary Art Taipei, Taipei, Taiwan
Stephan Balkenhol and The Object of Observation, Johnen Galerie, Berlin, Germany, curated by Tim Lee
Zettels Traum, Von der Heydt Museum, Wuppertal, Germany
- 2010 Stephan Balkenhol - Alberto Giacometti, Lehbruck Museum, Duisburg, Germany
Idea and Object, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Salzburg, Austria
Wings, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Salzburg, Austria
The Secret Lives of Trees, Galleria Monica De Cardenas, Zuoz, Switzerland
- 2009 The Core Marrow of Art, Art Statements Gallery, Hong Kong
Eva Penny & Stephan Balkenhol, Trepanierbaer Gallery, Calgary, Canada
Fuentes, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Salzburg Austria
Securities, DEWEER gallery, Otegem, Belgium
- 2008 Listen Darling The World Is Yours, Ellipse Foundation Contemporary Art Center, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2007 Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy of Art, London, England
New Dimensions, John Berggruen Gallery, San Francisco, California, USA
Intersections 3: Balkenhol, Delwoye, Quinn al Parco Archeologico di Scolacium, Catanzaro,
Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea, Milan, Italy
Museum der Moderne, Salzburg, Mönchsberg, Austria

- Monica De Cardenas, Milano, Milan, Italy
 New Work, Deweer Art Gallery, Otegem, Belgium
 Tomio Koyama Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
 New Work, Art Statements Gallery, Hong Kong, China
 UMRAUM , Architektur und Objekt , Wenzel-Hablik-Museum, Itzehoe, Germany
- 2006 Figures in the Field: Figurative Sculpture and Abstract Painting from Chicago Collections, MCA Chicago, Illinois, USA
 Museum der Moderne Salzburg Mönchsberg, Salzburg, Austria
 Regen Projects, Los Angeles, CA, USA
- 2005 Der erste Blick-Die Sammlung GAG, Neues Museum Weimar, Weimar, Germany
 Ten Year Anniversary Exhibition, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, England
 Figur/Skulptur, Sammlung Essl-Kunst der Gegenwart Klosterneuburg, Vienna, Austria
 Faces in the Crowd, Whitechapel Gallery, London, England
 Large Drawings, Galerie Bernd Klüser, Germany
 The Blake Byrne Collection, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, USA
 My Favorite Things!: Painting in France, Museum of Contemporary Art, Lyon, France
 21, Dogenahaus Galerie, Leipzig, Germany
 We can do it!, Gary Tatintian Gallery Inc., Moscow, Russia
- 2004 Albright Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, USA
 MIEDO-FEAR, Galeria Pepe Cobo, Sevilla, Spain
- 2003 Jetzt und hier-Die Sammlung Zeitgenössischer Kunst, Museum Kurhaus Kleve -Ewald Mataré-Sammlung, Kleve, Germany
 Sculpture project with Fiona Banner and David Batchelor, More London, London, England
 Durchgehend geöffnet, Kunsthalle Baden-Baden and Sammlung Frieder Burda, Baden-Baden, Germany
- 2002 Avant que la mer fut au monde, Rochechouart portoit les Ondes, Musée Départemental d'Art
 Das Tier in mir, Staatliche Kunsthalle, Baden-Baden, Germany
 Photogenic, Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA
 Grünzeug, Museum der Stadt Ratingen, Germany
 Pop Art und die zeitgenössische Bildhauerkunst, Gerhard Marcks-Haus Bremen, Germany
 Time-Space-Motion, Galerie Ropac, Salzburg, Austria
- 2001 De wereld volgens Duitsland, Odapark, The Netherlands
 Fotografierte Bilder, Museum Bochum, Bochum, Germany
 Geometrie & Gestus, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Salzburg, Austria
 Dogenhaus Galerie Leipzig, Germany
- 2000 and if there were no stories, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, England
 Essensbilder, Dorrie Priess Galerie, Hamburg, Germany
 Back to Kassel, Kasseler-Kunstverein, Kassel, Germany

Catalogues and publications (selection)

- 2015 20 Years, essays by Stephen Friedman and Sarah Thornton, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, England (catalogue)
- 2012 Stephan Balkenhol in Sankt Elisabeth, Snoeck Verlagsgesellschaft, Köln, Germany
- 2011 Stephan Balkenhol: Public, The Sculptures in Public Space 1984-2008, Hatje Cantz, Ostfidern, Germany
- 2010 Stephan Balkenhol, Musée de Grenoble, Grenoble, France
Stephan Balkenhol, Actes Sud, Paris, France
- 2009 Stephan Balkenhol, Sempre più..., Walther König, Cologne, Germany
Fuentes, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Paris; Le Rectangle, Centre D'Art De La Ville De Lyon; Goethe-Institut, Lyon, France
- 2008 Stephan Balkenhol, Deichtorhallen, Snoek Pub, Hamburg, Germany
- 2007 Stephan Balkenhol, Staatliche Kunsthalle, Baden-Baden, Germany
- 2006 Skulptur 06, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Paris; Le Rectangle, Centre D'Art De La Ville De Lyon; Goethe-Institut, Lyon, France
Stephan Balkenhol, Snoeck, Köln, Germany
- 2005 Stephan Balkenhol, Skulpturen und Reliefs, The National Museum of Art, Osaka & Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery, Japan
Stephan Balkenhol, Skulpturen, Von der Heydt-Museum Wuppertal, Germany
Stephan Balkenhol, The Arts Club of Chicago, USA
54th Carnegie International, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, USA
- 2004 More London Sculpture, More London Development Ltd.
- 2003 Stephan Balkenhol Photographien, Sprengel Museum, Hannover, Germany
Stephan Balkenhol, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Paris; Le Rectangle, Centre D'Art De La Ville De Lyon; Goethe-Institut, Lyon, France
- 2002 The Photogenic: Photography through its Metaphors in Contemporary Art, Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania, USA
- 2001 Stephan Balkenhol, Hans Werner Schmidt, Museum der bildenden Künste Leipzig, Germany
Stephan Balkenhol, Vor Ort, Andreas Franzke, Hatje Cantz Verlag, Germany
Stephan Balkenhol, Fries Museum, Leuwarden, The Netherlands
- 2000 Stephan Balkenhol and Stephan Balkenhol Archives, CGAC

Bibliography (selection)

- 2014 Nicolin, Poala, Review: Stephan Balkenhol, Artforum, May
- 2013 Macdonald, Martin, REVIEWED: Stephan Balkenhol at Stephen Friedman Gallery, Artworld Now, 24 September
Stephan Balkenhol at Stephen Friedman Gallery Private View Tuesday 3rd September, Fad
Glover, Michael, The Independent, 4 September
The Guardian Guide: Exhibitionist, 31 August
Julke, Ralf, Wagner monument in Leipzig, 3rd Experiment: Stephan Balkenhol convinced the jury with a double Wagner, Leipziger
Internet Zeitung, 15 June

- Davies, Francis, Stephan Balkenhol at Stephen Friedman Exhibition review, The Upcoming, 4 September
 Balkenhol Sculpture of Richard Wagner Nearing Completion, The Wagnerian, 15 April
 McFadden, Ronan, Stephan Balkenhol, Time Out, 23 September
 Stephan Balkenhol, Wall Street International, 13 September
 Rauterberg, Hanno, Holzköpfe for all, Zeit Online, 2 June
- 2012 Allen, Jennifer, I Will Survive, Frieze, Autumn
- 2011 Kaslan, Stella, Stephan Balkenhol per la Stephen Friedman Gallery di Londra, arskey, 25 March
- 2009 Stowbridge, Mark, Fast Forward Weekly, 4 June
- 2007 Danilevich, Ann, Stephan Balkenhol, Canadian Art International online
 Kern, Ingolf, Stephan Balkenhol, Monopol, October
- 2006 Platthaus, Andreas, Who's been carving here, then? Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 21 July
 Archer, Michael, Stephan Balkenhol, Artforum, May
 Winzen, Matthias, Where Does the Sculptor Stand?
- 2005 Godfrey, Tony, Recent Sculpture, The Burlington Magazine
 Herbert, Martin, Reviews: Stephan Balkenhol, Time Out London
- 2003 Kent, Sarah, Reviews: Stephan Balkenhol, Time Out London
- 2000 Kardon, Dennis, The Digital Hand, Artnet
 Stephan Balkenhol, The Guardian Guide
 Herbert, Martin, Stephan Balkenhol, Time Out London
 Korotkin, Joyce, Stephan Balkenhol, The New York Art World, June/July/August
 Art: Stephan Balkenhol, The Evening Standard, June

Public collections (selection)

Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, USA / ARS AEVI, Museum Of Contemporary Art Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina / Artothek, Nürnberg, Germany / Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, USA / Attitudes, Genf, Switzerland / BAWAG Contemporary, Wien, Austria / Burger Collection, Berlin, Germany / The Broad Art Foundation, Santa Monica, USA / Centro Galego de Arte Contemporánea, Santiago de Compostela, Spain / Diözesanmuseum, Würzburg, Germany / Elipse Foundation Art Centre, Alcoitao, Portugal / Fpmcollection Viersen Berlin, Berlin, Germany / Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin, Germany / Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland / JCCC Overland Park, Kansas, USA / Kunsthalle Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany / Kunstsammlung im Ständehaus, Düsseldorf, Germany / Kunstmuseum Bonn, Bonn, Germany / Kunsthalle Bremen, Bremen, Germany / Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California, USA / Ludwig Forum für Internationale Kunst, Aachen, Germany / MARCA Museum, Cantanzaro, Italy / Marta, Herford, Germany / Me Collectors Room, Berlin, Germany / Musée de Grenoble, Grenoble, France / Museum Küppersmühle, Duisburg, Germany / Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt, Germany / Museum Kurhaus Kleve, Kleve, Germany / Museum Würth, Künzelsau, Germany / Museum der Bildenden Künste, Leipzig, Germany / Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean, Luxembourg-Kirchberg, Luxembourg / Museo Cantonale d'Arte, Lugano, Switzerland / Museu Berardo, Lisbon, Portugal / Museum De Paviljoens, Almere, The Netherlands / Museum Folkwang, Essen, Germany / Museum Ludwig, Cologne, Germany / Museum Villa Haiss, Zell am Harmersbach, Ger-

many / Museum voor Hedendaagse Kunst (MUHKA), Antwerp, Belgium / Museum im Kulturspeicher, Würzburg, Germany / Museum für Gegenwartskunst (Emanuel-Hoffmann-Stiftung), Basel, Switzerland / Musée Cantonal des Beaux Arts, Lausanne, Switzerland / Musée de Marseille, Marseille, France / Musée Départemental de Rochechouart, F.R.A.C., Franche-Comté, Haute Normandie, France / Musée des Beaux Arts de Montréal, Quebec, Canada / Museum Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa / Neues Museum, Nürnberg, Germany / Neue Pinakothek, München, Germany / Neue Nationalgalerie, SMPK, Berlin, Germany / Nerman Museum, Kansas, USA / The National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan / Ordos Art Museum, Inner Mongolia, China / Peggy Guggenheim, Venice, Italy / Sammlung Essl, Klosterneuburg, Austria / Sammlung Ströher, Darmstadt, Germany / Sammlung zeitgenössischer Kunst der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Bonn, Germany / Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, Scotland / Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus, München, Germany / Städtische Galerie, Wolfsburg, Germany / Staatliche / Kunsthalle, Baden-Baden, Germany / Stad Kortrijk, Veemarkt, Belgium / Schaulager, Basel, Switzerland / Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany / Smithsonian Institution, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington DC, USA / Wilhelm-Lehmbruck-Museum, Duisburg, Germany