

## Biography

- 1953** Born in Villach/Carinthia, primary school / *Realgymnasium* (Austrian secondary school with a focus on science) in Vienna
- 1970** Training by **Alfons Schilling**, starting at school Work as a painter until 1972, with first vernissages in Vienna and Velden/Wörthersee
- 1972** Matura (Austrian equivalent of A-levels)/school graduation exam and army service including voluntary prolongations, start of legal studies
- 1973** Career in labor market policy at the Austrian Ministry for Social Affairs in Vienna
- 1981** Marriage to Gabriele Söchting, primary school teacher. Birth of two children
- 1993** Obtained trading license for business consulting, moved to the Regional Employment Office of Vienna to work as a manager (AMS Vienna)
- 1996** Trained as an academic education manager, presentation and teaching work, Other courses completed in management and psycho-social matters
- 1999** Takeover of Immobilien-Verwaltung Söchting  
[www.immobilien-soechting.com](http://www.immobilien-soechting.com)
- 2011** Finished working for AMS Vienna, **recommenced work as an artist after around 40 years' break**
- 2015** Outsourcing of the artistic division of Immobilien-Verwaltung Söchting

### **Training with Alfons Schilling (1934-2013)**

During his stay in Vienna in 1970, Alfons Schilling visited my school professor (an acquaintance of his) during art classes at the *Realgymnasium* where I was a pupil. My professor drew Schilling's attention to me, as I had already been experimenting with various techniques and materials.

We conducted intense discussions about the principles of painting, emotional perception and expression, the necessity of spontaneity and the creation of unique objects. While talking, we worked with different colors on a simple piece of packing paper which was spread out on the floor. Later, I decided to work with nitrocellulose lacquers.

Schilling's subsequent visits during school lessons saw these experiments being expanded and I developed a desire for greater dynamism in the painting process. I came up with the idea of using my portable record player as a disc for spinning. He was attracted to this idea and wanted to try it out with me.

Schilling visited me at home where I completed my first pictures in the garden shed using nitrocellulose lacquer on wood panels (this kind of paint can only be used without respiratory protection if you are in the open air).

The paintings were shown at the school exhibition in 1970 where almost all of them were sold to the enthusiastic visitors.

Unfortunately, we lost touch after he went abroad again.

## **Vernissages**

- 1970 Vienna, school exhibition  
Kleines Hotel, Velden/Wörthersee
- 2012 Vienna, 22nd district, TechGate Vienna  
Vienna, 12th district, permanent exhibition
- 2013 Vienna, 1st district, Fleischmarkt 18 (shop) 3 months  
Vienna, 11th district, Neugebäude Palace  
Vienna, 12th district, permanent exhibition
- 2014 Vienna, 1st district, Fleischmarkt 18 (shop) 4 months  
Vienna, 12th district, permanent exhibition
- 2015 Vienna, 1st district, Fleischmarkt 18 (shop) 4 months  
Vienna, 12th district, permanent exhibition
- 2016 Vienna, 12th district, permanent exhibition
- 2017 Weiden am See, 7121 Markt 41, GUTTMANN vineyard, starting in autumn  
Vienna, 14th district, Hauptstraße 124, JKV Onliner Austria GmbH  
Vienna, 12th district, permanent exhibition
- 2018 Weiden am See, 7121 Markt 41, GUTTMANN vineyard  
Vienna, 14th district, Hauptstraße 124, JKV Onliner Austria GmbH  
Vienna, 12th district, permanent exhibition
- 2019 Weiden am See, 7121 Markt 41, GUTTMANN vineyard, until March 2019  
Vienna, 14th district, Hauptstraße 124, JKV Media Austria GmbH, until March 2019  
Vienna, 1st district, Fleischmarkt 18 (shop), from December  
Vienna, 12th district, permanent exhibition

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