

CAROLINE RAMERSDORFER



| ARTIST STATEMENT

My approach to sculpture is a continuous challenge to create a bridge between art, world culture, and the substance of human experience. The choice of materials generates a dialogue between the environment and the ideas.

The sculptural installations consist of layers and fragments that are combined to create interior spaces that capture and reflect light—illuminating an unseen world. This interaction of stone, space and light is a significant part of their presence, inviting eye and intellect to embark on a journey to analyze, reflect, and—ultimately—be inspired.

Structures hold individual stone slabs and provide a support system that allows flexibility in positioning. Slices or fragments, originating from a stone block, are analyzed, carved, and opened up one by one to be repositioned to create translucent interior environments. This new combination of space, light and stone transforms the inanimate material into a new context—an *architecture of the soul*. I strive to reveal internal structures and layers and use them to construct space from the inside out, from top to bottom—spaces which can be physically traversed, yet without actual boundaries. The viewer is included in the concept of the sculpture from the beginning, abolishing distance, and enabling an internal dialogue through entering them. A lattice-work of internal structures, light, and shadow—inside and outside the spectator's position within—fuse into new experiences of physical and spiritual spaces.

| BIOGRAPHY

Caroline Ramersdorfer started philosophy studies in Paris, France, in 1979. She continued with African art history, museum science, and Renaissance fresco restoration at the International University of Art in Florence, Italy. She studied etching at the graphic art studio of Santa Reparata in Florence from 1981-83 and sculpture at the Academy of Fine Arts in Carrara, Italy, completing an MFA summa cum laude, 1988.

She received grants to work and study in Japan (1991-92) and in New York City (1993) from the Austrian Ministry of Art and Education. In 1998 she was awarded a grant from the Federal Chancellery in Vienna and UNESCO in Paris for *Project Carambolage*, an arts and cultural exchange between 4 artists from the Caribbean and 4 Viennese artists.

The Austrian Ministry of Art and Education supported her 2001 multimedia project *Inner Views*, initiating 10 years of work and study in Japan. Exhibitions in Austria and Germany melded sculpture, video, photography, poetry, calligraphy, and music.

Ramersdorfer has participated in exhibitions worldwide and since 1986 has been commissioned to create a number of large, site-specific works at 17 international sculpture symposia. Her sculptures are installed in permanent private and public art collections in Europe, Japan, Taiwan, Canada, U.S.A., China, and Dubai, United Arab Emirates, where she was awarded first prize at the 2005 Emaar International Art Symposium for *Inner View*.

In 2006 she won the golden award for her sculpture at the Renaissance & Rising International City of Sculpture and Cultural Year in Zhengzhou, China. She was also awarded a merit award at the international maquette show of project proposals to be permanently installed in the 2008 Beijing Olympic Park where *Seed of a Unified Spirit* now faces the Olympic tower. Ramersdorfer's sculptural projects were selected to be permanently installed in Urumqi, China (Harmonious Development Sculpture Park, 2009); in Ordos City, Inner Mongolia, China (The International Friendship Sculpture Park, 2010); and in Abu Dhabi (ADISS: Bridging Society through the Language of Art, 2010).

Ramersdorfer was nominated for the 12th International Cairo, Egypt, Art Biennial, 2010-2011. *Inner View-Open* was selected for 2011 installation in the Campus Sculpture Park for the Centennial of Tsinghua University, Beijing.

| COLLECTIONS (selected)

Dornbirn, Austria • Shimada Art Museum, Kumamoto, Japan
Vorarlberg County Museum, Bregenz, Austria • Eda Garden Museum, Yokohama, Tokyo, Japan • 5 Ringstone project, Fukuoka, Japan • Federal Chancellery Artothek, City of Vienna, Austria
Culture Department, City of Vienna, Austria • Vernon, B.C., Canada
RAIBA Bank Art Collection, Bregenz, Austria • Hualien County Cultural Museum • City of Zhengzhou, China • Beijing, China
Ordos City, China • Urumqi City, China

| INTERNATIONAL SCULPTURE SYMPOSIA (selected)

Carrara, Italy • Hohenems, Austria • Kickuchi Kougen, Kumamoto-Ken, Japan • Muraoka-cho, Hyogo-Ken, Japan
Kratst-Klagenfurt, Austria • Telc, Czech Republic • Kettering, Ohio, U.S.A. • Dubai, United Arab Emirates • Kaoshung, Taiwan • Hualien, Taiwan • Cairo, Egypt • Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates