

Selected biography of Daniel Spoerri

1930 Born Daniel Feinstein on 27 March in Galatz (Galați / Romania).

1942 Flees from the Nazis to Zurich, takes his mother's name Lydia Spoerri.

1949 Attends the Zurich Theatre Dance School, sponsored by Max Terpis.

1952 Scholarship to study ballet in Paris.

1954-57 First dancer at the Bern City Theatre. 1955 Choreography for the colour ballet. Series of concrete poems.

1956 Production in Bern of Picasso's 'Wie man Wünsche am Schwanz packt'. Gradually turns away from dance.

1957-59 Assistant director at the Darmstadt Theatre.

1958-59 Founds the 'Edition MAT' (Multiplication d'art transformable).

1959 Returns to Paris. Lives in 'Chambre No. 13' in the Hotel Carcassonne, Rue Mouffetard.

1960 Co-signatory of the manifesto of 'Nouveau Réalisme'. First 'trap paintings' exhibited at the 'Festival d'art d'avant-garde' in Paris.

From 1960, creation of the trap picture ('tableau-piège'), which would develop in different variations over the next 50 years (including the 'tableau-piège en carre', artists' palettes, word traps, "détrompe l'oeil" and "faux tableaux pièges").

1961 Acquisition of the trap painting 'Petit déjeuner de Kichka' by Moma, New York.

1962 Creation of the 'Topographie anecdotée du hasard' (Anecdotes to a topography of chance), a literary trap painting.

1963 Exhibition of Spoerri's collection of 723 kitchen appliances at Galerie J in Paris; the gallery is transformed into a restaurant for one evening: 'Restaurant de la Galerie J'.

1964 Stay in New York. Contacts with Fluxus artists.

1965 Transformation of the Galerie Bruno Bischofberger in Zurich into the restaurant 'Le Restaurant de la City Galerie'. Returns to Paris.

1966/67 Retreat to the Aegean island of Symi (with Kichka Baticheff), where he creates the 'Gastronomic Diary' and the series 'Magie à la Noix - 25 Zimtauberobjekte'.

1968 Opening of the 'Restaurant Spoerri' in Düsseldorf on 18 June. Lives in Düsseldorf and Cavigliano (Ticino). 1970 Opening of the 'Eat Art Gallery' above the Restaurant Spoerri.

Exhibition 'Bread Dough Objects'. The first bronze sculpture is created: Santo Grappa; further object assemblages in bronze follow. Various banquets.

1971-72 Lives in Toggwil on Lake Zurich.

1972 In addition to working on his assemblages and collages, Daniel Spoerri's artistic activities continue to include theatre productions and banquets.

1973 Acquires the 'Moulin Boyard', a mill south of Paris.

1976 Lives with Marie-Louise Plessen.

1977 In the 'Crocrodrome', a joint project by Jean Tinguely and friends, he sets up the first 'Le Musée Sentimental' and 'La boutique aberante', a collection of small curiosities relating to the history of the city.

1977-82 Teaching at the University of Applied Sciences for Art and Design in Cologne. Lectures on privately experienced art history 'Art history from the sewing box'. Various projects with students (banquets, exhibitions).

1979 Exhibition 'Le Musée Sentimental de Cologne' (with students of the Cologne University of Applied Sciences and Marie-Louise Plessen) Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne.

1980 'L'Attrappe Tripes - 17 banquets', 'Eat Art Festival', Maison de la Culture, Chalon-sur-Saône'.

1982 Guest lecturer at the Summer Academy of Fine Arts, Salzburg.

1983-1989 Professor at the Munich Art Academy. Projects with students (banquets, exhibitions). Lives in Munich and Ueberstorf. Guest lecturer at the Ecole des Beaux Arts, Brest.

1987 Guest lecturer at the University of Applied Arts, Vienna.

1989-1991 Lives in Paris, Arcidosso (Italy) and Seggiano (Italy).

1992 Design of the restaurant for the 'Swiss Pavilion' for the Expo in Seville.

1993 Awarded the 'Grand Prix National de la Sculpture' by the French state.

1997 Inauguration of the foundation 'Hic terminus haeret - Il Giardino di Daniel Spoerri' in Seggiano (sculpture garden with over 110 installations by over 50 artists), future residence only in Seggiano.

2000 Mutation of the warehouse in Spoerri's Italian studio into a 100 metre long trap picture: 'The Genetic Chain of the Flea Market'.

2002 'Le Restaurant Spoerri au Jeu de Paume', exhibition and seven different banquets at the Jeu de Paume Museum, Paris.

2006 Start of the large series of bronze sculptures on the theme of 'Obolithic Antiquities' ('Prillwitz Idols') and creation of the series 'Piume per capelli - Hat Feathers'.

2007 Spoerri stages an exhibition space as a 'Chambre Basculé' for the 'Nouveau Réalisme' exhibition at the Sprengel Museum in Hanover. Start of a series of 'Faux tableaux piéges', staged tables dedicated to specific people. Move to Vienna.

2008 Creation of further 'Eintagskästchen', small-format collages and assemblages, which usually bear a date and can be compared to diary-like sketches. Awarded the 'Ambrogino d'oro' prize, an important cultural prize from the city of Milan. 'Eckart Witzigmann Prize' in Germany for his achievements with "Eat Art".

2009 Near Krems (Austria), in Hadersdorf am Kamp, establishment of a second foundation, 'Eat Art & Ab Art', consisting of an exhibition centre known as 'Kunststaulager' and an event house, the 'Esslokal', for various cultural and culinary events.

2010 Continuation of the work on 'Eintagskästen', large bronzes, small silver objects and 'Faux Tableaux-piéges'.

2011 'Faux tableaux-piéges' with mosaic table tops from the 1950s.

2012 Creation of the new series of botanical collages on the pages of an old herbarium, as well as assemblages on the subject of mineralogy under the title 'An incompetent dialogue?' Start of the series 'Krickerl-Kümmerlinge' (horns and antlers) and the collages on washboards.

2013 Awarded 'Commandeur de l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres' by the French Ministry of Culture.

2014 Creation of the series 'Threadbare Oracles' with embroidered textiles.

2015 Design of the Swiss pavilion at the Expo in Milan; Christmas installation on the Vienna glass cube - ArtBox. Start of the series of trap pictures with Meissen porcelain tables and from the end of 2015 with flea market trap pictures from Vienna

2016 Awarded the Lovis Corinth Prize, combined with a retrospective exhibition at the Kunstforum Ostdeutsche Galerie, Regensburg

2017 Installation of an 'ice bar' in front of the traditional Viennese restaurant 'Zum Schwarzen Kameel'. As a reminiscence of the Opera Ball and the festive clothing worn on this occasion, Spoerri has 200 glittering heels of women's shoes studded with gemstones frozen into a block of ice. This serves as the counter of the 'Stöckel ice bar'. An exhibition at the 'Musée Les Abattoirs' in Toulouse picks up on Daniel Spoerri's passion for collecting and brings it into connection with Daniel Cordier's collection (African studies, Asian artefacts and more): 'Les Dadas des deux Daniels'.

2018 Invitation to contribute to the exhibition 'Take Me - I'm Yours' at the Monnaie de Paris. Daniel Spoerri glues on shredded banknotes and titles the postcard-sized collages 'Eurogeschnetztes'.

2019 Following Daniel Spoerri's instructions, collages are created for the exhibition 'Amuse bouche. The Flavour of Art' exhibition at the Jean Tinguely Museum (Basel), food concentrates are served in the form of cubes. Spoerri's idea: 'Only flavour instead of food'

2020 Daniel Spoerri becomes an honorary citizen of his native city of Galaz (Romania); in the course of this, the 'Daniel Spoerri Open Cultural Space' is set up and opened at the University of Galaz. Receives the 'Austrian Cross of Honour First Class for Science and Art', presented by Federal President Alexander van der Bellen in the Hofburg, Vienna.

2021 'Visual Arts Honour Award' of the Province of Lower Austria. For the exhibition 'curated by Daniel Spoerri' at the 'Galerie Gugging', Spoerri brings his own works in dialogue with those of the artists from Gugging. Since 2020, assemblages of flea market objects on black primed surfaces.

2024 Daniel Spoerri becomes an honorary citizen of Hadersdorf.

Further information:

www.spoerri.at

www.danielspoerri.org