

Media Information
May 20, 2019

The BMW i8 as an automobile sculpture: An artistic experiment by Thomas Scheibitz.

Premiere at the artist's Berlin studio.

Berlin. Internationally renowned painter and sculptor Thomas Scheibitz redesigned the BMW i8 of his long-time close friend Bernd Heusinger based on their continuous exchange. His work was not commissioned by BMW nor is it part of the BMW Art Car series – instead it is an independent experiment in form and colour. The resulting automobile sculpture was first presented to the public on May 18 at Scheibitz' Berlin studio.

Born in 1968 in Radeberg near the city of Dresden, the artist regards the surfaces and colour schemes of his sculptures as of vital importance. He believes that line, contour and volume “must exist as part of the known entities of the physical world”. For him, industrial design represents a major antagonist and a source of inspiration alike. Scheibitz understands sports cars as designed sculptures, as dynamic results of a synthesis of technology and creativity.

Asked about his experimental automobile sculpture “Scheibitz x Haysinger”, Thomas Scheibitz said, “Radical content is a question of form. Traditional sculptural concerns such as visual perspectives, detailed imagery, spatial perspectives, qualities of reliefs, symmetry as well as dissolved symmetry and illusion were the starting points for my design of a body of a modern vehicle.”

Thomas Scheibitz is known for creating new associations by playing with set pieces and various references in his often brightly coloured paintings and sculptures. The colour schemes he applied to the design of the BMW i8 in the manner of stylistic elements create a category of images that fit seamlessly into the open oeuvre of the artist. In addition, Scheibitz used the dynamic flow of the lines to play with the futuristic surface area of the body. The artist develops this idea even further by creating a visual dialogue between the innovative carbon structure of the vehicle and the texture of traditional canvas. “Greatest possible precision coupled with greatest possible openness,” he once commented on his oeuvre, and this tenet holds equally true for the design of his automobile sculpture.

Originally, the ideas regarding an automobile sculpture were based on a small-scale painting created by Thomas Scheibitz in 2017. Scanned and enlarged fragments of this painting can now be seen in various contexts on the surface of the BMW i8.

In the tradition of his creative process of research and layering, Scheibitz has been focussing on the design of the hybrid sports car for a number of years. In 2016, he created “Holy Motors”, a tubular sculpture painted in multicoloured vinyl paints exhibited in the rear window of a BMW i8. The work was yet another result of the friendship with Bernd Heusinger, author, director and founder of the agency “Zum goldenen Hirschen” and CEO of Hirschen Group.

For Thomas Scheibitz, who was made Professor of Painting at the Academy of Fine Arts Düsseldorf in 2018, the creative aspects of painting and sculpture are of equal importance. Following a solo exhibition at Kunstmuseum Bonn, Scheibitz presented

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numerous paintings and sculptures in 2018 as part of “The Hunter in the Snow” shown by the artist’s gallery Sprüth Magers in Los Angeles. From September 11, 2019, to January 31, 2020, the Nationalgalerie der Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin will host “Picasso/Scheibitz”, a special exhibition at the Berggruen Museum presenting over 40 works of each artist.

For further information about Thomas Scheibitz and Bernd Heusinger, please visit:

Thomas Scheibitz

www.thomasscheibitz.de; www.spruethmagers.com/artists/thomas_scheibitz

Bernd Heusinger

www.twitter.com/berndheusinger, www.hirschen-group.com

To download high-res image material and video footage, please visit the **BMW PressClub** and search for “Thomas Scheibitz”: www.press.bmwgroup.com

Product information

BMW i8 Coupe: fuel consumption combined 1.8 l/100 km [156.9 mpg imp], electric power consumption combined 14.0 kWh/100 km, CO2 emissions combined 42 g/km

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About BMW Group Cultural Engagement

For almost 50 years now, the BMW Group has initiated and engaged in over 100 cultural cooperations worldwide. The company places the main focus of its long-term commitment on contemporary and modern art, classical music and jazz as well as architecture and design. In 1972, three large-scale paintings were created by the artist Gerhard Richter specifically for the foyer of the BMW Group's Munich headquarters. Since then, artists such as Andy Warhol, Jeff Koons, Daniel Barenboim, Jonas Kaufmann and architect Zaha Hadid have co-operated with BMW. In 2016 and 2017, female artist Cao Fei from China and American John Baldessari created the next two vehicles for the BMW Art Car Collection. Besides co-initiatives, such as BMW Tate Live, the BMW Art Journey and the “Opera for All” concerts in Berlin, Munich, Moscow and London, the company also partners with leading museums and art fairs as well as orchestras and opera houses around the world. The BMW Group takes absolute creative freedom in all its cultural activities – as this initiative is as essential for producing groundbreaking artistic work as it is for major innovations in a successful business.

Further information: www.bmwgroup.com/culture and www.bmwgroup.com/culture/overview

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The BMW Group

With its four brands BMW, MINI, Rolls-Royce and BMW Motorrad, the BMW Group is the world's leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial and mobility services. The BMW Group production network comprises 30 production and assembly facilities in 14 countries; the company has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2018, the BMW Group sold over 2,490,000 passenger vehicles and more than 165,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax in the financial year 2018 was € 9.815 billion on revenues amounting to € 97.480 billion. As of 31 December 2018, the BMW Group had a workforce of 134,682 employees.

The success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. The company has therefore established ecological and social sustainability throughout the value chain, comprehensive product responsibility and a clear commitment to conserving resources as an integral part of its strategy.

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