

**Johannes Steininger m.a. m a** is an Austrian sculptor, spatial and design strategist, object artist, sound and noise consultant and designer. Johannes Steininger mainly works with semi-finished products from the plastics industry and his aerial art explores noise and sound interventions in auditory architecture and the handling of systems and their own resonance. He approaches his works with a physical formula, the **AIR**. The focus of his work is the experimental handling of form and materiality. In the interplay of reduced formal language with the colourfulness and haptic of the vinyl material, works between relief and painting are created in multiple layering. In 2012, Steininger received his second MASTER degree from the Institute of Space and Design Strategies, Art University for Artistic and Industrial Design, Linz.

**Please introduce yourself.**

**JS:** I try a different approach to the art world by studying **space and design strategies** in **AUSTRIA & acoustic communication**, my first graduation for a MASTER degree in 2011 from the **University of Art Berlin**, and then diving deeply into the field of visual contemporary art. ...and in Berlin I spend my leisure time as an contemporary student in the attentive audience at the TU Berlin Acoustic, to be a part with fellow students based on learning the acoustic knowledge with training performance, face to face.

So my visual and auditory perception along with my continuous creative process is strongly influenced by the things I have learned in several art projects & jobs more my crossover studies. My creative style is affected by my Theatre background too. I am fascinated by the exploration of new forms with the cultural material plastic film and the omnipotent medium of air.

**Tell us about your early influences.**

**JS:** My art drives me over the past 20 years. I used revealing aspects of sound art history and although in the technical term of inflatables (objects) in the twentieth century, which have a profound impact on our culture today. I find myself continually returning to those interdisciplinary research fields of sound and acoustic research with aspects that are often misrepresented in our world. In my varied and diverse approaches to making art; sound

installations; prototyping, sound-, stage design and acoustic design, in the context of my sound ART- Sculpture works they has always an impact on the work's relationship to the listener/viewer/listener. My work ranges from the context of theatre and scenic design, open public spatial spaces, private collectors, up to a sonic reflection on the architectural nature with atmosphere quality presentations of sound masking, etc., through water-fountains in spatial spaces. Objects and projects have been exhibited at museums, galleries both nationally and internationally.

**Tell us about your current practice.**

**JS:** My recent work investigates inflatables as panels, inflatable wall -sculptures and sound-installations. I mine the language of painterly abstraction, monumental sculpture to transform mundane industrial soft vinyl materials into layer sculptures to/and sound sculptures. I am particularly invested in exploding the structural possibilities of abstract painting, expanding the possibilities and enlivening the dialogue around contemporary art. My hanging inflatable wall creations of variously shaped objects are the effect of the combination of flexible soft PVC and air. So I use and manipulate air in my works.

**Can you tell us about your interest in selection of the materials?**

**JS:** An essential factor and a may point to use the material flexible vinyl film, is the amorphous, shape-indifferent elemental character. The synthetic man-made material as a soft formless material shows me as an artist infinite possibilities of formulation with an aesthetic manipulation.



YWOBBInkL0610, 2017, Air, vinyl, ink, wood, high-Relief, 47x34x7 cm



BBBLC2907, 2018, Air, vinyl, wood, high-Relief, 47x43x7 cm



Exhibition view, 2019, Air museum (Amberg), Germany, Photo credits: Marcus Rebmann



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