

Olli Marschall

Born in Augsburg (Southern Germany) in 1966, the artist has been working since the age of 20 as a freelance sculptor and teacher of Wing Chun Kung Fu at his own school.

He is artistically active in the Diedorf area near Augsburg as well as in Chiemgau.

Marschall has become known through well over a hundred individual exhibitions, including those hosted at the Munich Airport, the Max Plank Institute, the Deutsches Theater in Munich, the Bavarian Ministry of Justice, as well as in large botanical gardens, not to mention being awarded the first-place art prize of the city of Neusäß in 2016. His works were purchased by the city of Gersthofen, the Weltbildverlag (publisher), the Regional Insurance Office of Swabia (LVA Schwaben), the Walter Art Collection, the Munich Airport, the Munich Higher Regional Court as well as the Bavarian State Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Forestry, to name but a few. In addition to the numerous exhibitions and gallery appearances, Olli Marschall has been presenting his works each year for the past two decades in a major comprehensive exhibition of his works that focuses on specific themes and is accompanied by a small concert and event program with musicians and performers at his own garden studio (home workshop, exhibition and sales gallery).

Following his initial experience in painting and metal design from 1984 to 1987, he specialised in the material of wood. The catalyst for this was the construction of numerous wooden Kung Fu training dummies. Since that time, Marschall has been exploring the material of wood in its various types, dimensions and conditions. Chainsaw work on large-scale "tree sculptures" is interspersed with expressions in wood that are milled by hand and carved, light, areal artefacts, disc and wall objects as well as tiny miniature sculptures. In addition to every form of woodworking equipment, Marschall also uses explosive, flammable and corrosive materials to obtain the desired shape. Tree growth, wood grain, material tensions and decay processes provide inspiration in their interaction with Marshall's preferences of form: bizarre, homogeneous, curved and perforated. Unique pieces of work are seldom painted but often treated in order to be weatherproof.

Major exhibitions are dedicated themes that change every year, such as "mesh perforations", "wave phenomena", "sweeping edges", "networks", "plastinated fungal wood", "totems", "splaying" etc. (see previous exhibitions: www.ollimarschall.de). Examples of commissioned works and their concepts are developed in accordance with the specific situation and significance of the location, as well as customer preferences.

Olli Marschall regards his creative work as a "psychological profile of himself, which needs to be thoroughly investigated". The core questions are always about the origin of inspiration, the essence of intensity and the source of serenity that needs to be communicated. The multi-faceted, constructive exchange with critics, in particular creative individuals, specialists and lovers of art, educators and philosophers, is the lifelong inspiration of the autodidactic *universitas magistrorum et scholarium*.