

A new work of art enriches Villa Eccel

Public inauguration of the site-specific artwork by the artist Arnold Holz knecht.

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Inner Courtyard Villa Eccel

The residential complex on Weggenstein Street in Bolzano is gearing up to host a site-specific art project titled “Durch die Blume,” an installation by the Gardena artist Arnold Holz knecht, which seamlessly blends artistic beauty with contemplation of the passage of time. This project was commissioned by Antonio Dalle Nogare to Arnold Holz knecht, who is already present in Bolzano’s public space at Piazza del Tribunale with the artwork “Nessuno ha il diritto di obbedire” (created in collaboration with artist Michele Bernardi).

The inspiration for this Kunst-am-Bau work arose unexpectedly yet organically. As Holz knecht pondered what would be suitable to transform the residential space intended for his installation, the old street lamps were being replaced with new ones in the municipality of Ortisei. This event struck the artist as a kind of twist of fate, a unique opportunity to create an artistic work using reclaimed materials.

From childhood, these lampposts had been envisioned by the artist as flowers. Holz knecht’s decision was, therefore, to repurpose three structures from the old lampposts into a single sculptural installation, employing aluminum lamps and white plexiglass, some

of which were coated with green paint. The support poles and the ascending leaves towards the lamps are made of galvanized iron. The installation's base was crafted from concrete and clad with stone slabs, matching the surrounding pavement.

Inside the corollas, LED lights were installed, with two warm-toned and one cooler-toned light: these are programmed to illuminate only during full moon nights, adding a touch of magic and recalling an ancient and forgotten ritual and rhythm. The choice is not random but rather intentional, symbolizing the desire to highlight a natural event that sometimes goes unnoticed in the hustle and bustle of modern life, especially in urban settings.

The artist meticulously worked to create a plastic artwork capable of casting enchanting shadows on the surrounding majestic white wall. The base of the installation was also designed to serve as seating, inviting residents to pause and reflect while enjoying the atmosphere that these "flowers of light" create.

This unique project not only adds an illuminating artistic element to the living space but also provides a fresh perspective on art, identity, and everyday living spaces. Holzknecht envisioned the courtyard of the Weggenstein Street residential complex as a meeting place where art merges with daily life and where the light of the full moon will captivate residents, inviting them to reflect on their own identity and the beauty that can bloom when creativity is allowed to flourish.

The official unveiling of this installation is scheduled for the evening of October 27th at 6:00 PM and will be a unique opportunity for all citizens of Bolzano to experience and contemplate this extraordinary fusion of art and light.

Arnold Holz knecht

(Val Gardena, Italy, 1960) is an Italian artist who resides and works in Ortisei, South Tyrol. Trained at the woodcarving school in Val Gardena, Holz knecht has developed a profound sensitivity to the predominantly organic materials used in his works: wood, beeswax, and discarded beehives, which he sometimes combines with materials like plaster or iron. Fascinated by rural culture and its aesthetic forms, the artist explores how humans relate to the land, forests, birds, and bees. Holz knecht is inquisitive, observes, interacts, and learns from nature, emphasizing the interdependent relationship between humans and nature. Through his works, he reminds us that living in an ecosystem means being in a flow of exchanges between mutually equal entities.