

Independent artist and graphic designer



Paul Kirps was born in Luxembourg. In 1996, he graduated in visual communication from the Ecal in Lausanne, Switzerland. Various commissions and collaborations led him, at the end of the 1990s, from Vienna to Paris and Amsterdam. In 2000, he became a founding member of Qua-Lab - an experimental design Studio - in Barcelona. He later accepted the post of artistic director for the publications centre at Expo.02 in Switzerland.

His projects as an independent designer include the conception of books about Ruedi Baur and Izima Kaoru for which he was honoured with the "Barcelona Laus Award".

Since founding his own studio in Luxembourg in 2004, his work has been evolving in various contexts. It encompasses graphic creations such as posters, catalogues and illustrations upon commission, as well as artistic projects, exhibitions and personal editions.

For the "Graphique Deluxe" exhibition in 2005, he created a monumental illustration on the front façade of the Mudam "Camp de Base" building (Luxembourg-Kirchberg). In October of that same year, he participated with his project *protekt - universal protection set-* in the exhibition "safe-design takes on risk", at the MoMA in New York.

Between 2004 and 2005, Paul Kirps ventured into completely new territory, that of film. He created *autoreverse*, a series of five audio-visual sequences that show decomposing and recomposing machines made from recycled electrical household appliances. *Autoreverse* was presented, in its preview in October 2005, within the framework of the fifth "Nuit des Musées" in Luxembourg, and later as part of the "Eldorado" exhibition for the official inauguration of the Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean, Luxembourg.

In early 2007, he participated in the "Kunst macht Schule" project, an educational programme that invited nine international artists and designers to lead a one-week workshop in schools throughout Europe. This project was labeled "Luxembourg et Grande Région-Capitale Européenne de la Culture".

With the *mother* project shown during his first solo exhibition in Switzerland in March 2008, the artist confirmed his approach which originates at the intersection of illustration, graphic aesthetics and art. During the same year, Paul Kirps created *diamonds*, a triptych made up from flashy, coloured, acrylic glass conceived and produced for the "Elo: Inner Exile-Outer Limits" group exhibition held at the Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean, Luxembourg.

His *autoreverse* video-installation was first presented, in the USA, in the context of the "Rough Cut: Design Takes a Sharp Edge" group exhibition. From December 2008 to autumn 2009, the project was on show at MoMA in New York. *Autoreverse* is Paul Kirps' second project, after *protekt*, to be shown in an exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art and to be included in the museum's permanent design collection.

At the end of 2009 the artist was selected to represent his country during the "Prix d'art Robert Schuman" Art awards in France. For this occasion, Paul Kirps created *High Score*, a life-size reinterpretation of a pinball machine.

For his first intervention in an outdoor public space he conceived *Glow in the Dark*. Situated in a former newspaper kiosk located in the heart of the city of Luxembourg this installation was curated by "Aica / Association internationale des critiques d'art", and was on show until 18 June 2010. In parallel to this solo project Paul Kirps has participated at the "Ceci n'est pas un casino" group show held at the Casino - Forum d'art contemporain in Luxembourg (1 May - 5 September 2010).

Paul Kirps's work in recent years has focused on commissions related to the "Art in State Buildings" Program (Kunst am Bau). He has worked with architectural studios to develop concepts for artistic installations in public buildings, providing relevant solutions to the needs of future residents and users.

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