

Karin Schäfer

In addition to her well-known theater work, which has so far taken her to guest performances and festivals in 45 countries around the world, Karin Schäfer has increasingly concentrated on the visual arts in recent years.

While her stage creations usually were inspired by works of fine art, she is now taking her stories away from the stage and bringing them directly onto and into her pictures - merging her passion for traveling with her desire to not get lost.

The central approach in her works (both theatrical and fine art) is always the technique of collage - the decomposition, compilation, combination of elements from other contexts and their integration into new perspectives, scenes, actions - and pictures.

In her current series GET LOST she is creating SEA MAPS based on world maps and nautical cartography from historical ages to present days, combining them with artefacts of today's global economy: ship containers filled with everything we need and want and waste.

Karin Schäfer lives and works in Vienna.

1963 Born in Mödling, Austria, raised in Vienna

1969/70 and **1973/74** Living and attending school in Kairo, where her father worked for the UN

1983 Matura (University Qualification), studies of art history, German and Spanish, University of Vienna

1985 Moves to Spain to study „Puppet Theatre“ at the "**Institut del Teatre**" in **Barcelona** with Prof. Harry V. Tozer, specialization on stringpuppets (marionettes)

1986 Birth of her son Boris

1988 Joines the spanisch puppet theater company „**Fils amb Fils**“. First appearance with puppets: in a jazz bar in Barcelona at 1 a.m. in the morning.

1989 Construction of glove and shadow puppets for the **Teatre Romea** of the Dramatic Center of the "Generalitat de Catalunya".

1989 Foundation of the puppet theater group **Per Poc** together with Santi Arnal. First production: "Piccolo Forte Pianissimo" - performing at numerous festivals in Spain, France, Germany and Belgium.

1991-94 Collaboration with the famous puppeteer **Jordi Bertran**. They created together "Poemas Visuales" which was premiered in 1992 and awarded the jury prize of the International Theater Festival in Cannes. The show is since then one of the classics of visual theater and is still performed at numerous festivals world wide - with the now 4th generation of performers.

1993 Returns from Barcelona to Vienna, staging the puppet- and dance theater for adults „**On the Marionette Theater**“ based on the famous essay by Heinrich von Kleist. After more than 40 performances in Vienna the show is invited to festivals in Austria, Germany, France, Greece, Italy, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Egypt (Cairo International Festival of Experimental Theater) in the following years. The last performance takes place in 2000 at the Kleistfestspiele Frankfurt / Oder.

1993-94 Cooperation with theater Schneck & Co: Concept, design and construction of the string puppets for the musical play „A Letter for Tiger“, based on the book by **Janosch**. Numerous performances throughout Austria and for Television.

1997 Premiere of "**Stringtime**", a solo performance with string puppets for adults at the dietheater Konzerthaus in Vienna, followed by invitations to festivals in Austria, Germany, Spain, France, Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland, Italy, Netherlands, Turkey, Montenegro, Belarus, Russia, Pakistan, Korea, Cuba and Mexico with this show until 2008, gaining numerous **prizes** and **awards**.

1997 Co-production with the **Kabinettheater** "Wir Drei, die zwei Einzigen" based on a text by Max Gad, premiere at the Künstlerhaus, Vienna.

1999 First prize at the 1st International Festival for Solo Puppeteers in Lodz with „Stringtime“.

1998 - 2006 Several family theater productions with numerous performances in Austria and Germany: Trilogy: „Der Gruselschlucker“, "Tassileo Tassilei", "Advent and so mit Tassilo", as well as „Da ist der Wurm drin" based on the painting "The Children's Games" by Pieter Brueghel.

2001 Cooperation with Per Poc from Barcelona: Performance "Peter and the Wolf" together with the **Vienna Chamber Philharmonic** conducted by Claudius Traunfellner in the Mozartsaal and in the Great Hall of the Konzerthaus in Vienna.

2001 Premiere „**Twice upon a time**“ a marionette show for adults, which was a big success with invitations to festivals and guest performances in 23 countries, including China, Japan and the US.

2002 Youth theater production "**home @ anywhere**" based on footage and interviews that were made during her second stay in Pakistan.

2002 Premiere "Rose Dorn" after Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty together with the pianist **Ingrid Marsoner** at the Konzerthaus Vienna, New Hall.

2003 Conception and artistic direction of the 1st International Puppet Theater Festival "**PannOpticum**" - the festival takes place every two years since and brings outstanding productions from all over the world to Neusiedl am See in Burgenland (Austria).

2004 Construction and play of a „CEO“ marionette for a **TV commercial** for Maxdata Notebooks.

2005 Co-production with **Cordula Nossek** / Dachtheater: "Skywalker" - premiere and performance series in „Dschungel Wien“, Vienna, Museumsquartier.

2005 Premiere of „Pictures at an Exhibition“ based on Modest Mussorgskys piano suite, together with pianist **Christopher Hinterhuber** at the Konzerthaus Wien, Mozartsaal. Tour in Austria and numerous international performances: **Museum of Modern Art Salzburg** and **Philharmonie Luxemburg** et.al.

2006 commissioned work for the **World Sailing Games** on Neusiedlersee (Lake Neusiedl): "Wind", a multimedia theater performance, 40 performances during this sailing world championship.

2007 Construction of puppets and puppet coaching for Louis Sachar's play "There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom“ in the **Theater der Jugend**, Vienna

2008 Cooperation with the „**Neue Bühne Villach**“ at "Desire Caught by the Tail" by **Pablo Picasso**, building the puppets, coaching of actors in performing with puppets.

2008 Premiere of re-staging of "Wind" together with the Institute for Transacoustic Research (**Jörg Piringer / Ernst Reitermaier**) and the musician **Cordula Bösze** in the Konzerthaus Wien, New Hall, followed by an tour in Austria for the **Jeunesse Musical Austria**.

2009 Laureate of **Dr. Ing. Lorenz Karall Foundation** for her artistic work.

2009 Award of the audience jury at the International Children and Youth Theater Festival in Amberg (Germany) for „Da ist der Wurm drin“.

2010 Premiere of the orchestral version of "Pictures at an Exhibition" together with the **Izmir State Symphony Orchestra** at the Izmir Festival in Turkey and together with the Youth Symphony Orchestra Dornbirn at the Feldkirch Festival in Vorarlberg.

2010 Laureate of the **Burgenland Foundation Theodor Kery**. First time performing in the **U.S.**

2010 Premiere of "**Zheng He - When the Dragon Ships Arrived**" in the Dschungel Wien, Museumsquartier, Vienna. Over 100 performances in 20 countries worldwide in the following years.

2011 **STELLA** award for outstanding children's and youth theater productions in the category „**Outstanding stage and visual design**“ for "Zheng He"

2012 Invitation with „Zheng He - when the dragon ships came" to the **UNIMA World Congress** (Biggest World Puppetry Conference and Festival) in **Chengdu, China** - First Prize for "Exceptional Visual Design"

2012 Premiere of "Fahrt ins Blaue" by Richard Berczeller at the ORF Funksalon in Eisenstadt.

2013 Guest performances at the **Opera House in Bonn** with "Pictures of an Exhibition" together with the **Beethoven Orchestra Bonn**.

2013 New staging of the production "Rose Dorn" after Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty together with the pianist **Ardita Statovci**, tour in Austria and Germany.

2014 Participation in the **Shanghai Art Festival** with "Zheng He" - 3 prizes, including the Main Award for "Artistic Innovation"

2014 Start of the **Poppetpeople ° Art ° Project** in Shanghai and Vienna

2014 „Pictures of an exhibition“ together with the **Orquesta Sinfonica de Castilla y Leon** at the Auditorio Miguel Delibes in Valladolid (Spain) - 6 performances with more than 5,500 spectators.

2015 Premiere of **IBERIA**, a visual concert, together with the **Orquesta Sinfonica de Castilla y Leon** at the Auditorio Miguel Delibes in Valladolid (Spain)

2016 Premiere of the piano version of "IBERIA" with **Christopher Hinterhuber** on the grand piano as part of the International Puppet Theater Festival "PannOpticum" in Neusiedl am See.

2017 Starts working on the SEAMAPS - Collage Art, shifting the focus from Performing to Fine Art, living and working in Malaga, Spain from 2017 to 2020

2017 Awardee of the Burgenland Foundation Theodor Kery for her project **PARADE**

2017 First prize at the „project casting“ by the regional government of Burgenland in the context of the „**Year of Contemporary Art**“ for the project **PARADE**.

2018 Premiere of **PARADE** based on the famous cooperation of **Picasso, Cocteau and Satie** - visual theater meets urban dance - in collaboration with the urban dance choreographer **Valentin Alfery**.

2019 Participation at ARTMUC Munich with 2 selected SEAmaps and a series of SEAngles

2020 First Solo Exhibition with SEAmaps at Galerie der Stadt Wels / Medienkulturhaus

2020 Solo Exhibition at lichtraum eins, Vienna (postponed - COVID-19)

2020 Solo Exhibition at Festival PannOpticum Neusiedl am See, Austria

2021 Presentation at Red Carpet Art Award showrooms Vienna / BasisKunstMesse Wien

2021 Participation at TransformARTE in Eisenstadt, Austria

2021 Participation at ARTMUC Munich with 2 selected SEAmaps and a series of SEAngles

2021 First Solo Exhibition in Vienna at ArtWorkSpace Wien

2022 Participation at INCorporating art fair Hamburg near the Hafencity

2022 Participation at ARTMUC Munich, Germany

2022 Exhibition Open Studio, for "offen / bildende Kunst burgenland" at Friedrichshof, Austria

2022 Participation at Superm'ART Art Fair in Nuremberg, Germany

2022 Solo Exhibition in Oberschützen at Galerie im Haus der Volkskultur, Austria

Guest performances in the following 45 countries (up to now):

Egypt, Andorra, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, France, Greece, Great Britain, Croatia, Cuba, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Montenegro Netherlands, Austria, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, USA

Award List (Selection):

1999 First price at the International Festival of Solo-Puppeteers in Lodz, Poland with **Stringtime**

2001 "**Premio Villanueva**" in Havana for the best foreign production of the year with **Stringtime**.

2003 Awarded „**Best Performer**“ at the International Festival of Solo Puppeteers at Łódź, Poland.

2006 Assigned to create the multi-media art project **Wind** as part of the **World Sailing Games 2006**.

2009 Awardee of the **Dr. Lorenz Karall Foundation** in Austria for her artistic work.

2009 First Price of die Audience-Jury at the international Festival Amberg for „Da ist der Wurm drin“

2009 Nominee at STELLA (The Austrian "Oscar" for Theatre for Young Audiences) in 2 categories: „Best performance“ and „Best music“.

2009 **Four different awards** at the **Shanghai International Puppet Theatre Festival** during her tour to China and Japan for "**Twice upon a time**".

2010 Awardee of the **Theodor Kery Foundation** in Austria for her artistic work.

2011 STELLA Award (Austria) for **Zheng He** in the category "**exceptional scenery**".

2012 Award for **exceptional Stage Design** at UNIMA World Congress in **Chengdu, China** for **Zheng He**.

2014 **Three awards**, including the main category of „**Artistic Innovation**“ at the international **Shanghai Puppet Theatre Festival** for **Zheng He**.

2017 Awardee of the **Theodor Kery Foundation** in Austria for her project **PARADE**.

2017 **First Price** at the **Project Casting Show** for the „Year of Contemporary Culture“ in Burgenland, Austria) with **PARADE**.

2018 **YAM Awards**: nominee in the category "**Best large ensemble**" with **IBERIA** chosen among more than 60 submissions from 27 countries.

www.karinschaefer.art | www.figurentheater.at

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