



SIMON BERGER

Born on April 9, 1976, in Switzerland.
Lives and works now in his own studio in Niederönz.



Artistic vision, technical skill and continuous innovation characterize Simon Berger's creative practice. Pioneering an improbable method of working glass in a two-dimensional, figurative way, the Swiss artist literally breaks the laws of physics with a revolutionary approach to his medium of choice, thereby moving beyond the century-old convention of building and modelling vitreous matter. Contrary to this long-standing tradition, his is a form of anti-creation as the destructive gesture of mere blows of a hammer on a glass pane ultimately 'draws' images of great visual intrigue that emerge from the tangle of powerfully orchestrated cracks. By virtue of his unique sculptural language Simon Berger explores the depths of the material, striking the glass to liberate photorealistic 'paintings' from the presumed flatness of the surface. The vitreous canvas in this regard becomes both the supportive structure of his artwork, as well as the visualization of his artistic handwriting, while its transparency allows the artist to play with notions of an infinite beyond that assumes concrete form in the opacity of the breaks.

The closer and briefer the blows, the stronger the contrasts and the shades. In his hands, the hammer is no longer a tool of destruction, but rather an amplifier of effects. His lacerated 'paintings', incised in glass, transport the gaze into the tangles of cracks and creases which he refers to as 'morphogenesis'.

Simon Berger began his artistic explorations by creating portraits with spray cans before turning to other media. A carpenter by training, his first sculptural works accordingly resulted from a natural attraction to wood. Drawn to different materials with their respective affordances and fostering a fascination with discarded items, the artist spent plenty of time experimenting with used vehicle bodies to create assemblages. It was while pondering what to do with a car windshield that his idea for working with glass was born. Following first attempts, he gradually perfected his unique technique of 'incising' images with a hammer, thereby turning the weakness of the material - its fragility and risk of breaking - into its greatest strength.

Cris Contini Contemporary

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"Human faces have always fascinated me" Simon Berger explains his primary choice of subject. "On safety glass, they come into their own and magically attract the viewer. It is a process of discovery from abstract fogging to figurative perception."

Of exceptional photorealistic allure, these portraits enthrall for their expressiveness, as if animated from within and resonating with life. With his work on windowpanes, the artist pushes creative boundaries and probes the expressive capabilities of inert materials destined for factories. His vitreous paintings challenge habits of seeing as the glass canvases become sites where visual perception is held in constant suspense by the deconstructing and reconstructing image. Glass, the most capricious of all media for artistic expression, acts as a place where the force of a unique sculptural gesture translates into depictions of mesmerizing appeal. From the controlled shattering of glass and its resulting fractures, art recalls its power of suscitating wonder and awe since through destruction, Simon Berger allows beauty to emerge.

Sandrine Welte

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ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHY

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025

"*A Matter of Metamorphosis*", site-specific exhibition curated by Sandrine Welte and Pasquale Lettieri, supported by the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia and in collaboration with Cris Contini Contemporary, Exhibition Hall of the Municipality of Casarsa della Delizia, Pordenone, Italy
"*Tra Madre e Figlio*", curated by Sandra Sanson and Pasquale Lettieri, organized by Cris Contini Contemporary under the patronage of the Pontifical Academy of Theology chaired by H.E. Msgr. Antonio Staglianò, Chiesa degli Artisti, Piazza del Popolo, Rome
Installation *Terra Nobilis*, in collaboration with Agence DS, Paris

2024

"*Réverbération*", curated by Agence DS and Icone Art Gallery, Atelier Richelieu, Paris
"*Monuments*", Underdogs gallery, Lisbon, Portugal

2023

"*Facing Grace*", curated by Sandrine Welte and Pasquale Lettieri, organized by Cris Contini Contemporary in collaboration with the Municipality of Treviso, Casa Robegan, Civic Museums of Treviso, Italy
"*Le Porte della Percezione / The Doors of Perception*", curated by Sandrine Welte and Pasquale Lettieri, organized by Cris Contini Contemporary and Lo Studiolo d'Arte, Museo Civico di Sansepolcro, Italy
"*Shattering Beauty. Simon Berger*", in collaboration with Berengo Studio, Museo del Vetro, Murano, Venice
"*Beauty in Destruction*", West Chelsea Contemporary, Austin, Texas

2022

"*Shattered*", Aurum Gallery, Bangkok
Solo show, Artstübli Gallery, Basel (CH)
"*Le verre dans tous ses éclats*", Vitromusée Romont
Duo show with Pierre-Alain Münger "*reFORMATION*", Frankonian Museum, Feuchtwangen
"*Cracked Beauties*", Mazel Galerie, Brussels

2021

"*Simon Berger*", Artstübli Gallery, Basel (CH)

2020

"*Loeb*", Artstübli Gallery, Basel (CH)
"*Il Salotto dell'arte contemporanea*", Galerie Idroom, Genève, Switzerland
"*Portraits aus Glas*", Schaufensterbox, LOEB, Bern, Switzerland

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2019

"Defekt - Duo Show with Pierre-Alain Mürger", Artstübli Gallery, Basel (CH)

2017

Buchvernissage Ausstellung Oberaargau, Switzerland

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025

"The Sublime Nature of Being", curated by Ambika Hinduja Macker of Impeccable Imagination, in collaboration with ICD Brookfield Place, Dubai

2024

Group Exhibition, Galerie Alte Brennerei, Unterramsern, Switzerland

"Glasstress", Fondazione Berengo, Biennale di Venezia, Collateral Event, Venice, Italy

"Art Fiaci", Museo de Arte Moderno & Palacio de Bellas Artes, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

"Trasformazione", Galleria Sacchetti, Ascona, Switzerland

"Lasting Moment", Laurent Marthaler Contemporary, Montreux (CH)

2023

Group Show, Laurent Marthaler Contemporary, Montreux (CH)

Duo Show with Add Fuel, Fabian Castanier Gallery, Miami, USA

2022

"Playground", Mazel Galerie, Brussels, Belgium

"Excelsior: Stan Lee's 100th Anniversary", Mazel Galerie, Brussels

Public Sculpture *"Metamorphose"*, Sculpture Garden Biennale, Ile Rousseau, Geneva

"Spring Break", Mazel Galerie, Brussels, Belgium

"Glasstress", Berengo Foundation, Venice

Group show parallel to Street Art Festival, L'Ancien Musée de Peinture, Grenoble

2021

"Break that Wall", Mazel Galerie, Brussels

"Group Show #2", Aurum Gallery, Bangkok (TH)

"Group Show #1", Aurum Gallery, Bangkok (TH)

2020

Street Art Festival, Grenoble

Group Show, Galerie Art 87, Switzerland

Group Show, Galerie Alte Brennerei, Unterramsern, Switzerland

2019

Group Show, Galerie Artsübli, Basel, Switzerland

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2018

Group Show, Galerie Alte Brennerei, Unterramsern, Switzerland

2016

Group Show, Motorex Auftragsarbeit Langenthal, Switzerland

2015

Group Show, Kunstweg Attiswil, Switzerland

2014

Group Show, Galerie Näijerhuus, Heinrichswil, Switzerland

Group Show, Kunstweg Melchnau, Switzerland

SPECIAL PROJECTS AND PUBLIC ARTWORKS

2024

Art Wynwood 2024 installation, project curated by Sandrine Welte, in collaboration with Laurent Marthaler Contemporary, Wynwood Walls, Art District, Miami

Live Performance, Fondation Pierre Gianadda, Martigny, Switzerland

2023

"*Unbreakable Identities Vol.2*", Gallotti e Radice, Milan

"*Portrait of Atatürk*", Laurent Marthaler Contemporary, Montreux (CH)

"*Tosca*", Place Boieldieu, with Agence DS, Paris, France

"*Refléxions Cristalline*", La Villa Calvi x Agence DS, Corsica, France

"*Lebe deinen Traum*", Secondary School of Herzogenbuchsee

2022

Street Art Festival Grenoble, permanent Installation

"*Unbreakable Identities*" during Milano Design Week, Gallotti e Radice, Milan

Parallel project to Sculpture Garden Geneva Biennale, BVLGARI, Geneva

"*Serpenti & Portraits of Christa Rigozzi and Kevin Lütolf*", curated by Florian Paul Koenig, BVLGARI, Zurich

Glasstress, Brussels Fashion Week, Brussels (BE)

"*Untitled*" (front window), curated by Goldie and Leon Wilkinson, Aurum Gallery, Bangkok (TH)

"*L'Espoir*", curated by Jerome Catz, Spacejunk Grenoble, Street Art Fest, Grenoble (FR)

"*Broken Lives*", curated by Laurent Marthaler, Laurent Marthaler Contemporary, Ministry of Traffic Safety of France, Paris

2021

"*Kamala Harris*", curated by Philipp Brogli, Artstübli, Abraham Lincoln Memorial (USA)

"*We are Unbreakable*", curated by Laurent Marthaler, MTV Lebanon, Beirut (LBN)

"*Untitled*", Golf Court Ätigkofen (CH)

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2020

"Untitled", curated by Jean-Damien Zacchariotto, Promenade du Lac, City of Geneva (CH)

"Abribus", curated by Jean-Damien Zacchariotto, City of Geneva (CH)

"Untitled", (front window), Artstübli Gallery, Basel (CH)

2016

"E=mc²", Motorex

ARTWORKS IN PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Museo Civico di Sansepolcro, Italy

Museum, Murten, Switzerland

Public Collection of the City of Feuchtwangen, Germany

Jessica Goldman Collection, Wynnwood, USA

Woman's History Museum, Portrait of Kamala Harris, USA

Foundation Dr. Hanspeter & Christine Rentsch, Feldbrunnen, Switzerland Beit Beirut, Museum and Urban Culture (LBN), Lebanon

Gallotti & Radice Collection, Italy

NOA Collection, Switzerland

Museo del Vetro, Murano, Italy

Frist Collection, Nashville, Tennessee, USA

Collection of the Vitromusée, Romont, Switzerland

ART FAIRS

2025

Laurent Marthaler Contemporary at Art Palm Beach 2025, Laurent Marthaler Contemporary

2024

Laurent Marthaler Contemporary, Montreux, Art Miami 24

Cris Contini Contemporary at Roma Arte in Nuvola 2024, Cris Contini Contemporary

2023

Mazel Galerie at Urban Art Fair Paris 2023, Mazel Galerie

Laurent Marthaler Contemporary at Art Market San Francisco 2023, Laurent Marthaler Contemporary

Laurent Marthaler Contemporary at Palm Beach Modern + Contemporary 2023, Laurent Marthaler Contemporary

Laurent Marthaler Contemporary at Art Wynwood 2023, Laurent Marthaler Contemporary

2022

Laurent Marthaler Contemporary, Montreux, Art Miami 22

Laurent Marthaler Contemporary, Montreux, Kunst Zürich 22

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Mazel Galerie, Brussels, St-Art, Strassbourg
Mazel Galerie, Brussels, Moderne Art Fair Paris
Laurent Marthaler Contemporary, Montreux, Art Market Hamptons
Laurent Marthaler Contemporary, Montreux, Seattle Art Fair
Artstübli, Basel, Solo Presentation at VOLTA Basel
Laurent Marthaler Contemporary, Montreux, Art Market San Francisco
Laurent Marthaler Contemporary, Montreux, Art Palm-Beach

2021

Laurent Marthaler Contemporary, Montreux, Art Miami 21
Galerie Artsübl, Urban Art Fair, Paris
Mazel Galerie, Luxembourg Art Week, Luxembourg

2020

Laurent Marthaler Contemporary, Montreux, Kunst Zürich 20

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