

Die Kunst generell ist ^{8/2017}
~~an einen Punkt gekommen,~~
~~wo man um die Begriffe~~
~~nicht mehr herumkommt,~~
man kann nicht mehr
aus dem Unterbewussten
rein künstlerisch arbeiten.

Das ist keine Banalität

Das ist eine
hohe
Kunst



75



The Artist Urs Burki

Chaos and Order

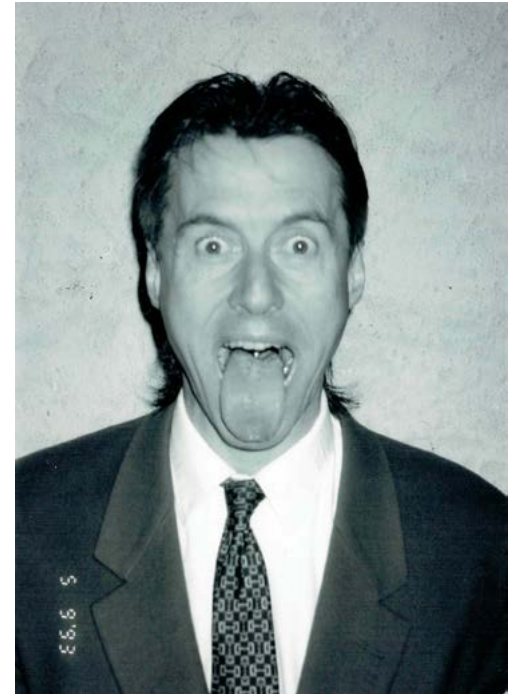
Works from 1973 to 2016

Urs Burki (5.12.1945– 10.2.2017) obtained his Doctor of Medicine in 1972. It was at this time that he created his first works of art, which included sculptures, photographs, paintings and performances. While in Lucerne, Urs Burki was an active member of the young art scene that surrounded artists Urs Lüthi, Luciano Castelli and Jean-Christoph Ammann. From that point on, however, the artist worked exclusively as a plastic surgeon (FMH) in public, drawing attention to himself primarily through his spectacular "open-air" operations. Up until now, Urs Burki made the quite conscious decision to withhold his extensive oeuvre of paintings, sculptures, performances and photography from the public.

A major retrospective of Urs Burki's rich and varied complete works will be held at the Bromer Art Collection in Roggwil, Bern, in an exhibition space spanning over 300 m² and will open with a vernissage on 31 March 2017. The launch for his two books, "Chaos and Order – Works from 1973–2016" and "Open-air Performances", will be held on the same date.

The exhibition runs until 30 April 2017.

ursburki.ch





U.B. Euthymia IV, 2010, painting, 128 x 187.5 cm

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Biography

A new representative of the Junge Wilde:
The artist in the white gown

Urs Burki spent his youth and childhood in Solothurn, Switzerland. He came into contact with sculpture and painting early in life, regularly visiting galleries and museums in Switzerland and across Europe with his parents. It was through his parents, who were passionate collectors, that he first discovered contemporary art. Urs Burki's personal encounters with contemporary artists such as Le Corbusier, Lapicque and Bazaine and his in-depth examination of works by great Renaissance masters like Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci and Dürer awoke in him the urge to create art himself at an early age.

Urs Burki's youth was also characterised by a love of music and sport. At seven years of age, he started taking violoncello lessons at his own request, and he also had the opportunity to demonstrate his musical talent in public concerts. After intense training in the sport of rowing, he participated in both national and international regattas in a single scull. At eighteen, his attention turned increasingly towards cycle racing and as a result, he succeeded in qualifying as an elite amateur in the sport. He was later admitted to Switzerland's national cycling team and competed in national and international races for several years while studying for his degree in medicine.

Urs Burki studied medicine at the University of Zurich, obtaining his Doctor of Medicine in 1972. While working as a junior doctor at the cantonal hospital in Lucerne, he came into contact with the young art scene that surrounded Luciano Castelli, Urs Lüthi and Jean-Christoph Ammann. Urs Burki organised his first Fluxus activities and "Happenings" and also perfected his cello playing at

the Lucerne Conservatory of Music. While in Lucerne, he also met sculptor Mandy Volz, who taught him the art of sculpting. He created his first sculptures at the end of the 1960s. During his leisure time, he was regularly to be found sculpting in his studio in Pietrasanta, Italy, where he also came into contact with artists such as Anish Kapoor and Henry Moore. He later started painting as it afforded him more freedom of expression than sculpture. His painting was reminiscent of the "New Fauves" and captivated with its expressive, emotional, soulful style. Urs Burki often applied the paint to the canvas directly with his hands, and sometimes even his feet.

From 1974 Urs Burki trained in general surgery, hand surgery and microsurgery at the University Hospital of Zurich. He then spent a further four years specialising in plastic, reconstructive and aesthetic surgery, receiving the title of certified specialist (FMH) in 1981. Whilst undertaking fellowships with leading aesthetic surgeons in New York, Los Angeles, Miami, Mexico City and Rio de Janeiro, he produced sketches for a number of sculptures, as well as paintings, photographic works and prose writings. Urs Burki repeatedly explored the cultures, manners and customs of different countries, with the ancient cultures of Italy, Greece, Egypt, Jordan, Russia, Poland, India, Bali, the Philippines, Tibet and Nepal holding a particular fascination for him.

In 1983 Urs Burki opened an outpatients' centre for aesthetic surgery and in 1990, the Burki Clinic for Aesthetic Surgery. This was followed a little later by the opening of a centre for aesthetic

medicine. Urs Burki always viewed aesthetic surgery as a form of applied art. Between 1993 and 2004, this motivated him to combine his artistic sensibilities and his medical profession in pioneering “open-air” and “in-home” operations, which took the form of performance art. He regularly spent time sculpting, painting and photography throughout all his years as an aesthetic surgeon.

In 2009, an important chapter in Urs Burki’s creative life came to an end: he closed his clinic for aesthetic surgery in Geneva, moved to Monte Carlo and dedicated himself entirely to painting, sculpting, photography and poetry.

This portrait necessarily avoids categorising the universal artist Urs Burki in terms of art history: to categorise him in this way would be just as difficult as finding a category for the artist’s multifaceted personality and universal spirit. Urs Burki’s performative stagings as an aesthetic surgeon, sculptures, paintings, photographs and writings clearly demonstrate that the artist was driven singularly by the yearning for artistic freedom and spontaneity.



U.B., Self-portrait, 2013, mixed technique

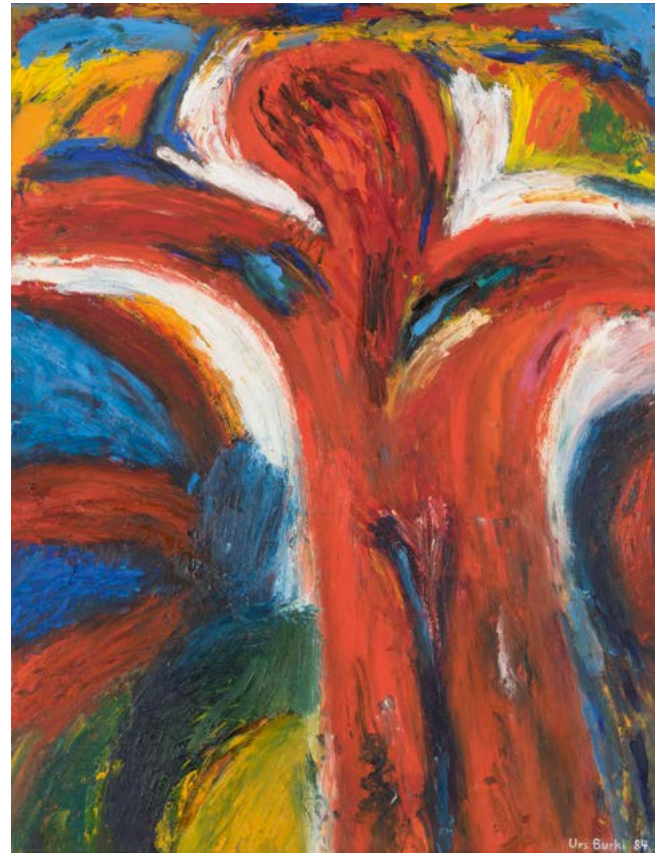
“I am against all forms of monotony and uniformity. I love the unknown, the absurd and the paradoxical. And I also love chaos and order, each at their right time and sometimes even at the same time: in life as on the canvas.”



U.B., Alpine meadow idyll, 1984, painting, 139 x 99 cm

Works

"The pictures that come about by chance are often the most interesting. I frequently work with an energy that acts as a trigger for something, that provides the impetus and sets a process in motion. My imagination only develops its full potential once I start working. While working, I never ask myself how the art will be received by the observer: I don't make any compromises."



U.B., re-appearance, 1984, painting, 132 x 100 cm





U.B., Luminescence, 1991, painting, 203 x 145 cm



U.B., Krakow, 1994, painting, 204 x 148 cm

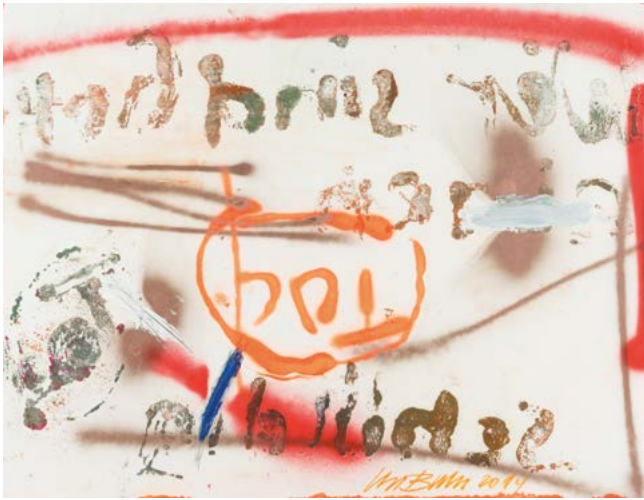


U.B., I feel as if I could float, 2007, painting, 200.5 x 148 cm



U.B., I revere the women who make love all night long, 2008, painting, 198.5 x 145 cm





U.B., Untitled, 2014, work on paper, 50.7 x 65 cm



U.B., Eagle's Death, 2013, painting, 196.5 x 132 cm



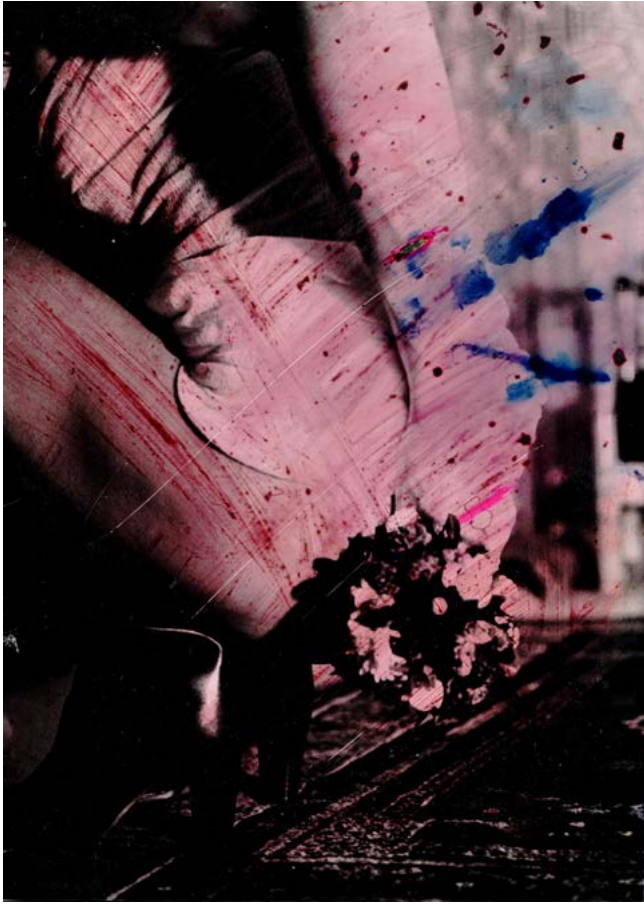
U.B., Untitled, 2014, mixed technique, 29.7 x 21 cm



U.B., Untitled, 2014, mixed technique, 29.7 x 21 cm



U.B., Untitled, 2014, mixed technique, 21 x 29.7 cm







U.B., Eurydice, Enchantress, Daphne, 2014, plastic sculptures, 166 cm; 189 cm; 126 cm

“Open-air” operations

Urs Burki generally viewed aesthetic surgery as a form of applied art. This motivated him to combine his artistic sensibilities and his medical profession in the form of pioneering “open-air” operations in the 1990s. These operations were a form of performance art and were practised by the artist in addition to painting, photography and sculpture.



Monograph of the artist published by VEXER Verlag

The project team met Urs Burki in 2013 and worked closely with the artist to develop the concept for a book. The result is an object-book about the artist that offers a broad insight into Urs Burki's extensive creative output from four different physical perspectives. The book took shape on paper analogously and was produced using a methodical, additive process.

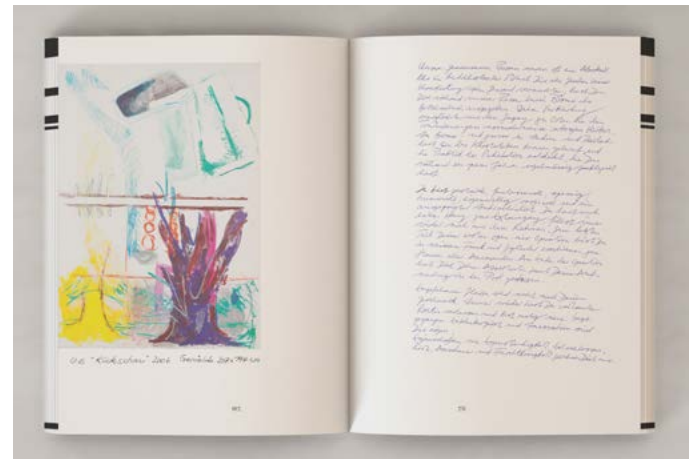
Urs Burki's multimedia collages are a combination of the artist's own unfettered thought processes, a diverse range of external influences and snapshots from everyday life and served as a source of inspiration and ideas for the book. Inspired by the artist's powerful collages and artworks in a variety of media, the design for the book was also based on the principles of collage.

While working with Urs Burki and his elaborate artworks, it became clear that rather than being a definitive presentation of the artist, the resulting publication would be a snapshot offering insights into the artist's life and creative processes. The publication is a work in progress and was produced with input from many different people. The captions on the artworks, for instance, were supplied by the artist's wife, Rosmarie Burki-Weibel.









Information about the artist monograph

The Artist Urs Burki (*1945 – 2017)

Chaos and Order

Works from 1973 to 2016

Includes articles by Claude-Hubert Tatot

and Robert Inard d'Argence

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An exhibition at the bromer kunst

bromer kunst