



Assisted by a KAESER MOBILAIR 56 construction compressor, the 12 artists participating in the 6th International Sculptors' Symposium in Obernkirchen, Germany, presented a fascinating diversity of styles and techniques.

With powerful hammer blows, clattering air chisels and chippings of dusty sandstone falling to the floor, the normally tranquil church square in Obernkirchen, Weserbergland, Germany, was again transformed into a large open air studio from the 24th August to the 7th September 2003. Eleven artists from Germany, France, Mexico, The Netherlands and Austria let people look over their shoulders as they went about their creative work. They were often almost totally besieged by onlookers who wanted to see how a finished sculpture was created from a block of stone. Kristiane Allert-Wybrantetz, chair of the association for the

'International Obernkirchen Sculptors' Symposium", estimated that a total of between 12,000 and 14,000 people visited 'sandstone city' in the church square over the two weeks.

Where Nationalities and Cultures Meet

The symposium, founded in 1987, takes place every three years. The idea of it was, and is, to continue the 400 year old Obernkirchen tradition of extracting and crafting sandstone, and to make sculpting an experience everyone can enjoy. The forum was also conceived as a venue where different nationalities and cultures could meet.

The runaway success of this idea

didn't just illustrate the public's enthusiasm. 350 artists applied for the 2003 event despite the fact there weren't any prizes on offer and the sculptures had to remain in Obernkirchen for 2 years on loan. Twelve artists were invited to take part, the youngest being 32 and the oldest 70 years of age. They formed a top-class team without any airs and graces or reservations about giving the fascinated onlookers an insight into the creative artistic process. The spectrum ranged from figurative forms, as displayed by Roland Hoefft, the youngest participant, in his work "Time for myself and time for oneself", to the sandstone, coal and glass abstract

sculpture by 70 year old Bolivian, Ted Carrasco, who now lives in France.

"Bridges for a Divided World": 2nd Interactive Sculptors' Symposium

Without doubt, one of the highlights was the 2nd Interactive Sculptors' Symposium. The aim is to build bridges between peoples and cultures, and to provide an opportunity for artists from different cultural horizons to innovatively work together. New perspectives are formed as each participant brings his own experiences and cultural stamp whilst opening himself up to other cultures, people and ideas.

This year Isamu Fujimoto (born in 1946) produced the draft sketches and models and sent them via the internet to the German sculptor Friedo Schange (born 1964), who then turned these plans into sandstone reality in the church square under the title "Bridges for a Divided World". Schange, like his artistic colleagues, didn't just use the classic sculptor's tools of the hammer and chisel, but also used modern compressed air tools powered by a KAESER Mobilair compressor. The onlookers were certainly captivated to see how the artist gradually created a graceful arch from a raw block of sandstone. Completely embraced by the arch, the exact fitting final stone was sent from Japan by Isamu Fujimoto himself and was emplaced after the initial sculpture was completed. This event signified



Backstage – compressor area off limits

the opening of the "Obernkirchen Sculpture Trail" on the 2nd November 2003 almost two months after the end of the symposium. Punctuated by exhibits from the hitherto six Sculpture Symposiums, the route leads a total of 12 km through the town and its charming landscape environs.

For further information visit: www.iobs.de



The youngest participant, Roland Höft, working on his sculpture "Time for myself and time for oneself" (left and page 12 top)

Author: Michael Bahr
Contact: michael.bahr@kaeser.com

Friedo Schange transforms the draft sketch his Japanese colleague Isamu Fujimoto (right) sent via the internet, into reality



The 6th International Sculptors' Symposium in Obernkirchen, Germany, presented sculptures in an open air studio and KAESER supplied the air.