

Adolf Frohner

12 March 1934 – 24 January 2007

Biography

- 1934 12 March – born in Gross-Inzersdorf, Lower Austria
- 1946 Attended Gymnasium des Zisterzienserstifts in Zwettl
- 1948 Attended Piaristengymnasium in Krems (until 1952)
- 1952 Moved to Vienna
- 1953 Attended a commercial advertising college (until 1955)
- 1954 Guest student at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna, Herbert Boeckl's evening nude drawing class
- 1955 Commercial artist at Verband der Elektrizitätswerke (until 1959); following self-taught works influenced by Paul Cezanne, Pablo Picasso, Juan Gris, Fernand Leger, Oskar Schlemmer and Paul Klee, Frohner shifted to gesticulative abstract painting, Tachism and action painting
- 1959 Art reviewer for two ideologically opposed newspapers: *Volksblatt* and *Volkssstimme*, in the latter under the pen name Georg Hart
- 1961 Freelance painter and graphic artist; UNESCO grant for Paris arranged by Herbert Boeckl, where Frohner contacted the Nouveaux Réalistes group surrounding Pierre Restan
- 1962 Walled in for three days with Otto Muehl and Hermann Nitsch, causing problems with the authorities and private individuals and marking the start of Viennese Actionism; thereafter Frohner refused any kind of bourgeois profession
- 1964 Commission by the City of Vienna for sixteen graffiti surfaces for a municipal apartment building in Vienna
- 1967 Participation in Biennale des Jeunes Artistes in Paris (together with Walter Pichler and Richard Kriesche); after Frohner dedicated *Die Flucht* to Jean Dubuffet, the two met for the first time; intensive correspondence and numerous visits followed
- 1969 Participation in the Biennale in São Paulo to great international acclaim
- 1970 Solo exhibition at the Biennale in Venice (twenty-one large oil paintings); start of cooperation with renowned galleries

- 1972 Appointment as extraordinary professor for nude drawing at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna; resignation from Secession artists' association and president of the newly founded Counter-Secession, which was subsequently dissolved by the authorities for being completely inactive and failing to reply to official letters
- 1976 Ordinary professor at the University of Applied Arts; representative for art in the ORF Listeners' and Viewers' Association (until 1980); commission for two murals for the Vienna International Centre (UNO City); visit to Gyula Halász Brassai in Paris
- 1979 Head of General Art Theory and Art Education Department of the University of Applied Arts (until 1981)
- 1985 Painting master class at the University of Applied Arts
- 1987 Head of the Visual Arts Department at the University of Applied Arts (until 1999)
- 1989 Deputy rector of the University of Applied Arts (until 1991)
- 1990 Public commission for a fountain in front of the Bundesamtsgebäude in the 19th district of Vienna
- 1993 Commission by Wiener Linien to design a 40-metre wall in the underground passage at the Westbahnhof in Vienna: *55 Schritte durch Europa*
- 1995 Mural at Vienna International Airport: *Der ewige Traum vom Menschen*
- 1996 Prorector of the University of Applied Arts
- 1998 Ordinary professor for painting at the University of Applied Arts
- 1999 Head of the Institute of Visual Arts at the University of Applied Arts (until 2004)
- 2002 Emeritus professor and head of the Institute of Visual Arts at the University of Applied Arts; in this position he continued his master class for painting for a further three years (until 2005)
- 2007 19 January: ground-breaking ceremony together with Lower Austria governor Erwin Pröll for new Forum Frohner within the refurbished Stein Minorite Church in Krems; 24 January: Frohner died suddenly and completely unexpectedly; 29 September: opening of Forum Frohner in former Stein Minorite Church
- 2009 15 June: founding of Adolf Frohner gemeinnützigen Privatstiftung

Exhibitions (selection)

- 1967 Biennale des Jeunes Artistes in Paris
- 1969 Austrian representative at Biennale de São Paulo
- 1970 Solo exhibition at Biennale di Venezia
- 1985 Triennial of Realistic Art, Sofia
- 1992 “Wiener Madln”, Galerie Menotti, Baden
- 1997 Galerie Raab, Berlin; Halle K, Hamburg; Frauenburg, Baden bei Wien; Max Planck Institute, Munich
- 1998 Galerie Sikoronja, Rosegg; Cselly-Mühle, Oslip; Kleiner Kunstpalast, Merano
- 1999 Schloss Ulmerfeld, Lower Austria; Galerie Medium, Bratislava 2000
Puppentheatertage, Mistelbach
- 2001 Kunstforum, Vienna; Von der Heydt-Museum, Wuppertal; Landesmuseum
Schleswig-Holstein; ORF-Landesstudio Niederösterreich; Galerie Wellinger,
Salzburg; Galerie am Stein, Schärding; Galerie Hofstätter, Vienna
- 2002 Schloss Gabelhofen, Fohnsdorf; Galerie Eberstaller, Gols
- 2003 Galerie Glacis, Graz; Galerie 12, Innsbruck; Galerie Fichtegasse 1, Vienna;
Kulturkreis Burgenland, Rust
- 2004 “Adolf Frohner – 1958–2002“, NÖ Landesmuseum, St. Pölten
- 2007 “Hommage an Adolf Frohner”, Lentos, Linz; grenzArt, Hollabrunn; Forum
Frohner, Krems
- 2008 „Dem Bild die Gedärme herausreißen“, Forum Frohner, Krems; Nach 1970.
Österreichische Kunst aus der Albertina, Graphische Sammlung Albertina,
Vienna
- 2009 „Chili con Carne. Frohner und seine Schüler/innen“, Forum Frohner,
Krems; „Schönheit des Hässlichen“, Forum Frohner, Krems; “Die 50er
Jahre: Kunst und Kunstverständnis in Wien”, MUSA, Vienna
- 2010 “Vagabundierende Gedanken”, Forum Frohner, Krems; Kleine Galerie,
Vienna; „CORSO. Werke der Sammlung Essl im Dialog“, Sammlung Essl,
Klosterneuburg; “Direct Art: Wiener Aktionismus”, MUMOK, Vienna; „Les
Femmes fatales“, Forum Frohner, Krems; „Bacchus“, Forum Frohner,
Krems; „Ich ist ein anderer – Die Kunst der Selbstdarstellung“,
Niederösterreichisches Landesmuseum, St. Pölten
- 2011 „Wilde Zeichen. Graffiti in der Kunst“, Forum Frohner, Krems;