

ARTIST DOSSIER - BASEL

Otto Urwyler

Fields of memory

Swiss artist - born 1954 in Olten - lives and works in
Basel

PAINTING - SCULPTURE - OBJECT ART - PRINTMAKING

ARTE-WALLHOFF - BASEL



Forms seeking their place

Born in Olten in 1954, Otto Urwyler completed the preliminary course at the School of Applied Arts in Basel in 1976-77. From 1977 to 1979 he trained as a sculptor in Johannes Burla's class for spatial design. The attention to volume, interval and balance developed there continues throughout his work.

In 1983 Urwyler received the Basel Scholarship for Fine Arts. Between 1983 and 1985 he studied at the Kunstakademie Dusseldorf and the Hochschule der Künste in Berlin. From 1990 to 1995 he returned to the Basel School of Applied Arts for an extended course in etching with Dadi Wirz.

His practice crosses painting, sculpture, object art, etching and monotype. Each medium becomes a way of testing how a form enters a field, changes its surroundings and finds a temporary order. He lives and works in Basel.



ATELIER VIEW - BASEL

"A point at the wrong place can change an entire statement."

Christine-Maria Greb on Otto Urwyler

SELECTED FACTS

1954	Born in Olten, Switzerland
1977-79	Sculpture and spatial design with Johannes Burla
1983	Basel Scholarship for Fine Arts
1983-85	Kunstakademie Dusseldorf and Hochschule der Künste Berlin
1990-95	Etching with Dadi Wirz in Basel

Fragments, fields, space and resonance

Urwylter breaks apart conventional structures and lets their elements form new relationships. The image remains a field in which order, chance and intuition stay in motion.

01

Fragments & symbols

Archaic-looking signs, silhouettes and fragments are shifted and rearranged. Their simplified forms connect personal memory with a wider field of archetypes.

02

Morphic fields

Forms appear to carry traces of earlier states. The past becomes an active presence rather than a closed historical layer.

03

Kinetic space

Proximity, tension and distance organise the composition. A line, point or colour field seeks its place in relation to every other element.

04

Original printmaking

In monotype and etching, pressure, ink and the singular impression make process visible. Each 1/1 print preserves an unrepeatable balance.



ORIGINAL MONOTYPE NO. 001 - 1991

A practice formed between disciplines

1954	Born in Olten, Switzerland.
1976-77	Preliminary course at the School of Applied Arts, Basel.
1977-79	Trains as a sculptor in Johannes Burla's class for spatial design.
1981-86	Repeated participation in the Christmas Exhibition at Kunsthalle Basel.
1983	Receives the Basel Scholarship for Fine Arts.
1983-85	Studies in Dusseldorf and Berlin.
1984	Academy tour in Dusseldorf and GSMBA presentation at Helmhaus Zurich.
1987-90	Group exhibitions in Gipf-Oberfrick, Basel and Arlesheim; Mail Art in Cork.
1990-95	Studies etching with Dadi Wirz in Basel.
1991	International Print Biennale, Sapporo.
1992	Prints by Artists of the Region, Berowergut, Riehen.
2022	The Presence of the Past, Arte-Wallhoff, Basel.

Movement, pressure and decision

The studio photographs show image-making as a sequence of physical decisions: rolling ink, testing surfaces, comparing states and responding to each new constellation.



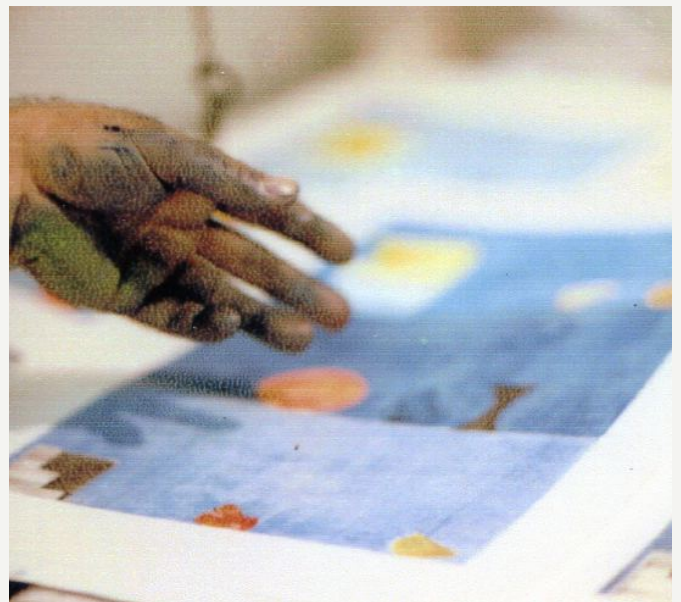
ATELIER VIEW - BASEL



REVIEWING A NEW STATE IN THE STUDIO



ROLLING COLOUR ACROSS THE PLATE



HAND, PIGMENT AND THE SINGULAR IMPRESSION

The Presence of the Past

Original Prints Collection - Basel - 2 June to 28 July 2022

Urwyler's works contain vividly imaginary memory processes. Traces and signs emerge before atmospheric grounds, suggesting a remembered reality that can be rearranged, connected and released again. Everything takes place in the stream of inner imagination, where present and past become visible together.



ORIGINAL MONOTYPE NO. 001 - 1991



ORIGINAL MONOTYPE NO. 010 - 1991

Original Monotypes

Unique works in mixed ink and colour on Manjani paper. Works 001-010 were created in 1991; works 011-015 date from 1993 and 1995. Each impression is signed and exists as a unique 1/1 example.

ARTE-WALLHOFF

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Art Beyond Borders