

Willi Kissmer

Biography

Willi Kissmer was born on December 24th 1951 in Duisburg, Germany where he passed away on July 27th 2018.

Kissmer was known for technically exquisite etchings, oil and acrylic paintings that mostly depict nudes or half nudes, which are oftentimes draped in swathes of lush fabric. The details are accentuated in ultra-realistic texture using a combination of mezzotint, dry point, and aquatint, which highlight the juxtaposition between flesh and cloth.

Finding inspiration in his immediate surroundings, Kissmer's model was usually his wife. Presented as a subject of eroticism and detailed study, he articulates our communal relationship with objects of desire. After his studies at the renowned Folkwang art school, Kissmer made a name for himself both as a musician and an artist.

After numerous educational trips to Russia, Egypt, South America, Greece, Italy, and Turkey he taught printmaking at the University of Duisburg. He has had numerous exhibitions in the United States and England.

In his work, the artist preferred the torso. He consciously omitted the representation of the head, abstained from individual facial features, and the rendition of hands, the gestures of which could impair the composition and thus the statement. The omission of individuality as well as psyche, the concentration on universal anonymity, and the emphasis on the body indicate Kissmer's actual concern to deliver symbols of elementary human life, which find beautiful expression in the blooming female body.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2006 Hart Gallery, Palm Desert, California
- 2005 Hart Gallery, Palm Desert, California
- 2004 Hart Gallery, Carmel, California
- 2000 Kleine Weltlaterne, Berlin, Germany
- 1999 Galerie Aurika, Frankfurt, Germany
- John Bolxham Fine Art, London, UK
- Galerie No. 3, Essen, Germany
- Galerie Conrad, Bonn, Germany

- Art Expo, New York, USA
- Art Multiple, Dusseldorf, Germany
- 1998 Galerie Marijke Raalmakers, Netherlands
- PAN, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- KunsthauS Veith, Pirmasens, Germany
- Art Multiple, Dusseldorf, Germany
- Galerie No. 3, Essen, Germany
- Art Expo, Los Angeles, California, USA
- 1997 Art Expo, New York, USA
- Art Multiple, Dusseldorf, Germany
- Saga, Paris, France
- 1996 Lehmbruck Museum, Duisberg Germany
- Cubus Kunsthalle, Duisburg, Germany
- Internationale Grafik Triennale, Frechen, Germany
- Art Multiple, Dusseldorf, Germany
- Art Expo, New York, USA
- 1995 Art Stockholm, Sweden
- Art Expo, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA
- Art Multiple, Dusseldorf, Germany
- Art Expo, New York, USA
- 1994 Line Art, Gent, Belgium
- Art Multiple, Dusseldorf, Germany
- 1993 Art Multiple, Dusseldorf, Germany
- 1992 International Graphics Triennale, Frechen, German
- 1991 Kontakte II", Duisburg, Germany/Moskau/Leningrad, USSR
- "Erotic Art", Galerie Tabula, Tuebingen
- 1990 City Gallery, Portsmouth, Great Britain
- 1989 Galerie 4, Arlesheim, Switzerland
- 1988 Lehmbruck Museum, Duisburg, Germany

Selected Collections

Kaestner Gesellschaft, Germany

Aldegrevier Gesellschaft, Germany

Helen Chrysler Green, New York, USA

Mark& Sandra Tratos, Las Vegas, USA

Kate Cuddy Gielen, London, Ontario, Canada