



Maja Smoltczyk (GER)

Berlin-born Maja Smoltczyk was already fascinated during her school years by the artistic representation of the human being, and this remained her main subject when she later started her career as a sculptress.

Despite her artistic talents she decided to study law, as this satisfied her socio-political interests and offered her the potential to play an active role in shaping our society. After passing her bar exam she worked for one year at the European Parliament in Brussels.

Since March 1994 Maja Smoltczyk has been working as a legal consultant for the Federal State Parliament of Berlin.

In this role Maja Smoltczyk was responsible from the beginning, among other things, for the cultural policies of the State of Berlin - a fortunate circumstance, because this is where her wide range of political, scientific and

artistic interests converge.

1994 is also the year when Maja Smoltczyk started pursuing her artistic career and studying sculpting. Since then she has been continuously active and successful as a sculptress. Maja Smoltczyk combines in one person, in a highly productive manner, two spheres that are generally held to be incompatible: art and legal work. She accomplishes this by allowing her feelings for people, the exactness of her observation, and her creativity, to exert a positive effect on both spheres.

In September 2006 Maja Smoltczyk won the first prize in the German art competition "The Art of Aging" with her life-size bronze sculpture "Old man seated - or What are you running after?".

Since then her artworks have been regularly seen in exhibitions throughout Germany, and internationally since 2010, when she participated in an international sculpture exhibition in Sweden as one of twelve German artists. In 2013, she was commissioned to portray the former Governing Mayor of Berlin, Walter Momper.

Maja Smoltczyk's endeavor is to give expression to what she sees in nature from her own perspective, to emphasize or tone down features. In this way, to varying degrees she unquestionably works with the abstract in the real sense of the word: she directs the eye of the beholder to the essential elements of the person portrayed. Her subject is first and foremost the human being.

The main focus of her work in this sphere is portraiture, and here it is her paramount concern to capture the characteristic traits and moods of the persons portrayed.

Rather than making mere likenesses, she succeeds in revealing and heightening characterizing features over and above what is to be found outwardly in nature and she thus achieves an impressive vitality in her works of art.

Her full body works, which constitute a further field of her artistic endeavor, seek to reveal moods of a universally applicable nature. No specific persons are portrayed in these sculptures, nevertheless the facial features, however abstract they may be individually, have an extraordinarily alive quality. This, combined with the attitude of the figures, results in a strong expression of emotion with which the beholder can readily identify himself.

Even the figures portrayed in the idiom of cubism still convey human moods, despite their high degree of abstraction. A third area of her work, a sequence of constructed sculptures with graphic features dealing with the themes of alienation and detachment from nature in a synthesis of human and architectural forms, takes a more experimental direction.





Maja Smoltczyk

Für sich oder What's up, Tiger Johnny?
On one's own or What's up, Tiger Johnny?
Bronze
21 x 23 x 16 cm
2008

Exhibitions (Extract):

2006 Exhibition of the winners of the German-wide art competition „*The art of aging*“, Berlin, Germany

2007 GeoGalerie Berlin, *Traces of Life*, Berlin, Germany

2008 Gallery Fährhaus Caputh, Berlin, Germany

2008 PrimaVista Berlin, *Focus on Art*, Berlin, Germany

2008 Haus Luther Berlin, *5. Kunstdialog*, Berlin, Germany

2009 Commerzbank Berlin-Schlachtensee, *Portrait and small-scale sculptures*, Berlin, Germany

2009 Ernst-Moritz-Arndt-Kirche, Berlin, Germany

2010 Bruno Taut Gallery, Berlin, Germany

2010 3. *Teltower Kunstsonntag*, Teltow, Germany

2011 Bruno Taut Gallery, Berlin, Germany

2011 *Art Kreuzberg 2011*, Kreuzberg art fair, Berlin, Germany

2011 4. *Teltower Kunstsonntag*, Teltow, Germany

2012 Kunstquartier Bethanien, group exhibition sculpture network, Berlin, Germany

2012 International Sculpture Exhibition *European Sculpture - methods, materials, poetry* Edsvik Konsthall, Sollentuna / Stockholm, Sweden

2012 5. *Teltower Kunstsonntag*, Teltow, Germany

2013 Gallery Flierl, *Elements - Gravity - Equilibrium*, Berlin, Germany

2014 Kloster Ilsenburg, *Man and Future*, Ilsenburg, Germany

2014 St. Marienkrankenhaus, *Focus on Human*, Berlin, Germany



Maja Smoltczyk

Träumende
Dreaming Girl
Bronze
21 x 30 x 22 cm
2007



Maja Smolczyk

Blaue Stunde I
Blue Mood I
Bronze
17 x 12 x 17 cm
2007



Maja Smoltczyk

Blaue Stunde II
Blue Mood II

Bronze

14 x 12 x 16 cm
2007



Maja Smolczyk

Smilla
Bronze
27 x 18 x 24 cm
2009



Maja Smolczyk

Knut
Bronze
13 x 14 x 23 cm
2011