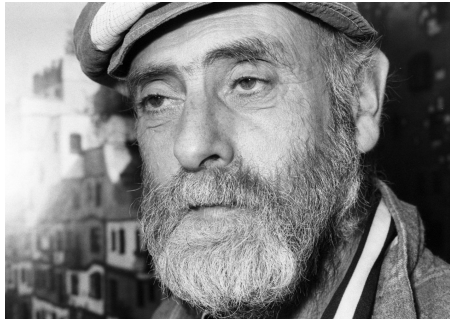




LANDAU CONTEMPORARY  
AT  
GALERIE DOMINION



Friedensreich Hundertwasser  
(1928-2000)

**Friedensreich Hundertwasser**, the Austrian artist and architect, was born in Vienna in 1928 as Friedrich Stowasser. Always controversial, by the end of the 20th century he was arguably the best-known contemporary Austrian artist.

Hundertwasser's original, unruly, sometimes shocking artistic vision expressed itself in pictorial art, environmentalism, philosophy, and design of facades, postage stamps, flags and clothing among other things. The common themes in his work are a rejection of the straight line, bright colours, organic forms, a reconciliation of humans with nature, and a strong individualism.

His only formal artistic training came in 1948 when he started studying at the *Akademie der bildenden Künste* in Vienna, but he left after three months out of boredom. (Ironically he became an honoured guest lecturer, giving Master Classes at the Academy many years later.) He remains *sui generis*, although his architectural work is comparable to Antoni Gaudí in its biomorphic forms and use of tile. He was inspired by the works of Egon Schiele from an early date, and his style was often compared to that of Gustav Klimt. He was fascinated with spirals, and called straight lines "the devil's tools". He called his theory of art "transautomatism", based on Surrealist automatism, but focusing on the experience of the viewer, rather than the artist.

In 1949, his last name evolved to Hundertwasser (A Hundred Waters) and he began travelling to Italy and France, hitchhiking with friends, exhibiting his first pictures in Paris at the Galerie Librairie Palmes in the autumn.

On July 4, 1958 he presented his famous '***Mould Manifesto: Against Rationalism in Architecture***' in the abbey of Seckau. Hundertwasser's revulsion of the straight line and geometric regularity became apparent with his contention that ruler-drawn straight lines make people sick because they do not occur in nature and incessantly subject the human organism to an irritation for which it is unprepared. Spirals became the primary shapes in his paintings, as the only form 'worthy of confidence - the one that corresponds to the motion which is made when opposites begin to move'.

Hundertwasser made his first trip to Japan in 1961, after Yves Klein and the Japanese art critic Segui brought his work to the attention of Yamamoto, a gallery in Tokyo's Ginza. During this sojourn, he changed his first name to Friedensreich (Kingdom of Peace). His show in late spring sold out.

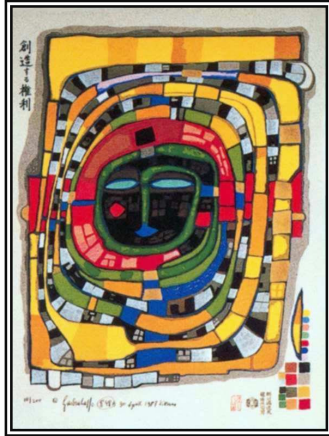
The large international travelling Hundertwasser exhibition arranged in 1964 by Kestner-Gesellschaft in Hanover for their 100<sup>th</sup> show established his international reputation and his independence from other contemporary art movements.

Having initially gained acclaim for his paintings, Hundertwasser is now almost better known for his unique architectural style. His revolutionary ecological stance with regard to architecture earned him the nickname 'Architecture-Healer' for his efforts to modify and beautify existing structures in addition to creating new edifices. The influence of Antoni Gaudí's work in Barcelona as well as some of the Jugendstil architects can be seen in the inclusion of irregular forms and undulating surfaces in his building designs. Hundertwasser's radical architectural ideas also included topping buildings with trees and grassy areas where animals can graze.

Friedensreich Hundertwasser passed away suddenly while crossing the Pacific aboard the Queen Elizabeth II in February 2000. In accordance with his wishes, he is buried in harmony with nature under a tulip tree on his land in New Zealand.



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*Friedensreich Hundertwasser*  
***The Right to Create (Joy of Man Portfolio, Ed: 13/200), 1986***  
*Japanese woodcut*  
57 x 42 cm. / 22½ x 16½ in.

Select Institution and Museum Exhibitions:

- Arts Council Gallery, London, UK
- City Museum & Art Gallery, Birmingham, UK
- CMA Children's Museum of the Arts, New York, USA
- Contemporary Art Center Vilnius (CAG), Vilnius, Lithuania
- Mönchehaus-Museum für Moderne Kunst, Goslar, Germany
- Musee Gauguin, Tahiti, French Polynesia
- Museo de Arte Contemporáneo (MARCO), Monterrey, Mexico
- Museu de Arte Contemporânea da Universidade de Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil
- Museum auf Abruf, Vienna, Austria
- Museum of Contemporary Art Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia
- Museum Würth, Künzelsau, Germany
- Muzeum Narodowe, Warsaw, Poland
- Palais des Congrès et des Expositions, Marseille, France
- San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, USA
- The Nagoya City Art Museum, Nagoya, Japan
- The Nelson Sutter Art Society, Nelson, New Zealand
- Von der Heydt-Museum, Wuppertal, Germany

Select Trade Shows:

- ART Basel, Miami Beach, Landau Fine Art
- ART Basel, Switzerland, Landau Fine Art
- ART Chicago, Landau Fine Art
- Art Paris Biennale, Landau Fine Art
- TEFAF Maastricht, Holland, Landau Fine Art
- Venice Biennial, Venice

Select Gallery Exhibitions:

- Art Gallery Richter, Berlin, Germany
- Art-Club, Vienna, Austria
- Auktionshaus und Galerie, Berlin, Germany
- Galerie Anne Abels, Cologne, Germany
- Galerie Bateau Ivre, Brussels, Belgium
- Galerie bei der Albertina, Vienna, Austria
- Galerie Delta, Basel, Switzerland
- Galerie Dorn, Stuttgart, Germany
- Galerie Gertrud Dorn GbR, Stuttgart, Germany
- Galerie H. Kamer, Paris, France
- Galerie Kley, Hamm, Germany
- Galerie Koch, Hannover, Germany
- Galerie Patrice Trigano, Paris, France
- Galerie Valentien, Stuttgart, Germany
- Galerie, Berlin, Germany
- Galleria del Naviglio, Milan, Italy
- Galleria Sandri, Venice, Italy
- Landau Contemporary at Galerie Dominion, Montreal, Canada
- Landau Fine Art, Montreal, Canada
- Nationalgalerie Prag, Prag, Czech Republic
- Studio Paul Facchetti, Paris, France
- Tokyo Gallery, Tokyo, Japan