

studio tolk cologne / munich

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biography

wolfgang tolk studied art history and philosophy at the University of education in heidelberg, then he studied at the art academy in braunschweig, (hochschule für bildende künste). in 1981, he changed to the academy of fine arts in düsseldorf. tolk has designed the halogen lamp „minimum“ which was put on display in various european museums. in 1989, it was added to the collection of the museum of applied arts in cologne, germany.

since 1990, he has realised prototypes of minimalist, linear objects, mostly in stainless steel and wood, in addition to his work as an artist. his works have been exhibited in cologne, chicago, milan and kortrijk, belgium. he co-operates with italian companies such as allglas, boffi, cappellini, living divani und porro.

wolfgang tolk lives and works in cologne, germany.

studio

wolfgang tolk works in the midst of a balance between two worlds of expression: design on the one hand and visual arts on the other. at the basis of his work are the highest possible aesthetic and ergonomic standards. as a designer, his intention focuses on both form and function, combined with a skeptical attitude to dogmatic appearances of any sort. his concepts are minimal and reduced, almost sculptural with sensual qualities, and they bear witness to an unconventional approach to the material used, which often leads to interesting surprises.

the studio he founded in 1996 works in accordance with these principles. the main aspects of its work deal with the creation of new products in furniture design. the studio takes on tasks related to the area of objects, and solutions are found just as they are in the quest for emotions and interactions. the aim is to find new paths and to direct the work of visual arts as closely towards human life as possible, mostly as a free play in an experimental sense.

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solo exhibitions (selection)

"illustrative reflections and readings on the novel projects "leo ernst" and "mandili", trikorfo, amoudia, greece, 2011, 2014
"wolfgang tolk - paintings from the early eighties until today", studio ristow, cologne 2008
"norbert wangen & wolfgang tolk", installation buchhandlung walther koenig, cologne 2007
jubilee exhibition atelier ristow, cologne 2007
"we are here", installation buchhandlung walther koenig, cologne 2004
brigitte schenk gallery, cologne 1999
posselt gallery, bonn 1998
gyselinck gallery, kortrijk/belgium 1998
brigitte schenk gallery with felim egan, cologne 1997 buchhandlung walther koenig, cologne 1997
pesch-intermoebel, cologne 1997
brigitte schenk gallery, cologne 1997
brigitte schenk gallery, cologne 1995
brigitte schenk gallery, cologne 1994
vayhinger gallery, radolfzell 1994
posselt gallery, bonn 1994
haus buergers, cologne 1994
heidi springfeld gallery, berlin 1993
heidi springfeld gallery, berlin 1991
neue raeume gallery, berlin 1990
artotheke, municipal gallery, cologne 1988
metta linde gallery, luebeck
municipal gallery, 1985
droysen gallery, berlin 1984
kreutzmann gallery, berlin 1984
gallery steki, Maroussi, Athen 1983

group exhibitions (selection)

"von aalto bis zumthor" - architects furniture, consulting, curation, museum for applied art cologne, germany 2012
„kunstgänger“, culture center vafopoulio in cooperation with goethe institut, thessaloniki (greece) , 2011
„paper love“, miami, usa 2008
"malerei", halle 6, galerie christine hoelz, düsseldorf 2007
"jeder hat sein eigenes wasser", halle 6, christine hoelz gallery, düsseldorf 2003
"gatherer and hunter", brigitte schenk gallery, cologne 2001
posselt gallery, bonn 2001
"die farbe blau", brigitte schenk gallery, cologne 1999
"casa Italiana" with cappellini, pesch-intermöbel, cologne 1998
"bild raeume", cultural centre of the state salzau, kiel 1997
"landschaft", brigitte schenk gallery, cologne 1996
"merry christmas", buchmann gallery, cologne 1996
kunsthalle, „koeln-kunst“; cologne 1995
„aspekte der malerei“, vayhinger gallery,radolfzell 1993
und gallery, duesseldorf, 1992
„halogen“, museum of applied arts, cologne, 1991
museum of applied arts, frankfurt, 1991
villa stuck, museum of applied arts, munich, 1991

messehalle, „experimente 1“, frankfurt 1990
„blau, farbe der ferne“ heidelberger kunstverein, heidelberg 1990
museum of applied arts, cologne 1989
kreutzmann gallery, berlin 1987
heidi springfeld gallery, berlin 1987
kunsthalle „koeln-kunst“, cologne 1985

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public collections

collection cappellini design center milan
collection gavazzi, boffi, milan
collection kassamali, miami, chicago
collection wasserturm hotel, cologne
collection gyselinck gallery, kortrijk/belgium
collection design center chicago, chicago
collection of the state schleswig holstein, kiel
collection of the parliament of germany, bonn
collection of aok, cologne
collection of stadtsparkasse koeln, cologne
collection siemens kulturfond, munich
collection of the state schleswig holstein museum of the state of schleswig holstein, kiel
collection ibm, stuttgart
collection halogen, museum of applied arts cologne
collection rtl, television cologne
collection cramer, warsteiner brauerei, warstein
collection of the city of cologne
museum ludwig, cologne
museum of applied arts cologne
collection deutsche suedzucker ag, mannheim/karlsruhe

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publications (selection)

catalogues / books

"von aalto bis zumthor" architects furniture, museum for applied art cologne, cologne, verlag der buchhandlung walther könig cologne 2012
catalogue "kunstgänger", culture center vafopoulio in cooperation with goethe institut, thessaloniki, (greece) 2011
special edition "möbel 2005"
wohn!design, international magazin for architecture and design, stuttgart 2005
franco bertoni, "minimalistisches design", birkenhauser, basel - boston - berlin 2004
catalogue "kitchenology 2", boffi, italy 2003
catalogue "urban view", porro, montesolaro, italy 2002
hubertus butin, catalogue "wolfgang tolk", edition haarmann, castello di lucignano, italy - germany 2001
eva karcher, manuela von perfall, "italienisches design - von den anfängen bis zur gegenwart", heyne verlag, germany 2000
catalogue cappellini collezione, arosio, italy
soledad lorenzo, "new european furniture design", arian mostaedi ed., barcelona, spain 1999
jens peter koerver, catalogue wolfgang tolk "aus der mitte heraus" edition posselt gallery, bonn
catalogue "less is more, quattro architetti per una casa semplice", porro, montesolaro, italy 1998
catalogue „koeln kunst IV“, stadtsparkasse koeln, cologne, 1995
catalogue „best of experimente“, furniture fair frankfurt, frankfurt 1994
gabriele lueg, manfred schneckenburger, catalogue „wolfgang tolk - aus buechern“
brigitte schenk gallery, cologne and vayhinger gallery, radolfzell 1994
catalogue „mappenwerke 1990 - 1992“, edition salzau, kiel 1992
catalogue „halogen, 20 jahre neues licht“, museum of applied arts, cologne,
museum of applied arts, frankfurt, 1991
catalogue „experimente 1“, frankfurt, 1990
„normen des designs, „ein wegweiser von a - z“, museum of applied arts, cologne
cologne 1990
catalogue „blau“, kaleidoscope of a colour, kunstverein heidelberg, heidelberg,
1990
catalogue „design im 20. jahrhundert“, museum of applied arts, cologne 1989
catalogue „jahresgaben 88“, kunstverein heidelberg, heidelberg, 1988
lothar romain, rainer haarmann, catalogue „wolfgang tolk“,
metta linde gallery, luebeck 1988
cramer collection catalogue, warstein 1988
kreutzmann gallery catalogue, berlin 1987
catalogue „koeln kunst“, cologne 1985

awards

elle deco international design award, hood flat kap together with case system, piero lisoni, milan 2003
best of experimente, frankfurt, lamp "minimum" 1994

review
press-selection

interiors monthly, march, london uk 2015
interni international, spring Issue, milan italy 2015
kölner stadtanzeiger "from alto to zumthor furniture by architects" makk,
museum for applied art cologne, germany 2012
kölnische rundschau, cologne germany 2012
otagono, milan, june 2009
interni, milan, dec. 2008
elle decoration, greece, 2004
casa viva, issue 16, cologne - barcelona 2004
interni, milan, dec. 2003
casa viva, „feuer und wasser“ - portrait wolfgang tolk, issue 14, cologne - barcelona
2003
otagono, milan, june 2003
ad architectural digest, hamburg, may 2003
atrium special, title, „kuechen“, issue 21, zuerich 2003
residence decoration, may 2003
design diffusion news - cucine, milan, chicago, osaka, april 2003
elle decor, italy, april 2003
csasamica n. 4, april 2003
elle interior, norway, april 2003
on disegno, april 2003
elle decoration, uk, april 2003
elle decoration, france, april 2003
elle decoration, germany, march 2003;
desegno interior, spain, dec. 2002
abitare l.a. „50 years of italian design in america“, los angeles dec. 2002
marie claire, greece, nov. 2002
marie claire maison, nov. 2002
arquitectura y disegno, spain, nov. 2002
ad france, nov. 2002
ait italy, oct. 2002
id fx, oct. 2002
elle decoration france, oct.2002
robb report, Oct. 2002
fx, Oct. 2002
design diffusion news, milan, chicago, osaka, sept. 2002
id fx, sept. 2002
vision, sept. 2002
elle decoration, germany sept. 2002
ad architectural digest, hamburg, aug.- sept. 2002
architektur und wohnen, hamburg, issue 3, june - july 2002
lothar romain, „zwei professionen - ein kuenstler“, koelner skizzen, cologne, issue
1, march 2002
elle decore italia, milan march 2002
spazio casa, milan, march 2002
corriere della siera, milan, june 2001
spazio casa, milan, may 2001
otagine, milan ,may 2001
design diffusion news, issue 88, milan, chicago, osaka 2001
design report, stuttgart, jan. 2001
elle decore, italy, oct. 2000
modern living, stuttgart, oct. 1999
christiana zu mecklenburg, „aus der mitte heraus“, bonner general anzeiger, bonn
15.10.1998
otagine, issue 123, casa minimale, milan 1997
speciale design, interni milan 1997
interni, milan, february 1997

design diffusion news, issue 48, milan, chicago, osaka 1997
ralf hoppe, wolfgang tolk, buchhandlung walther koenig, pesch intermoebel, koelner stadt-anzeiger, cologne, 19.9.1997
juergen kisters, „verhaltene farben“, wolfgang tolk and felim egan at Schenk gallery, koelner stadt-anzeiger, cologne 9.4.1997
design diffusion news 1996, issue 43, milan, chicago, osaka
intervi, milan, Sept.1996
larissa foerster, „schwarz von farbe erobert“, koelner-stadt-anzeiger, cologne 13.8.1995
margarete hucht, „sparsame gesten“ - works from w. tolk, bonner rundschau, bonn 20.12.1994
eva maria severin, „wenn man nichts sieht, schaut man laenger hin“, new works from wolfgang tolk, general anzeiger, bonn 27.12.1994
susanne duerr, „kunst-kommunikation“, abstract works from w. tolk, suedkurier radolfzell, radolfzell 12.4.1994
stefan borkert, „platz für phantasie“, wolfgang tolk at vayhinger gallery, suedkurier konstanz, konstanz, 10.4.1994
v. lempelius, landeszeitung schleswig- holstein, kiel 22.9.1992
w. tolk, b-z, in den neuen raeumen, berlin 26.10.1990
harald fricke, taz berlin, „schwelender schiefer“, berlin, 1990
horst hannemann, „zwischen abbild und imagination“, wolfgang tolk at metta linde gallery, luebeckische blaetter, luebeck 29.10.1988
peter holm, „ein ganzer kosmos voller zarter farbklaenge“, luebecker nachrichten, luebeck 8.10.1988
susanne wedewer, koelner stadt-anzeiger, cologne, 23.1.1988
rainer haarmann, „anmerkungen zur bildwelt von wolfgang tolk“, artothek, cologne 1988
lars friebel, berliner morgenpost, berlin, 3.7.1987
thomas wulffen, zitty berlin, issue 15, 1987
taz, berlin 1.7.1987
gerhard hesler, „rahmenhandlung“ - wolfgang tolk, new pictures in Esslingen, stuttgarter zeitung, stuttgart, 9.12.1985
beatrice schaechterle, „im Wandel“ - pictures from wolfgang tolk in esslingen, esslinger zeitung, 4.12.1985
„w. tolk in der theater-galerie“, esslinger zeitung, 26.11.1985

editions

„trikorfo“, d -lithographic print, edition atelier 28 cologne, cologne 1999
„nr XX XXVI“, xylographies, edition salzau, kiel 1991
„nr XIII - XIX“, 7 xylographies, edition haarmann, bonn 1988

radio/television

ndr radio, luebeck at 7. Oct. 1988
abendschau sfb tv, berlin at 2.july 1987
radio 100,6, berlin at 2. july 1987