

Friedensreich Hundertwasser, painter, architecture doctor and ecological activist, advocated with passion a life in harmony with nature.

Born Friedrich Stowasser in Vienna in 1928, he changed his name into Hundertwasser in 1949. The impressions Hundertwasser gained on his journeys to Italy, France and North Africa in the 1950s became particularly decisive for his artistic development. He formulated his own vision, incorporating the spiral motif into his pictorial world in 1953.

As of the early 1950s Hundertwasser dealt with architecture, and consistently pursued his goal of creating a more human architecture in harmony with nature. He started his engagement with manifestos, essays and demonstrations like reading his *Mouldiness Manifesto against Rationalism in Architecture*, which he recited at an art conference in 1958 in Seckau, Styria, with his *Nude Demonstrations Against Rationalism in Architecture* in Munich 1967 and Vienna 1968 and with publishing his *Los von Loos ("Loose from Loos") – A Law Permitting Individual Building Alterations or Architecture-Boycott Manifesto* in 1968.

In the 1980s Hundertwasser's realised architecture projects triggered worldwide attention and provoked vivid discussions, such as a residential building of the city of Vienna, the so-called *Hundertwasser House*, the redesign of the *St. Barbara Church* in Bärnbach, Styria, the *KunstHausWien* museum in Vienna, the architectural redesign of the *District Heating Plant Spittelau* in Vienna, and many others more. In the 1990s his architecture projects such as the thermal village *Rogner-Bad Blumau*, Styria, the *Forest Spiral of Darmstadt*, an apartment complex, as well as architecture projects in Osaka, Japan, were completed.

Closely connected with his philosophy of a more human architecture in harmony with nature was his ecological commitment. He was a forerunner of the Green Movement.

Hundertwasser campaigned for the preservation of our natural surroundings and promoted a life in harmony with the laws of nature. He wrote numerous manifestos and designed posters in support of the protection of nature; against nuclear power, for the saving of the seas and the whales and for the protection of the rainforest, to name only a few examples.

Hundertwasser mastered and innovated many graphic techniques, among them lithograph, silk screen, etching, colour woodcut and others. He used different techniques like lithograph and silkscreen in one graphic sheet and worked with metal embossings and phosphorescent colours. He was the first European painter to have his works cut by Japanese masters. Most important, he succeeded in carrying out original graphic editions in which the sheets are unique pieces, each as different as the leaves of a tree.

Hundertwasser lived alternately in Vienna, in Venice and in Normandy as well as in New Zealand where after his death in 2000 he was buried on his land in harmony with nature.