



Museum Ulm | Marktplatz 9 | 89073 Ulm

: Press release 15I09I22

Stadt Ulm

ulm

Franco Clivio - Manifolds

17 September 2022 until 15 January 2023

Opening | Fri | 16 September 2022 | 7 pm



On **Franco Clivio's** 80th birthday, the **Museum Ulm** is dedicating a cabinet exhibition to the internationally renowned Swiss product designer and graduate of the former **HfG Ulm**. "*Manifolds*" is the name of his extensive series of objects consisting of geometric structures of lines and surfaces with expansive potential. The title, set as a play on words between manifolds and manual folds, speaks volumes and reveals **Franco Clivio** to be a designer with a sense of humour and playful explorations of form.

After a professional practice in the service of a functionalist design aesthetic, he decided to change direction and follow his fundamental interest in "movement design". **Franco Clivio's** refined sense of the technique, geometry and kinetics of foldable objects is reflected in those graceful structures made of gossamer, golden metal tubes that, like feelers or

insect legs, light-footedly sense their location and measure the space. They play with the lability and ponderation of their weights, touch their standing surfaces only selectively and sometimes seem to float like dancers. They are works of art in which the opposing principles of sculpture and drawing, static and dynamic, heaviness and lightness, density and dissolution, constructive clarity and playful freedom are combined. They challenge our willingness to look and touch. If we are allowed to handle these interactive works of art, they unfold an unexpected power of transformation like a linear origami. Guided by invisible hinges, the thin rigid rods move, push, pull and approach each other in a dynamic metamorphosis towards, against, within and around or away from each other. The physical density and stability of the metal is negated by the lightness of the linear form and the sculptures themselves become a plaything of the air.

The full-surface "*Manifolds*" thematise the subtle interplay of forces between optical lightness and material heaviness. **Franco Clivio** breaks through the technoid rigour of the rigid material and lends it an artistic aesthetic of its own, from which a concentrated and at the same time fragile plastic power can be sensed.

Franco Clivio was born in Zurich in 1942, where he still lives today. **Franco Clivio** became known for his award-winning designs for Gardena and Lamy, among others. **Franco Clivio** also coined the term "*No Name Design*". He studied at the **HfG Ulm** from 1963 to 1968. Here he was close to Hans Gugelot and became friends with Tomás Maldonado, Gui Bonsiepe and Walter Zeischegg. With Dieter Raffler, **Franco Clivio** developed the award-winning Original Gardena system for garden tools while still a student. After various teaching assignments in Germany, the USA, Finland and Italy, he taught as a lecturer at the Zurich School of Art and Design and the Università IUAV di Venezia from 1980 to 2002. He has received, among others, the Swiss Federal Prize for Design and the Design Prize of the Federal Republic of Germany.



Press conference | Thu | 15 September 2022 | 11 a.m.
With the Museum Director Dr. Stefanie Dathe

Fig.: Franco Clivio, *Manifolds*, 2020, photo Laurent Burst

Further **information** is also available at www.museumulm.de. There you will also find further **text and image material** to **download** in the **press section**.

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Opening Hours
Tue - Sun : 11 a.m. - 05 p.m.
Sat - Sun : 11 a.m. - 06 p.m.
www.museumulm.de