

A
K
I
N
C
I

Stephan Balkenhol

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.

Narcissus, 2015
Wawa wood, 160 x 45 x 108 cm

Stephan Balkenhol, who studied at the Hochschule für Bildende Künste in Hamburg in the class of Ulrich Rückriem, 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).



AKINCI



Overview Stephan Balkenhol at AKINCI 2015

AKINCI



Overview Stephan Balkenhol at AKINCI 2015

A
K
I
N
C
I



Woman with flower, 2015
wawa wood, 172 x 24 x 29,5 cm

AKINCI



Woman with white pleated dress, 2015
wawa wood, 230 x 55 x 101 cm



Overview Stephan Balkenhol at AKINCI 2015

A
K
N
C
I



Man with grey suit, 2015
wawa wood, 170 x 24 x 29,5 cm

de; und daß auch der König von Italien sein Untergeworden sei.

Der Zeuge Mariotti sagt ebenfalls aus, daß er Daimer Predigt habe sagen hören: „man solle sich vor Heeresmacht fürchten, und wenn es auch eine M. Soldaten wäre, so sei es unmöglich, daß der Unteren Monarchen an sie reichen könne.“



Es ist schon bemerkt, daß das Sinnbild das doppelteren Mitte ein Kreuz, an dem dies doppelte e, in großer Wichtigkeit heilige, welche den ersten und den Christus vor - das heißt Christus, den heiligen Joseph von Nazaret, Christus, den orbenen Joseph Lazzaretti von Recidofso. Man tut wahrlich auf keine Weise, welche Beziehung Christus mit Konstantin, und dieser mit David, und mit Lazzaretti gemein haben könnten. Aber dieing existiert durchaus in den seltsamen Widersprüchen Albernenheiten, die bestimmt bei den Monomanenchein kommen, mitten zu geharren auf der Idee ceps. In der That, wenn sie weit mehr als es ist wünschen, ihrem Leben gerechten Ansehen, so kümmern sie sich oft nicht um die Wahrheit, die sie auf ihrer Stelle finden, wenn es ihm zu thun ist, ihrer Stellung, ehrfurchtigen Idee hinzuzumachen. Ich erinnere an jene sehr geschickterin von Pavia, von der die Rede ging, daß, die Abkömmlingin der Napoleoniden zu sein glaubte sehr gut in Kleidung, Sprache und Ansehen ganz

A
K
I
N
C
I



Relief - man with flower, 2015
wawa wood, inkjet, paint, 158 x 120 cm

AKINCI



Overview Stephan Balkenhol at AKINCI 2015

A
K
I
N
C
I



Relief - woman against yellow background , 2015
wawa wood, 80 x 60 cm

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)

- 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
 Paixóns Privadas, Visións Públicas, Collections D.O. Galicia, Museo de Arte Contemporánea de Vigo, Vigo, Spain

2007	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 UMRAUM, Architektur und Objekt, Wenzel-Hablik-Museum, Itzehoe, Germany
2006	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 Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel-Aviv, Israel
2004	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 Begegnungsstatte 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, Cincinnati, USA

Group exhibitions (selection)

- 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
Invisibility is Visibility, 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, Lehmbruck 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, Belguim
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 Der erste Blick-Die Sammlung GAG, Neues Museum Weimar, Weimar, Germany
2005	Ten Year Anniversary Exhibition, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, England Figur/Skulptur, Sammlung Essl-Kunst der Gegenwart Klosterneugeburg, 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 Tatintsian 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, Ostfildern, 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, Leeuwarden, 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, Holzkoppe 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, Germany / 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, Mün-

chen, 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