

JENS LORENZEN

Visual Artist



My MAUER is a potentially endless work of art, that shows my rampantly growing chain of associations. One motif leads to another, one word evokes the next. So the motifs spread out over the edges and continue on the next panel. Nothing needs to be excluded merely because of a lack of space on the canvas. I can always add another panel, I call them „Elements“, to the painting.

In 2008 I did a painting about the Berlin Wall. It started growing in size. First it was a single panel, then two, then three, then four. I realized that painting is work in progress and cannot be cut off and framed into one single piece. The idea of a potentially endless painting was born.

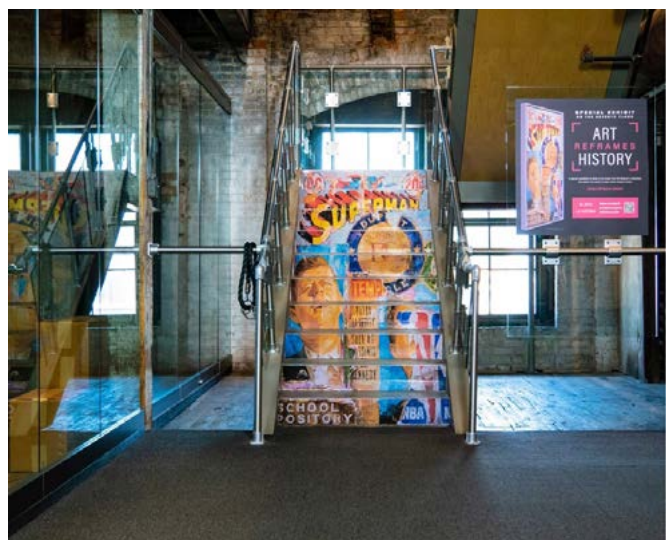
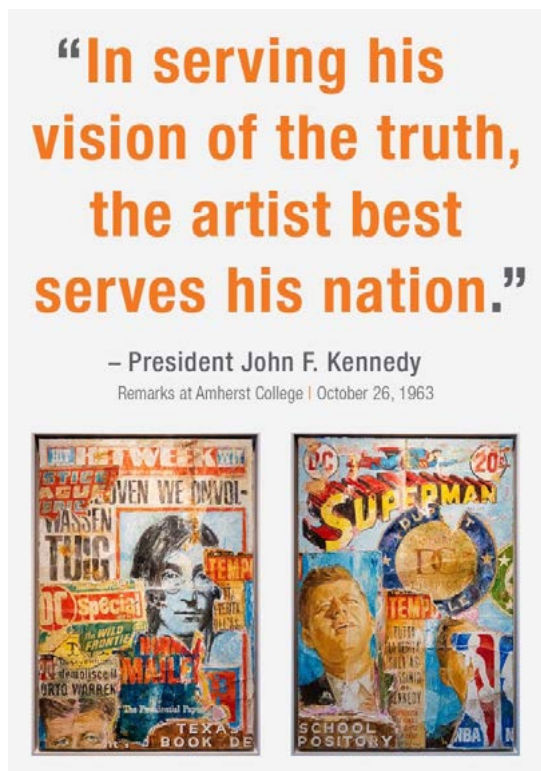
Since then I've been mainly working on just four paintings. Mauer I, Mauer II, Mauer III and IV.

Each painting consists of a rising number of Elements and has grown to the length of about a 100m until now.

One example:

Mauer IV, Element plus 33 and plus 34 (Both belong to the collection of the Sixth Floor Museum, Dallas TX)

On „Element 33“ I painted the cover of my copy of Norman Mailer's book „The Presidential Papers“, that contains the essay „Superman goes to the supermarket“ - about JFK's presidential campaign. Superman is a comic hero, released by DC Comics. „DC“ makes me think of a the street sign „DC Historic District“. I took a picture of it, when visiting Washington DC. The story goes on in the Elements plus 35, 36, 37. In Washington DC there's the White House. Jackie Kennedy, Camelot and Prince Vailiant come to my mind. Prince Vailiant is Prinz Eisenherz in German. Eisenherz means iron heard. That leads me to iron man - a super hero.....



ART REFRAMES HISTORY Exhibition at the Sixth Floor Museum, Dallas, Texas, 2021.

Bevor becoming an artist I was a carpenter. Therefore I do all the woodwork myself, like manufacturing the stretcher frames and the picture frames. Each "Element" is equipped with a white wooden L-shaped frame. This is necessary, because it can be looked at, can be presented and sold as a single piece or fragment of the whole painting. My MAUER is ment to be taken apart. Some collectors own one Element, some two, three or even five in a row.

Elements of my MAUER can be found all over the world. In order to link together all these Elements, that are in a kind of diaspora, I invented the Internatinalre Mauer Union, short IMU = I am you. It's a party and every owner of an Element is automatically member of that party. On the IMU homepage there's a map of the world with flags that indicate where Mauer Elements can be found.



Besides my Mauer projekt, I make "Säulen" (Pillars). They are made of wood, are 80cm tall and have a diameter of 40cm. The round shaped billboard Litfaßsäule, a thing you find all over Germany in urban areas, inspired me to this idea.

On the wood I glue the canvas, on which I paint my motifs. They stand on a round pedestal (90cm x 40cm).

The German Bundestag (Parliament) has just bought one of my pillars for their art collection.



Queen SÄULE, 2023, Oil/Collage auf Leinwand/Holz, 80 cm x 40 cm Diameter

Since 1984 I practice martial art. For me it's not only a sport, but another way to aestheticise danger, which is one of the main purposes of art itself. So for me, martial art and contemporary art belong together. I founded Mauer Martial Art (MMA) and often do performances at opening receptions.



For no specific reason I have secured the Mauer as a brand, as an officially registered trade mark. I just liked the look of the small “r” behind my logo.

