

# *Time Guards*

Manfred Kielnhofer





## Galerie **ARTPARK**

gallery of contemporary fine arts  
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*Time Guards*

## Manfred Kielnhofer

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Cover: Gallery Artpark  
Inside: Altaussee salt mine,  
Sculpturegarden Artpark



NÖ Landesausstellung 2007 / Palace Waidhofen/Ybbs

## THE TIME GUARDS

Long before the age of man they walked our planet. In the ages of the ancient advanced civilizations the presence of the Guardians of Time was recognized with respect, reverence and humility. Over the millennia a new mystery was formed and only a few chosen ones, like high priests, spiritual masters and shamans were granted to study it. They were the ones that got a deeper insight in the secret of THE TIME GUARDIANS. The beings were referred to as visitors from other systems, protectors or destroyers and even gods. Until today the true task and their continuous working in our world cannot be explained completely. An almost impenetrable veil lies over the reason and the working of their presence and the secret of their worldwide and unexpected appearance. Historians and experts in new fields of science assume that the emerging of the Time Guardians is connected to warnings and control visits, respectively corrective actions. According to ancient scriptures it is “the time travelers” that find out the GOOD – BAD status of our actions and the recent condition of our planet to correct and restore it. What actions there are that protect the collective harmony is mostly still in the field of speculation; moreover that knowledge is beyond our understanding and human perception. To tell the exact appearance of the beings in space and time is hardly possible. And so far there is no reliable and working method to withdraw from the power and the non-worldly access of the GUARDIANS. Just like system operators they examine and watch over the individual as well as tendencies in social development and the global situation. Eyewitness accounts from various ages in history report of disappearances of people and radical changes in behavioural patterns of individuals. Like that especially people of great influence to society, like leaders of tribes or countries, triggered crucial global changes. The phenomenon was studied by the leading historians, sociologists, scientists of outer limits of knowledge and (para-)psychologists of all times but they found hardly any satisfying results. One general accepted theory is that our own motivation and the human actions themselves are the trigger for the working of the GUARDIANS. Through time they enter our world and always remain present to take record of our actions. Nobody can withdraw from their universal and objective valuations and guidance.

A report by Ron Morisson

### “Time guardians”

Cloaked in concrete-like or otherwise putrid variegated cloth, Manfred Kielnhofer’s “time guardians” seem to be plotting against time or maybe avidly watching time television- is that a medieval joke or what? Like conspiratory monks in a deathless desultory demeanor, they exude an ominous lack of life as if in a ghost parade freshly arisen from the depths of the Artpark crypt. They blatantly stand here, gnarled and unfazed, making time. Are we lost in a movie, “Lord of the ring”- wise or is it a gathering of the Adams family in new Taliban unglamorous style? So welcome to the new dark ages. Kielnhofer’s “time guardians” stand like silent monoliths of veiled knowledge in a sculpture garden, seemingly quarantined or time travelling, the only prop missing is the scythe. The grim reaper has come with his zombie posse- they’re decaying morosely in the open, guarding time in an esoteric Disneyland of sinister and unsavory folds. Their significance or arthistorical relevance lies in the eye of the beholder. Regardless, they are meant to evoke ancient times in their secretive hocus-pocus despondency, allegedly and all the more uncannily. Draped in mute and unholy light, they seem to be placidly heralding the big world conspiracy, admonishing and demolishing time concepts. Equivocally, Kielnhofer’s work is a tribute to life and death, entwined, dilated and lost in time. The “time guardians” are maybe hooded knights in disguise, hiding the light within the moldy creases of their robes, fighting without armor against time.

A review by Catherine Pandora



St. Florian Linz

## SPOOKY SENTINELS

Arrayed in a semicircle, Manfred Kielnhofer's ghostly "time guardians" seem to have abandoned themselves to infinite sadness. What do the life-sized polyester figures represent? Are they bereaved women, meditating monks or nuns or premonitory spirits sent to warn us of impending dangers? Are they supposed to inspire awe, compassion or fear? The artist refuses to tell us why he created them and if we dare to peer inside their cloaks we discover only black emptiness.

The garments with their many folds are vaguely reminiscent of those sculpted by Rodin. Although the first ones Kielnhofer molded were gray and drab, many of the newer generation display bright colors and cheerful patterns. The artist now plans to equip some of them with interior lighting. To emphasize their timelessness he photographs them in front of both ancient castles and modern high-rises, usually at night.

Manfred Kielnhofer, 41, has been operating the gallery "Art Park" in Linz, Austria, since 2005. He is an abstract painter who used a naked female body as a "canvas" for one of his best works. Under his guidance 1,500 eager youngsters produced the largest children's painting in the world (3,300 m<sup>2</sup>), which was displayed at many different places in Austria. Another of his gigantic masterpieces (40,000 m<sup>2</sup>) was composed of sunflowers and other herbs which had been planted in the middle of a field of grain near the city of Enns. It could be best viewed from the sky, but unfortunately the pilot Kielnhofer hired decided to fly off on vacation before most of its "pixels" had blossomed and the farmer had to harvest the creation before he returned.

Stephen Sokoloff

TimeGuards / SpiritGuards / Trent Gilliss, Online Editor

Figurative sculpture installations take on new meaning within the context of location. Art of the highest human form. Manfred Kielnhofer's sculptures accomplish this task. The transitory nature of the work remind me of Antony Gormley's public sculptures, especially his "Another Place" series of a 200 craggy, metal figures on the ocean beach.

But, the Austrian artist's work conjure up a more ethereal, mystical quality. They're shrouded in mystery calling out their ancestors and their progeny. When the viewer looks from particular angles, they become diaphanous, almost soulless — like the ring-wraiths, the Nazgul, from The Lord of the Rings or even a rougher-hewn predecessor in Prague.

Even the introductory paragraph of the Austrian artist's site reads like the opening to an ancient future, calling on the Druids of Stonehenge and the crusaders of Everquest or the worlds of Myst:

In the ages of the ancient advanced civilizations the presence of the Guardians of Time was recognized with respect, reverence and humility. Over the millennia a new mystery was formed and only a few chosen ones, like high priests, spiritual masters and shamans were granted to study it. They were the ones that got a deeper insight in the secret of THE TIME GUARDIANS. The beings were referred to as visitors from other systems, protectors or destroyers and even gods.

Hooded Aliens from Another Dimension Control Your Every Move

1000 years ago, guardians of time were a part of every advanced civilization. These hooded visitors from another realm were deemed responsible for myriad disappearances, damnations, and behavioral changes in entire groups of people. Scientists and students of the paranormal alike studied them in great depth, but found out nothing. Over time, interest died out, as did credibility, and people stopped thinking about them. At least so the story goes...

Today, Austrian artist Manfred Kielnhofer forces us to rethink the existence of these real-life grim reapers with his surreal depictions of them. Were they the first aliens to ever land on earth? Messengers sent back in history from the present to teach the ancient man how to create the future?

Whatever they are, the images of them are stunning. Images by Manfred Kielnhofer



The Park at Schönbrunn vienna, gloriette



The Park at Schönbrunn Palace in vienna



NÖ Landesausstellung 2007/ Palace Waidhofen/Ybbs



Linz at night / Pöstlingberg



Gallery Artpark Linz / Manfred Kielnhofer



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Internationales Symposium / Egon Schiele Art Center / Cesky Krumlov



St. Florian / Marble Hall



Pulverturm Pulverturm / Linz



The Salt Mountain of Altaussee / Saline Austria



