

A brief description of the piece: Title, Size, Clay/Materials,

“Primeval Tool from the Stone and Plastic Age.”

Glazes, Firing Temperature 960°C degree – Cooling Firing and no glazes: Therefore it will be still possible to draw on walls, asphalts etc. with the tool

A short bio of 500 words or less

Prof. Dr.phil. MMag.art. Rolf LAVEN

Short CV: Rolf Lavenis an Artist and Professor at the Department for Secondary Schools, University of Teacher Education in Vienna / Austria. Born in Germany he studied Sculpture (Plastische Vormgeving) in Maastricht/NL (Rijkshogeschool: Academie Beeldende Kunsten) and Vienna (Universität: Akademie der bildenden Künste), graduating in 1998. He finished his studies also with a Master’s Degree in 1995 as a Master in Visual Arts Education and his Ph.D. dissertation in 2004.

From 1994 to 2012, he had worked as an art teacher at several secondary schools in Vienna and has led since 1999 the community college course “Art & Design” preparing persons with vocational training and experience-for the entrance exam at universities. Parallel to his work at the PH Wien (University of Teacher Education) Laven is currently working as a lecturer at the Faculty of Philosophy and Education of University Vienna and also works as a researcher for the Comenius-funded ENViL Project (European Network Visual Literacy) CEFR_VL (Common European Framework of Reference for Visual Literacy, 2014-2016) and Erasmus+ Project PREPARE (Promoting reflective practice in the training of teachers using E-Portfolios, 2016-2018). Numerous international publications, conference- and symposia participations and art exhibitions. Laven’s major working fields are: ‘artistic education’, ‘artistic projects’ in schools and universities, theory of artistic thinking to help foster young persons’ imaginations and facilitate students’ success in school; art for the classroom teacher in primary schools, art in secondary classroom and independent studies.

Aesthetic experiences through arts as workshop leader and curator. From 2000 to 2008 he worked as scientific researcher at the Wien Museum Karlsplatz supervised the Franz Cizek estate.

Teaching supervisor: supervising art education in public school settings.

Laven attended Austrian Art (Education) Associations such as BÖKWE (since 2017 first chairman), ÖGFD (Austrian Society for Didactics), ÖFEB (Austrian Association of Research and Development in Education), focus:bildung, Innviertler Künstlergilde, Stahlpark Riedersbach etc..

In 2013, he received as an award the Habilitation (venia docendi) Grant from the Austrian Ministry of Education.

An artist statement of 500 words or less.

Stone Age Plastic Age: Do tools promote communication?

What do stone tools and writing objects have to do with communication, with language ability? Possibly more than we thought so far. Because the development of more and more complex fist wedges could have inspired our ancestors to develop verbal communication. The early humans were, after all, about 2.5 million years ago skilled producers of stone tools. In early cultures they produced e.g. sharp stoneknives from the precipitation of a larger stone. The complexity of imitating this technique suggests that

this skill had to be learned and practiced longer. Tool making was an important incentive and a decisive step in human development, to foster more complex teaching methods and linguistic communication. Stone tools were thus not only a product of human evolution, but also pushed them forward.

The plastic cup as an invention of the 20th century (and this is quite ironically meant) stands as a symbol for communication of postmodern times.

Ceramic as a carrier material is seen as a compound, a link, a conjunction of Stone and Plastic Age.

„People have inner powers that can develop by learning through the heart, head and hands.“ Pestalozzi in: Swansong

“The eye wants to see, the ear wants to hear, the foot wants to walk and the hand wants to seize. But in the same way, the heart wants to believe and love.“