



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.



“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

Cris Contini Contemporary

London | Milano | Bruxelles

w. www.criscontinicontemporary.com | e. info@criscontinicontemporary.com
[@criscontinicontemporary](https://www.instagram.com/criscontinicontemporary) | [#criscontinicontemporary](https://www.facebook.com/criscontinicontemporary)



ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHY

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

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

2022

"Shattered", Aurum Gallery, Bangkok

Solo show, Artstübli Gallery, Basel (CH)

"Le verre dans tous ses éclats", Vitromusée Romont

Duo show with Pierre-Alain Mürger *"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

2019

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

2017

Buchvernissage Ausstellung Oberaargau, Switzerland

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2023

Group Show, Laurent Marthaler Contemporary, Montreux (CH)

2022

"Playground", Mazel Galerie, Brussels, Belgium

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

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

Cris Contini Contemporary

London | Milano | Bruxelles

w. www.criscontinicontemporary.com | e. info@criscontinicontemporary.com
[@criscontinicontemporary](https://www.instagram.com/criscontinicontemporary) | [#criscontinicontemporary](https://www.facebook.com/criscontinicontemporary)



"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

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

2023

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

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

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, Bahnhofstrasse

Glasstress, Brussels Fashion Week, Brussels (BE)

Cris Contini Contemporary

London | Milano | Bruxelles

w. www.criscontinicontemporary.com | e. info@criscontinicontemporary.com

[@criscontinicontemporary](https://www.instagram.com/criscontinicontemporary) | [#criscontinicontemporary](https://www.facebook.com/criscontinicontemporary)



PUBLIC WORKS

2022

"Serpenti", curated by Florian Paul Koenig, Network of Arts, BVLGARI, Zurich (CH)

"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)

2020

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

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

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

2016

"E=mc²", Motorex

ART FAIRS

2022

Laurent Marthaler Contemporary, Montreux, Art Miami 22

Laurent Marthaler Contemporary, Montreux, Kunst Zürich 22

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

Cris Contini Contemporary

London | Milano | Bruxelles

w. www.criscontinicontemporary.com | e. info@criscontinicontemporary.com

[@criscontinicontemporary](https://www.instagram.com/criscontinicontemporary) | [#criscontinicontemporary](https://www.facebook.com/criscontinicontemporary)



WORKS IN COLLECTIONS

"Untitled", Museum, Murten (CH)

"Untitled", Public Collection, City of Feuchtwangen (DE)

"Untitled", Jessica Goldman Collection, Wynnwood (USA)

"Portrait of Kamala Harris", Womens History Museum (USA)

"Untitled", Foundation Dr. Hanspeter & Christine Rentsch, Grenchen (CH)

"Unbreakable", Beit Beirut, Museum and Urban Culture (LBN)

"Untitled", Gallotti e Radice Collection, Milan

"Untitled", NOA Collection

"Untitled", Museo del Vetro (IT), Venice

"Untitled", Collection Vitromusée Romont

Cris Contini Contemporary

London | Milano | Bruxelles

w. www.criscontinicontemporary.com | e. info@criscontinicontemporary.com

[@criscontinicontemporary](https://www.instagram.com/criscontinicontemporary) | [#criscontinicontemporary](https://www.facebook.com/criscontinicontemporary)