

Jens Ritter

Biography

Jens Ritter is a German artist. He grew up in a musical environment which aroused his passion and love for the electric guitar culture. In his first creative childhood attempts, Jens has built "electric guitars" out of wire, cookie jars and waste wood and created speaker cabinets using loudspeakers of defective TVs from local dumps. Through this exciting tinkering Ritter discovered his love and passion of expressing himself through creating electric guitar culture related objects and thereby becoming later in his life a part of this culture.

After his studies of mechanical arts, Ritter focused on designing and crafting avant-garde guitars for Prince, Lady Gaga, George Benson, Nile Rodgers, Mary J. Blige, Phil Lesh of the Grateful Dead, Sammy Hagar of Van Halen and other major music production artists.

But Jens Ritter went further – he finally transformed his electric guitars from "musician's work tools" into high exclusive collector pieces for the fine art world. These art works are materialized songs – Jens Ritter's music.

Today his exclusive masterpieces are owned by famous musicians and collectors from around the world and Jens Ritter has become known as... "The fusion of Stradivarius and Picasso!"

Artist Statement

Sculpting Music

"For me, creating my artworks is like writing songs. Just like a musician processes and communicates his feelings and thoughts through music, I communicate mine through my works of art. Some of them tell whole stories about my life's extraordinary experiences. Others just reflect fleeting impressions that I consciously or unconsciously came across in everyday life." – Ritter

Education

1989-1993 Apprenticeship of metalworking and –finishing

1994 IHK-Scholarship in New York City / USA

1994-1996 Academy of technical arts Ludwigshafen / Germany

1995 IHK-Scholarship in San Francisco / USA

1996 IHK-Scholarship in Vancouver / Canada

1997-1999 Audio-visual graphic production at Malinowski Group / Germany

2006 Design Coaching by Luigi Colani

Museum and private Collections (Selection)

MET Metropolitan Museum of Art New York City

Lady Gaga

Prince

Boston Museum of Fine Arts

George Benson

Mary J Blige

Smithsonian Museum Washington D.C.

Nile Rodgers (Chic / Daft Punk)

Phil Lesh (Grateful Dead)

Sammy Hagar (Van Halen)

MPK Art Museum Kaiserslautern (Germany)

Paul Turner (Jamiroquai)

NAMM Museum San Diego

LaMarquis Jefferson (Usher)

Landesmuseum Mannheim (Germany)

Publications (Selection)

Robb Report, Emarat Al Youm Dubai, Las Vegas Sun, Die Zeit, Kempinski

Magazine, Kunstraum Metropol, San Diego Journal, Thailand Millionaire Magazine, Die

Rheinpfalz, Revelations Catalogue, FAZ Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Rubensteins,

Bildzeitung, Chefs!, Nippon Epress, Guitar Aficionado, Smartlife, Handelsblatt, Carved,

Traditional Jewelers, Ubi Bene, Wish Report, Bachendorf's Accent, Pixx Magazine, Koeln

Express, Gary's, Bass Player, Davison Magazine Singapore, Guitar World Magazin

TV Documentaries, CBS-News, ARD Germany, SWR Germany,

Awards

2005 Winner of State Designprice of Rheinland Pfalz / Germany

2005 Winner of Talkbass poll "World's most beautiful handmade instrument"

2013 Winner of NAMM Award "Best Instrument of the Show"

2016 Winner of German State Price Award for Arts & Crafts

Single Exhibitions

1997 STATION M. / Aschaffenburg, Germany

1998 LIVE-LIGHTS / Muenchen, Germany

2000 GIAMPIETRO / New Heaven, USA

2001 RUDYS / New York City, USA

2002 B-Gallery / London, Great Britain

2002 A&V Gallery / Ludwigshafen, Germany

2003 California Bass / Paris, France

2004 RUDYS / New York City, USA

2004 Metallidis / Athens, Greece

2005 CMB / Barcelona, Spain

2005 Huebner Gallery / Mannheim, Germany

2005 Kurosawa / Tokyo, Japan

2006 Gale Music / Toronto, Canada

2007 President-Palace / Abu Dhabi, UAE

2007 Frankfurt Airport / Frankfurt Main, Germany

2008 Revolution Gallery / Oakville, Canada

2008 Wynn Hotel / Las Vegas - USA

2010 Symbolic Art Gallery / San Diego, USA

2011 "PI Guitar" presentation at the APPLE Store NEW YORK CITY by
Star Photographer Jonathan Singer

2013 RUDY'S SOHO Gallery / New York City, USA

2014 "Art of Electric Guitars" - Retrospective Exhibition at the
Neustadt Art Foundation / Germany

2015 MPK Art Museum Kaiserslautern / Germany

2016 Barchie's Tokyo / Japan

2018 Kurosawa Tokyo / Japan

2018 Barchie's Tokyo / Japan

Exhibition Participation and Fairs

1996 Musikmesse / Frankfurt - Germany

1997 Musikmesse / Frankfurt - Germany

1997 CALIFORNIA CENTER / New York City - USA

1998 Musikmesse / Frankfurt - Germany

1999 Musikmesse / Frankfurt - Germany

1999 KAMMGARN / Kaiserslautern - Germany

2000 Musikmesse / Frankfurt - Germany

2001 Musikmesse / Frankfurt - Germany

2002 NAMM / Los Angeles - USA

2002 Hannover-Messe Division Innovative Designs / Hannover - Germany

2002 Musikmesse / Frankfurt - Germany

2003 NAMM / Los Angeles - USA

2003 Musikmesse / Frankfurt - Germany

2004 NAMM / Los Angeles - USA

2004 Musikmesse / Frankfurt - Germany

2004 NAMM / Nashville - USA

2004 Stromgitarren / Mannheim – Germany

2005 NAMM / Los Angeles - USA

2005 Musikmesse / Frankfurt - Germany

2005 NAMM / Indianapolis – USA

2006 NAMM / Los Angeles - USA

2006 NAMM / Austin-Texas – USA

2006 Emirates Millionaire Show / Abu Dhabi – UAE

2007 NAMM / Los Angeles - USA

2007 Musac / Dubai – United Arabian Emirates

2007 Musikmesse / Frankfurt - Germany
2007 NAMM / Austin-Texas – USA
2007 Thailand Luxury Expo / Bangkok - Thailand
2008 NAMM / Los Angeles - USA
2008 Musikmesse / Frankfurt – Germany
2008 NAMM / Nashville - USA
2009 NAMM / Los Angeles - USA
2009 Musikmesse / Frankfurt - Germany
2010 NAMM / Los Angeles – USA
2010 Musikmesse / Frankfurt – Germany
2010 Montreal Jazz Festival / Montreal - Canada
2011 NAMM / Los Angeles – USA
2011 Musikmesse / Frankfurt – Germany
2011 Montreal Jazz Festival / Montreal - Canada
2012 NAMM / Los Angeles – USA
2012 Musikmesse / Frankfurt – Germany
2012 Montreal Jazz Festival / Montreal - Canada
2013 NAMM / Los Angeles – USA
2013 Musikmesse / Frankfurt – Germany
2013 Healdsburg Guitar Show / Santa Rosa California – USA
2014 NAMM / Los Angeles – USA
2014 Holygrail Guitar Show / Berlin - Germany
2014 NAMM / Los Angeles – USA
2015 MES CREATEURS JOAILLIERS / Paris – France
2015 NAMM / Los Angeles – USA
2015 Holygrail Guitar Show / Berlin - Germany
2016 NAMM / Los Angeles – USA
2016 Holygrail Guitar Show / Berlin – Germany
2017 NAMM / Los Angeles – USA

2017 Holygrail Guitar Show / Berlin – Germany

2017 Guitar Summit / Mannheim - Germany

2018 NAMM / Los Angeles – USA

2018 Guitar Summit / Mannheim - Germany

2019 NAMM / Los Angeles – USA