

## PIETER OBELS

1968, Kruisland, the Netherlands

1992, Academy of Fine Arts, Tilburg

Works and lives in Tilburg, the Netherlands

In spite of the fact that steel is generally considered as rough and austere, Pieter Obels' sculptures seem to be controverting the intrinsic possibilities of the material. When one looks at Richard Serra's monumental steel slabs and wonder at the curves he manages to give his material, feelings of huge weight, size and strength arise.

Pieter Obels works with Corten steel, yet what his works convey above all is light and grace as he bends the steel into extraordinarily delicate and winding shapes. The two artistic worlds couldn't be further apart. It is almost as if we were watching the yin and yang of the same material.

Through a clever interplay of rigidity and dynamism, Obels work occupies a space deftly lingering between a sense of weight and weightlessness. His sculptures completely confound our perceptions of how a steel sculpture should look like and behave. The bends in the work appear to defy what the material can be persuaded to do.

Obels aim is to create totally organic forms with an extreme yet somehow innate sense of plasticity. This sense of a natural rhythm makes his sculptures sit with a total oneness in any natural surrounding. Rather than imposing themselves over where they are placed they appear to mirror the soft edges and harmoniousness often evident in nature. Notwithstanding the apparently cold material, the curves of the form and the rusty brown colour of their oxidization enable them to create a bond with the surrounding ambient.

Working alone without assistants, Obels has, however, permitted this aspect to dominate his works at same time as he emphasized the elegiac quality that they possess. Although totally contemporary, there is a strong wistfulness for a bygone age which favoured poetry over power and fragility and balance over industrial noise. The sense of a precarious balance which many of his works have, play beautifully with the apparent contradiction inherent in his material.

His works echo the world we would like to inhabit; a world dominated by beauty and awareness of nature. The curve as opposed to the straight line recalls a gentler, less severe universe where objects embrace and do not repel, where dialogue is always possible and agreement is always found.

## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

2019 Gemeente Roosendaal (NL)

2018 CAMLOG, Wimsheim (D)  
2018 Nyenrode business Universiteit, Breukelen (NL)

2016 Bad Ragaz (CH)  
2016 Gemeente Bergen op Zoom (NL)  
2016 Westfriesgasthuis, Hoorn (NL)

2012 Achmea, Utrecht (NL)

2011 Woonwenz, Venlo (NL)

2011 gemeente Spijkenisse (NL)

## EXHIBITIONS

2021 Schweizerische Triennale der Skulptur, Bad Ragaz (CH)  
2021 Art Rotterdam, Galerie Roger Katwijk (NL)

2020 Galerie Frey, Salzburg (A)  
2020 Etienne Gallery, Oisterwijk (NL)

2019 Untitled Art-Fair, Miami (USA)  
2019 Materiality, Rosenfeldporcini Gallery, London (GB)  
2019 Biennale Le Latitudini dell'Arte, Genova (I)  
2019 Volta art-Fair Basel, (CH)  
2019 Galerie Roger Katwijk, Amsterdam (NL)  
2019 Chateau Vullierens (CH)

2018 PAN Amsterdam, galerie Roger Katwijk (NL)  
2018 Etienne Gallery, Oisterwijk (NL)  
2018 Schweizerische Triennale der Skulptur, Bad Ragaz, & Vaduz (CH)  
2018 Art Rotterdam (NL)

2017 Pan Amsterdam (NL)  
2017 Raakvlakken, Beelden in Leiden (NL)  
2017 Galerie Roger Katwijk, Amsterdam (NL)  
2017 Galerie Obrist, Essen (D)  
2017 Art in Oisterwijk (NL)

2016 Soho Square garden, Londen (GB)  
2016 PAN Amsterdam, galerie roger Katwijk (NL)  
2016 Gallery Rosenfeldporcini London (GB)  
2016 YIA-art-fair , Brussels (B)  
2016 Hotel Rosewood, Londen (GB)

2015 PAN, Amsterdam, Art-fair (NL)  
2015 Gouverneurshuis, Heusden (NL)  
2015 Schweizerische Triennale der Skulptur, Bad Ragaz, & Vaduz (CH)  
2015 Symposion, Gorinchem (NL)  
2015 The-Solo-Project , art-fair , Basel (CH)  
2015 Solo-exhibition , Etienne Gallery, Oisterwijk (NL)

2014 Pan Amsterdam, galerie Roger Katwijk (NL)  
2014 MOOVE, concordia, Enschede (NL)  
2014 The-Solo-Project, Basel (CH)  
2014 kunstRAI , Amsterdam (NL)  
2014 Galerie Roger katwijk, Amsterdam (NL)

2013 PAN Amsterdam, Galerie Roger Katwijk (NL)  
2013 Preview Berlin, galerie Roger Katwijk (NL)  
2013 MOOOV, Villa Zebra, Rotterdam (NL)  
2013 Kunstruimte KuuB, Utrecht (exhibition) (NL)  
2013 Schlosspark Köln-Stammheim (D)  
2013 Skulpturenpark Günzburg (D)  
2013 Art-Warehouse, Rotterdam, Galerie Roger Katwijk (NL)

2012 PAN Amsterdam, Galerie Roger Katwijk (NL)  
2012 Kunst am Strand, Sylt, Rantum (D)  
2012 Incubate, open source Expo, Tilburg (NL)  
2012 Oisterwijk Sculptuur, Etienne Gallery, Oisterwijk (NL)  
2012 KunstRAI Amsterdam, Galerie Roger Katwijk (NL)  
2012 Galerie Roger Katwijk, Amsterdam (duo-exhibition) (NL)

2011 PAN Amsterdam, Galerie Roger Katwijk (NL)  
2011 Galerie Roger Katwijk, Amsterdam, (group-exhibition) (NL)  
2011 Etienne Gallery Oisterwijk (solo-exhibition) (NL)  
2011 Artantique, Utrecht, Galerie Roger Katwijk (NL)

2010 PAN Amsterdam, Galerie Roger Katwijk (NL)  
2010 Diversity in practice, Gurgliasco/Torino (IT)  
2010 Beeldenboulevard, Terneuzen (NL)  
2010 Galerie Roger Katwijk Amsterdam (duo-exhibition) (NL)  
2010 Re-Cycle, Kasteel Museum Sypsteyn, Loosdrecht (NL)  
2010 Etienne Gallery, Oisterwijk (solo-exhibition) (NL)

2009 PAN Amsterdam, Galerie Roger Katwijk (NL)  
2009 Kunstroute Ijhorst de Wijk (NL)  
2009 Oisterwijk Sculptuur, Oisterwijk (NL)  
2009 Etienne Gallery, Oisterwijk (duo-exhibition) (NL)

2008 PAN Amsterdam, galerie Roger Katwijk (NL)  
2008 Galerie Roger Katwijk, Amsterdam (duo-exhibition) (NL)  
2008 Galerie Etienne van den Doel, Oisterwijk (solo-exhibition) (NL)  
2008 Art-Amsterdam, Galerie Roger Katwijk (NL)

## IMPULSE GALLERY

- 2007 PAN Amsterdam, Galerie Roger Katwijk (NL)
- 2007 Oisterwijk Sculptuur, Galerie Etienne van den Doel (NL)
- 2007 Galerie Jose de Ibarra, Barcelona (duo-exhibition) (ES)
- 2007 Galerie Roger Katwijk, Amsterdam (group-exhibition) (NL)
- 2007 Art-Amsterdam Galerie Krijger + Katwijk, Amsterdam (NL)
  
- 2006 PAN Amsterdam, Galerie Krijger + Katwijk, Amsterdam (NL)
- 2006 Galerie Interart, Heeswijk-Dinther (solo-exhibition) (NL)
- 2006 Galerie de Blauwe Roos, Burum, (solo-exhibition) (NL)
- 2006 ART Amsterdam Galerie Jörg Hasenbach, Cape-Town (NL)
  
- 2005 PAN Amsterdam Galerie Jörg Hasenbach, Antwerp (NL)
- 2005 ART Cologne, Köln, Galerie Jörg Hasenbach, Antwerp (D)
- 2005 Textiel museum, Tilburg (NL)
- 2005 Galerie Jörg Hasenbach, Antwerpen (solo-exhibition) (B)
- 2005 Art-Amsterdam, Galerie Vromans, Amsterdam (NL)