

Ernst Gamperl Germany b. 1965

'I look for pieces of wood full of character with knots, irregular growth patterns, tears, breaks and interesting details. With the fundamental structure of a piece of wood in mind I am then guided by the raw material and my emotions to bring out its beauty.'



Object in Ash, 2022, Ash, 80H x 36W x 36D cm

May 2026

Taste Contemporary

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Ernst Gamperl Biography

Ernst Gamperl is a self-taught artist and master craftsman who, over many years, has achieved an extraordinary understanding of wood. This has allowed him create beautiful, organic vessel forms primarily in oak, but also in other materials such as ash, maple and beech.

Turning wood when it is wet, he takes his cue for the final shape of the vessel from the natural characteristics of his material. Working the wood at the lathe, he allows it to bulge, warp and crack during the drying process. To hold the cracks and fissures together he uses wooden and wire staples, which are used to great effect and add further interest to each piece. Gamperl observes the distinctive qualities of the wood; the grain, colour, grooves, knots and burrs and enhances their beauty with surface treatment. He waxes and polishes and contrasts the smooth and shiny with the rough-hewn and scarred. Continuously developing his skills, recent work sees the addition of clay powders and minerals to the surface of the form. This allows him achieve interesting tonal variations in finished pieces, while a focus on hollowing has seen the creation of objects with smaller openings. However, while Gamperl's work is technically ambitious, his dialogue with, and connection to, the material is paramount and has become increasingly important in the creation of these understated, contemporary and intriguing vessel forms that have surface qualities that accentuate the intrinsic beauty of wood to great effect.

Ernst Gamperl has won multiple awards for his sculptures including the LOEWE Craft Prize 2017 for his piece *Tree of Life 2*. His work is in museum collections worldwide, including The Museum of Arts and Crafts, Hamburg; The International Design Museum/Neue Sammlung, Munich, Germany; Collection Issey Miyake, Japan; The National Foundation for Contemporary Art, Paris and the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Gamperl lives and works in Southern Germany.

Selected Collections

Switzerland	Musée des Arts Décoratifs de la Ville de Lausanne Collection Grether, Basel
Germany	Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg Kestner Museum, Hannover Die Neue Sammlung – The International Design Museum Munich/Design in the Pinakothek der Moderne Schloß Pillnitz, Dresden Nationalmuseum Württemberg, Stuttgart Museum für Angewandte Kunst (Grassimuseum), Leipzig Museum für Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt on the Main Kestner Museum, Hanover

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	Danner Foundation, Munich, Collection Alexander von Vegesack, Hundsbach Schloß Gottorf, Schleswig Landesmuseum Württemberg Stuttgart
France	Fond National d'art Contemporain, Paris Alexander von Vegesack Collection, Hundsbach
UK	V&A Museum, London Houghton Hall Collection, Norfolk
Italy	Collection Vok, Padua
Spain	Loewe Art Collection, Madrid
Japan	Collection Issey Miyake, Tokyo
South Korea	Amorepacific Museum of Art, Seoul
USA	Ruth and David Waterbury Collection, Minneapolis

Selected Exhibitions

2026	Physis: Ernst Gamperl & Shunshun, Taste Contemporary, Geneva, Switzerland artgenève [represented by Taste Contemporary], Geneva, Switzerland
2025	Ernst Gamperl. Das Lebensbaumprojekt, Bayerisches Nationalmuseum, Munich, DE Transformation und Bewegung – 40 Jahre Ernst Gamperl in der Galerie Handwerk, Galerie Handwerk, Munich, DE
2023	'Pride and Prejudice' Arts and Crafts – A Lovestory, Universitätsgalerie der Angewandten, Wien, Austria Ernst Gamperl – Houghton Oak Project, Anthony Slayter-Ralph, Hudson, USA Ernst Gamperl – Houghton Oak Project, Salon 94 Design – curated by Anthony Slayter-Ralph, N.Y., USA
2022	Shades of Winter, Taste Contemporary, Geneva, Switzerland <i>Thomas Bohle / Ernst Gamperl: Erde und Holz, Holzwerkstatt Markus Faißt, AT</i> <i>Zwiesprache, Galerie Göttlicher, Krems-Stein, AT</i> <i>Houghton Oak Project, Exhibition of work by Ernst Gamperl, Houghton Hall, Norfolk, GB</i> <i>Olaf Otto Becker / Ernst Gamperl: Dialog mit der Natur, Galerie Abtart, Stuttgart, DE</i>
2021	Ernst Gamperl, Maria Kristofersson, Matthew Harris, Taste Contemporary, Geneva, Switzerland <i>Apma, Chapter Three – from the Apma Collection, Season XVII: Threads of Nature Spazio Nobile Gallery, Brussels, B</i>
2020	artgenève [represented by Taste Contemporary], Geneva, Switzerland <i>Special Exhibition Ernst Gamperl, Korean Craft Museum 집들이; 공예 House of Craft, Korean Craft Museum Cheongju, KR</i>
2019	Ernst Gamperl-Dialog mit dem Holz Gewerbeuseum Winterthur,

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- Winterthur, CH
 Art Karlsruhe Axel Pairon Gallery, Karlsruhe, DE
 MASTERPIECE with Gallery Sarah Myerscough Gallery, London, GB
 PAD, London with Gallery Sarah Myerscough Gallery, London, GB
 Salon, N.Y. with Gallery Sarah Myerscough Gallery, N.Y., US
 Design Miami with Gallery Sarah Myerscough Gallery, Miami, US
- 2018**
artgenève [represented by Taste Contemporary], Geneva, Switzerland
 COLLECT with Gallery Sarah Myerscough Gallery, London, UK
 NOMAD with Gallery Sarah Myerscough Gallery, St . Moritz, CH
 Ernst Gamperl Gallery LVS, Seoul, KR
 Art Karlsruhe Axel Pairon Gallery, Karlsruhe, DE
 MASTERPIECE with Gallery Sarah Myerscough Gallery, London, GB
 PAD, London with Gallery Sarah Myerscough Gallery, London, GB
 Salon, N.Y. with Gallery Sarah Myerscough Gallery, N.Y., US
 Design Miami with Gallery Sarah Myerscough Gallery, Miami, US
 Ernst Gamperl „3rd Exhibition“ Arts & Science, Tokyo, JP
- 2017**
Tresor Contemporary Craft Fair, [represented by Taste Contemporary], Basel, Switzerland
 COAM Madrid, Exposición LOEWE Craft Prize 2017
 Chamber Gallery New York, Exposición LOEWE Craft Prize 2017
 Design Miami [represented by Sarah Myerscough Fine Art], Miami, USA
 Salon [represented by Sarah Myerscough Fine Art], New York, USA
 PAD [represented by Sarah Myerscough Fine Art], London, England
 21-21 Design Sight, Tokyo Exposición LOEWE Craft Prize 2017
artgenève [represented by Taste Contemporary], Geneva, Switzerland
- 2016**
 Design Miami [represented by Sarah Myerscough Fine Art], Miami, USA
 Salon [represented by Sarah Myerscough Fine Art], New York, USA
 PAD [represented by Sarah Myerscough Fine Art], London, England
 Zeitspuren – Hans Jürgen Simon und Ernst Gamperl Galerie Hilde Leiss, Hamburg, Germany
 Art Nocturne Knokke, Axel Pairon Gallery, Knokke, Belgium
Artmonte-carlo [represented by Taste], Geneva, Switzerland
 Design Miami/Basel [represented by Sarah Myerscough Fine Art], Basel, Switzerland
- 2015**
 Ernst Gamperl-Was das Holz sein möchte Buchheim Museum, Bernried, Germany
 Art Nocturne Knokke, Axel Pairon Gallery, Knokke, Belgium
 Design Miami/Basel [represented by Sarah Myerscough Fine Art], Basel, Switzerland
 COLLECT [represented by Sarah Myerscough Fine Art], London, England
Design is a state of mind, with Martino Gamper, Bolzano, Italy [touring exhibition]
- Artgenève [represented by Taste], Geneva, Switzerland**
- 2014**
 Knogge Summer Gallery, Axel Pairon Gallery, Knogge, Belgium

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- Ernst Gamperl, At the Corner by Arts & Science, Tokyo, Japan
Design is a state of mind, with Martino Gamper, London, England
 Positionen des Gestaltens, Galerie Handwerk, Germany
 COLLECT [represented by Sarah Myerscough Fine Art], London, England
 Blondeau & Cie, [represented by Taste], Geneva, Switzerland
- 2013 Li Trieb, Ernst Gamperl und Ursula Guttmann Galerie Hilde Leiss, Hamburg, Germany
 Ausstellung 50, Jürgen Prüll, Schmuck und Gerät Weiden, Germany
 COLLECT 2013 Gallery Sarah Myerscough Fine Art, London, England
- 2012 LVS Gallery at Craft Trend Fair, Seoul, Korea
 sequences – christa lühtje, ernst gamperl Galerie im Kelterhaus, Rosi Jäger, Hochheim, Germany
 Ernst Gamperl, LVS Gallery, Seoul, Korea
 COLLECT 2012 Gallery Sarah Myerscough Fine Art, London, England
- 2011 LVS Gallery at Seoul Design Festival, Seoul, Korea
 Holz, Galerie Carla Renggli, Zug, Switzerland
 Gamperl, Stockmans, Galerie Werft 11, Cologne, Germany
 Materials Revisited: 10th. Triennial for Form and Content, Museum für angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt on the Main, Germany
 Grenzwerte II Galerie Eva Maisch, Würzburg, Germany
 Hedge Gallery at SF 20, San Francisco, USA
Workshops of the Future, Exempla, International Fair of Handicrafts, Munich, Germany
- 2010 Drehmomente Hans Jürgen Simon Paperworks, Ernst Gamperl Woodwork, Kloster Schloß Bentlage, Rheine, Germany
 Display by Arts & Science, Tokyo, Japan
 Rotationen – Gefäße aus der Bewegung, Galerie Handwerk, Munich, Germany
 Ospiti inaspettati, Museo Bagatti Valsecchi, Milan, Italy
- 2009 Ernst Gamperl – Drehmomente, Lignorama, Riedau, Austria
 U-tsu-wa-Lucie Rie, Jennifer Lee, Ernst Gamperl, 21_21 Design Sight, Tokyo, Japan
- 2008 40 years Arts and Craft gallery, Arts and Craft gallery, Munich, Germany
 Scoprire il Design – Adventures with Objects, Pinacoteca Agnelli, Torino, Italy
 Kleines Landhaus, Saanen, Switzerland
- 2007 Musée départemental du Compagnonnage de Romanèche-Thorins, Romanèche-Thorins, France
 Luminaire welcomes Ernst Gamperl, Luminaire, Chicago, USA
- 2006 Galerie Carla Renggli, Zug, Switzerland
 Un giro più del cerchio, Oratorio San Rocco, Padua, Italy
 Food Festival, Mescolanze, Rovereto, Italy
- 2004 Ernst Gamperl during the ARTbasel, Urs von Unger, Basel, Switzerland
 Gewerbemuseum Winterthur, Winterthur, Switzerland
 Ernst Gamperl, Gallery Binnen at kunstRAI, Amsterdam, Netherland

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- I legni di Ernst Gamperl, Arcade Glass, Milan, Italy
Schalen, Arts and Crafts Gallery, Munich, Germany
Collect, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, England
Corporal Identity: 9th Triennial for Form and Content, Museum for Arts and Design, NY, USA
- 2003 Giovanni Corvaja, Ernst Gamperl, Michele de Lucchi, Jacqueline Ryan, Galerie Hilde Leiss, Hamburg, Germany
Werkstattausstellung, Claus Tittmann, Thurnau, Germany
Corporal Identity: 9th. Triennial for Form and Content, Museum angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt on the Main, Germany
Ernst Gamperl Holzobjekte, Galerie Carla Renggli, Zug, Switzerland
Traces of Nature, Hand and Spirit, Studio Michele de Lucchi, Milan, Italy
laboratorio 15, Milan, Italy
I.H.M., Neue Messe Munich, Germany
Kleines Landhaus, Saanen, Switzerland
- 2002 Volumes in Wood, Cream 136, Singapore
Diamant+Holz+Textil Galerie Hilde Leiss, Hamburg, Germany
Exempla, International Fair of Handicrafts, Munich, Germany
domizil, Basel, Switzerland
Werkstattausstellung, Claus Tittmann, Thurnau, Germany
Contemporary Decorative Arts Exhibition, Sotheby's, London, England
- 2001 A tavola con il Design, dadriade, Milan, Italy
- 2000 Ernst Gamperl, Holz, Galerie im Kelterhaus, Rosi Jäger, Hochheim, Germany
Kloster Schloß Bentlage, Bentlage-Rheine, Germany
Volumes in Wood, Miyake Design Studio Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
von Holz zu Holz, Ernst Gamperl, Cees Andriessen, Galerie Geymüller, Essen – Werden, Germany
- 1999 Touch Wood, von der Keule zum Design, Bernische Stiftung für Angewandte Kunst und Gestaltung, Bern, Switzerland
20 years gallery Hilde Leiss, Hamburg, Germany
Ernst Gamperl, Natan, Brussels, Belgium
BMW, Milan, Italy
The Conran Shop, Paris, France
- 1998 Ernst Gamperl, Wood, Strenesse, Hamburg, Germany
Gallery Hilde Leiss, Hamburg, Germany
Gallery Gierg, Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Natan, Brussels, Germany
- 1997 Futonhaus, Zurich, Switzerland
Gallery Geymüller, Essen, Werden, Germany
International Woodturning Exhibition, Philadelphia, US
Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg, Germany
Ernst Gamperl – Contrasts, Arts and Crafts Gallery, Munich, Germany
- 1995 Gallery Hilde Leiss, Hamburg, Germany
Gallery Slavik, Vienna, Austria
- 1994 Rotunda, Museum für kunst und kulturgeschichte, Dortmund, Germany
Ten years Danner Award, Arts and Crafts Gallery, Munich, Germany

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- Compact Forms – Wooden objects, arts and crafts gallery, Munich, Germany
6th Triennial of contemporary German Arts and Crafts, Museum für Angewandte Kunst (grassimuseum), Leipzig, Germany
6th Triennial of contemporary German Arts and Crafts, Museum für Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt am Main / Germany International Woodturning Exhibition, Victoria, Australia
Wood – A Raw Material of the Future, international green fair, Berlin, Germany
- 1993
Wooden Bowls, Arts and Crafts gallery, Munich, Germany
New York Gift Fair, New York, US
Danner Award Exhibition, New Residency, Bamberg, Germany

Selected Awards

- 2017
LOEWE Craft Prize winner for work from the *Tree of Life collection*
- 2002
Hessian State Award: 3rd prize, Autumn Fair, Frankfurt on the Main, Germany
Bavarian State Award, International Fair of Handicrafts, Munich, Germany
- 1999
Danner Award, Munich, Germany
- 1998
Hessian State Award: 3rd prize, Autumn Fair, Frankfurt on the Main, Germany
- 1994
International Woodturning Exhibition and Competition, Victoria: Final winner, best piece of show, 1st prizes in four other categories
- 1993
Danner Award, Munich, Germany
Hessian State Award: 1st prize, Autumn Fair, Frankfurt on the Main, Germany
- 1992
Bavarian State Award, International Fair of Handicrafts, Munich, Germany
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