

George Steinmann

Born 1950 in Berne, Switzerland.

1970 – 1975 Lived in Finland.

1976 – 1978 Studies painting at Hochschule für Gestaltung und Kunst Basel. (Franz Fedier)

1978 – 1980 Studies at the San Francisco Art Institute.

Painting with Bob Hudson and Mary Heilman, Afro-American History with Angela Davis,
Native American History with Carol Lee Sanchez.

George Steinmann's artistic practice is research oriented and involves fieldwork where he investigates Cultural Sustainability, Climate Change, Biodiversity, Local Knowledge of indigenous Cultures and the Ecologies of Forests, Water and Soil.

Transdisciplinary projects and exhibitions: (Selection)

2023 Museum Franz Gertsch, Burgdorf. *Transformationen*

2022 Museo Nazionale della Montagna, Torino. *The Mountain Touch*

Kunstmuseum Solothurn. *Balance: Kunst-Gesellschaft-Umwelt 1970-1990*

Museum Caspar Wolf Muri AG. *Grand Tour Caspar Wolf*

Lotsremark Artspace, Basel. *Seeing with a Native Eye*

2021 Stadtgalerie Bern. *FUTURE NOW*

Kunsthau Interlaken *Die Alpen und das Valley. Albrecht v. Haller und das digitale Zeitalter*

Run Run Shaw Creative Media Centre Hong-Kong *Future Memories. Utopia Dystopia Nature*

2020 Kunsthalle Appenzell. *Zahl, Rhythmus, Wandlung. (Emma Kunz und Gegenwartskunst)*

Parrish Art Museum NYC. *Blues for the Glaciers*

2019 Espace Graffenried Aigle. *Glaciers Ultimes*

Riverside Museum Beijing. *Continuous Refle(a)ctions*

Kunsthau Interlaken. *KEINEISMEEHR.*

2017 Museum De Domijnen for Contemporary Art, Sittard. *Ecovention Europe*

Climate Conference COP23 Bonn. *Symbioses of Responsibility II*

Klöntal Triennale 2017. *Looking from Within (Alpine Landscape in the Anthropocene)*

2016 Kunstmuseum Krefeld. *Die Kräfte hinter den Formen*

2015 Taxispalais Innsbruck. *Die Kräfte hinter den Formen*

Galerie Bob Gysin Zurich. *Langmut*

Zentrum Paul Klee Berne. *About Trees*

Climate Conference COP21 Paris. *Symbioses of Responsibility*

2014 Art Museum Thun. *Call and Response: George Steinmann in Dialogue*

2013 Experimenta 13, Basel. *Das dritte Relat*

2012 LACE Los Angeles. *Recycles of Paradise*

ERES Foundation Munich. *Chaos: Complexity in Art and Science*

Centre for Contemporary Art Nairs, Scuol. *The yellow Scaffolding*

2011 Kunsthau Interlaken. *Void*

2008 Villa Elisabeth, Berlin. *Art as Research*

Salo Art Museum. *Sea Change-See Change*

Gallery Bernhard Bischoff, Berne. *Essential Landscape*

2007 Gallery Heike Strelow, Frankfurt / Main. (also 2017, 2014, 2010)

Helmhaus Zürich. *Blue Notes*

2003 Kunsthalle Bern. *Lofty Dryness*

2002 The Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati. *Ecovention*

2001 Pori Art Museum, Pori. *Empathy*

Max Planck Institute for Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics Dresden. *Metalog*

1997 Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto. *Strangers in the Arctic, Installation From-To-Beyond*

Centre for Contemporary Art Stockholm. *The Revival of Space*
1996 Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki. *Strangers in the Arctic, From-To-Beyond*
Rundetoor Copenhagen, Denmark. *Strangers in the Arctic, Installation From-To-Beyond*
1994 Lokaal 01, Breda. *The Beginner's Mind*
1993 Winnipeg Art Gallery, Winnipeg, *The Swiss Paradigm / Installation Deep Reserve*
1989 Pori Art Museum, Pori. *Hagaldom: The fossile Age*
1984 Kunstverein Kassel. *Ostzone - Westzone*
1983 Kunsthaus Zürich. *The Fossile Age*
1981 Kunsthalle Bern. *Soon the white snow will melt*
1992 – 1995 Renovation of Tallinn Art Hall, Estonia as Sustainable Sculpture.

Several works in public space and publications.

Since 1966 also working as musician.

Concerts (incl. Documenta 7 Kassel) and extended tours with own Band and Blues Artists such as Margie Evans, Kathie Webster, Mike Henderson and Grammy Award Winner Johnny Copeland.

Several LP's, CD's, Productions for Radio, TV and Film.

Grants / Awards:

2018 Grand Prix for Culture, City of Thun.
2017 Prix Visarte for Art in public space.
2011 Honorary Doctor. Philosophical-Historical Faculty, University of Berne.
(After Hermann Hesse, Alberto Giacometti and Ilya Kabakov)
2009 Atu–Prix Bern. Award for Architecture, Technology and Environment.
2003 Artist in Residence at Unit 1, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign.
2001 Grand Prix Meret Oppenheim, Swiss Federal Office of Culture.
1999 Art Award City of Berne.
1996 Kristijan Raud Award, State of Estonia, (only foreign artist).

Research, Mandates:

2020 Guestprofessor at University Bern, Institute of Art History
2012 – 2014 Ambassador for ARA wastewater treatment plant, Berne, Switzerland.
2012 – 2015 Artistic research project Mittendrin am Rande, University of the Arts Zurich, ZHdK.
2001 – 2009 Guest Professor for transdisciplinary Art, University of the Arts Berne.
1997 – 2007 Mandate by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC in Russia.
1988 – 1990 Founding Curator, Center for Contemporary Art Nairs, Scuol, Switzerland.

Lectures / Workshops (Selection)

2022 Art Hall Tallinn, Estonia. *Aesthetics as Prevention.*
2021 Smithsonian Museum of American Art Washington. *Art in the Horizon of the Agenda 2030*
2020 Mind of Nature Festival Mumbai, India. *The Soul of Remedies.*
Art at Risk Conference, University of the Arts ZHdK Zürich. *On Water.*
University of the Arts HKB, Bern. *The Talanoa Dialogue.*
2019 UNAM University Mexico. Colloquium on Alexander von Humboldt. *Looking from Within.*
Swiss Academy of Arts and Science Switzerland. *Kunst im Horizont der Agenda 2030.*
2018 University of Regensburg. *Looking from Within. .Alpine Landscape in the Anthropocene.*
Akademie für Darstellende Kunst Baden-Württemberg, Ludwigsburg.
2017 Swiss Green Economy Symposium Winterthur. *Symbioses of Responsibility.*
Klöntal Triennale. *Looking from Within. Alpine Landscape in the Anthropocene.*
2015 Castell Art Weekend Zuoz. *The Culture of Nature.*
ETH Zurich. *Challenging Water.*

- University Basel. International Congress on Art History. *Transmutation in der Kunst*.
Kunstmuseum Krefeld. *Wahrnehmen und Hervorbringen*.
- 2014 Keynote Speaker University Berne, Sustainable University Day. *Art-Culture-Sustainability*.
- 2013 Keynote speaker German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation Isel of Vilm.
300 years Sustainability.
Museum for Contemporary Art Freiburg, Germany. *Art as a Characteristic of Change*.
- 2012 Keynote speaker Kyrgyz National Museum of Fine Arts Bishkek, Kyrgistan.
The Artist as an initiator of transdisciplinary processes encompassing aesthetic, social, historical and sustainable dimensions.
- 2011 Keynote speaker University Berne. *Art as Indicator of Change* (in connection with the award Ceremony as Honorary Doctor).
Keynote speaker University Nürnberg. *Science meets Art*.
- 2010 Keynote speaker University Lüneburg. *On growing sculptures*.
- 2009 Keynote speaker Council of Europe, Strasbourg.
The artist in the Context of Climate Change: A Subtle Profundity.
- 2009 Keynote speaker Lucerne University of Architecture. *Aesthetics of Sustainability*.
- 2008 Keynote speaker Centre Paul Klee, Berne. *Genesis: The Art of Creation*.
- 2008 Keynote speaker Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art Helsinki. *Komi. A growing sculpture*.
- 2007 Keynote speaker State Gallery of the Republic Komi, Syktyvkar. *Komi. A growing sculpture*.
- 2006 Keynote speaker The University College Falmouth. *Artful Ecologies*.
- 2005 Keynote speaker Kunsthalle Freiburg, Switzerland. *The Revival of Space*.
- 2003 Keynote speaker Krannert Art Museum at Urbana Champaign. *On Growing sculptures*.
Keynote speaker Centre for Art and Media Technology, Karlsruhe. *Metalog*.
Keynote speaker Insea Worldcongress for education through Art, New York. *Komi*.
Keynote speaker Akademie der Künste zu Berlin. *Art-Culture-Sustainability*.

Works with particular focus on Sustainable Development:

- Rhizom 2022

An artistic research project on rhizomatic structures commissioned by POST Switzerland.

- Die Alpen und das Valley (Albrecht von Haller and the digital Age) 2018-2021.

An artistic research project and exhibition for the Kunsthaus Interlaken.

- Looking from Within (Alpine Landscape in the Age of the Anthropocene) 2017

An artistic research project for the Klöntal Triennale 2017. Commissioned by Klöntal Triennale.

- Symbioses of Responsibility 2015 –

A project initiated in connection with the COP21 Climate Conference in Paris. Based on a mandate as “Artistic Observer” commissioned by “Artport_making waves” in cooperation with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA.

- Prix Thun for Art and Ethics 2013 –

A growing sculpture in form of an Art Prize. Initiated by George Steinmann.
Endowed with CHF 25'000.- annually.

- Das dritte Relat 2013

A growing sculpture for “Experimenta 13” in Basel in form of an open laboratory for basic research on cultural sustainability. Art as a constitutive element for a viable society.

- In the Midst on the Margins 2011 – 2017

Artistic research project in cooperation with Prof. Dr. Hannes D. Knapp, Federal Agency for Nature Conservation Isel of Vilm. Prof. Dr. Konrad Ott, Philosopher, University Kiel, the Institute for Contemporary Arts Research, University of the Arts Zurich and Jost Kutter, Architect, Berne.

- Art without Object but with Impact. 2008 – 2012
A growing sculpture for the wastewater treatment plant ARA Berne. In cooperation with Bauart Architects Berne. Commissioned by ARA Region Berne Ltd.
- Suchraum Wildnis 2006 – 2013
An artistic research project dedicated to the phenomenon of Wilderness in the Swiss Alps. Commissioned by the University of the Arts Berne, HKB.
- Heiligengeistschule Lüneburg. A Growing sculpture. 2009 – 2010
In Cooperation with Dr. Hildegard Kurt, Berlin; Prof. Dr. mult. Günter Altner, Berlin and the Leuphana University Lüneburg. Commissioned by the Combecher–Altner Foundation. Awarded as an official UNESCO world decade project 2009 / 2010.
- Saxeten. A Growing Sculpture. 2006 – 2009
Sustainable art for the village Saxeten in the Swiss Alps. In cooperation with the population of The village Saxeten and the University of Berne. Commissioned by the Arts Council, Berne.
- Quellen. 2004
A public art project for the Insel Hospital Berne. In cooperation with Dr. Hildegard Kurt, Berlin; Dr. med. Peter Schläppi, Berne and Hans Ulrich Hermann, Berne. Project basis: How can a budget of 1.250 Mill. Swiss Francs be invested in an art project with sustainable resonance.
- Komi. A Growing Sculpture. 1997 – 2007
Centre for Sustainable Forestry in the Priluzje Modelforest Komi, Russia.
In cooperation with Silver Taiga Foundation Syktyvkar and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC Berne / Moscow.
- Metalog 1999 – 2001
A transdisciplinary project on the interconnectedness of Art and Science. In cooperation with Heikkinen – Komonen Architects, Helsinki and the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics, Dresden. Commissioned by the Max Planck Society Munich.
- Ruumi Naasmine / The Revival of Space 1992 – 1995
Renovation of Tallinn Art Hall Estonia as Sustainable Sculpture. A network established by George Steinmann with Anu Liivak Tallinn Art Hall, Rein Laur Architect, Tallinn, the Ministry of Culture Estonia, the City of Tallinn, the Artists Society Estonia, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC and the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO.
- Das gelbe Gerüst (La puntinada gelgua) 1988 – 1990
A vision developed for the Centre of Contemporary Art Nairs, Scuol.
Commissioned by the Binz 39 Foundation, Zurich.