

Igor Mitoraj

Igor Mitoraj was born on March 26, 1944 in Oederan, Germany. His mother was Polish and father, French.

In 1936, he moved to Poland and joined the Krakow Academy of Fine Arts, where he studied painting and was tutored by Tadeusz Kantor – renown Polish painter. Under the guidance of



Kantor, Mitoraj was introduced to contemporary artists such as Andy Warhol, Lichtenstein, Merz and Klein.

In 1967 he obtained his first solo exhibition in Krawklow and the following year he moved to Paris to continue his education at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts (National High School of Fine Arts).

In his early 70's Mitoraj's travelled to Mexico where he became inspired by Latin American Art and studied South American and Aztec cultures. After returning to Paris, Mitoraj decided to express himself artistically in the form of sculpture and in 1976, he held his first personal exhibition at the La Hune Gallery in Paris, which obtained magnificent success. During his stay in France, Mitoraj won several important prizes such as the "Montrouge Prix de la Sculpture". Believing in Mitoraj's artistic talent, the French minister of Culture provided him with a studio at Montmartre.

Initially, Mitoraj was working with terracotta and bronze however, after a trip to Italy in 1979 his primary medium became marble. In 1983, Mitoraj set up a studio in a town



known as a sculptor's paradise: Pietrasanta, Tuscany, whilst continuing to maintain his Paris atelier. Mitoraj's sculptural style derives from classical Greek and Roman tradition with its focus on the well modelled torso. However, Mitoraj has incorporated a post-modern twist with ostentatiously truncated limbs, emphasising the damage sustained by most genuine classical sculptures.

"I feel that a piece of arm or a leg speak far more strongly than a whole body" –
Mitoraj

Mitoraj's philosophy behind his fragmented works is not only to mimic the ravages of time, however it is to address questions of the human body, its beauty and fragility as well as deeper aspects of human nature, which as a result of the passing of time undergo degeneration. He underlines that our current society inflicts damage on the human soul due to isolation and the lack of basic human contact.

In only a few years Mitoraj became an extremely prolific artist. After the exhibition in the ArtCurial in 1977 Mitoraj's sculptures and drawings have been shown at 120 solo exhibitions throughout the world.

He received several significant international commissions for his huge monumental sculptures both from private collectors as well as from the public sector. His gigantic sculptures stand in emblematic points of many cities – including Paris (La Defense), Rome, Milan, Lausanne, London, Kraków, Scheveningen near The Hague, in the US and Japan. His works are now part of prestigious galleries, museums and private collections, such as Coca-Cola Foundation in Atlanta , Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, DC and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in Wakefield.



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In 1986, he accepted an invitation to participate in the 42nd Venice biennale. In 2004, Mitoraj exhibited his monumental sculptures at the Tuileries Gardens of Paris, at the Mercati di Traiano in Rome and at the Royal Palace of Warsaw. In 2005, Mitoraj was honoured by the then Minister of Culture Waldemar Dąbrowski with a Gold Medal for Merit to Culture Gloria Artis during a ceremony in the Kraków City Hall.

In 2009 Mitoraj created the so-called Angelic doors for the Church of Our Lady of Grace in Warsaw's Old Town. He had previously created similar doors for the Santa Maria degli Angeli Church in Rome. According to the artist, 'some may be shocked by the completely unconventional image of the Madonna, looking down towards two angels captured in motion'.

In 2012, he was awarded the Commander's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta by the President Bronisław Komorowski 'for outstanding contribution to Polish and world culture, for creative and artistic achievements.

Mitoraj continued to work between Italy and France until his death in Paris in October 2014.

Exhibitions:

2018 *I Gioielli di Igor Mitoraj – The Art of Wearing Art*, Galleria d'Arte Contini, Venice, Italy

Dubai, R29 Bluewaters Boulevard, Bluewaters Island.
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- 2016 - 2017 *Mitoraj a Pompei*, sito archeologico di Pompei, Pompei, Italia
- 2015 *Omaggio a Igor Mitoraj*, Galleria d'Arte Contini, Venice, Italy *Mitoraj. Mito e Musica*, Pietrasanta, Italy
- 2014 *Angeli*, Piazza dei Miracoli, Pisa, Italy *Traces of Time*, Contini Art UK, London, UK
- 2013 *Annunciazione*, Chiesa e chiostro di Sant'Agostino, Pietrasanta (LU), Italy
- 2012 *Memoriae*, Villa Rufolo, Ravello (SA), Italy
- 2011 *Igor Mitoraj*, Valle dei templi di Agrigento, Italy
- 2010 *Mitoraj monumental*, Aix-en-Provence, France *Mitoraj monumental*, Abbaye de Silvacane, France *Porte en bronze*, Église de Confoux, Confoux, France
- 2009 *Opera Festival: Aida*, Giardino di Boboli, Florence, Italy *Porte des Anges*,
Matki Bozej Laskawej, Warsaw, Poland *Lux in Tenebris*, Fabryka Trzciny,
Warsaw, Poland *Bronzes Noirs*, Galleria Flora Bigai, Pietrasanta, Italy
- 2008 *BiancoNero*, Galleria d'Arte Contini, Venice, Italy
- Fer*, Palazzo dell'Abbondanza, Massa Marittima, Italy
- Igor Mitoraj*, Miriam Shiell Fine Art, Toronto, Canada
- Arte en la calle: Igor Mitoraj. El mito perdido*, Paseo del Prado, Madrid, Spain
- Arte en la calle: Igor Mitoraj. El mito perdido*, Almería, Spain
- 2007 *Arte en la calle: Igor Mitoraj. El mito perdido*, Rambla de Catalunya,
Barcelona, Spain *Arte en la calle: Igor Mitoraj. El mito perdido*, Seville, Spain
- Igor Mitoraj. Angeli ed eroi*, Loggiato San Bartolomeo, Palermo, Italy
- Arte en la calle: Igor Mitoraj. El mito perdido*, San Sebastian, Spain
- Arte en la calle: Igor Mitoraj. El mito perdido*, La Corogne, Spain



- 2006** *Arte en la calle: Igor Mitoraj. El mito perdido*, Granada, Spain
- Arte en la calle: Igor Mitoraj. El mito perdido*, Gran Via Marqués del Turia, Valenza, Spain
- Arte en la calle: Igor Mitoraj. El mito perdido*, Palma de Mallorca, Spain
- Arte en la calle: Igor Mitoraj. El mito perdido*, Vigo, Spain
- Festival Puccini: Tosca*, Torre del Lago, Italy
- Porte en bronze*, Santa Maria degli Angeli e dei Martiri, Rome, Italy
- 2005** *Igor Mitoraj. Sculture*, Musei Civici Veneziani, Ca' Pesaro, Venice, Italy
- 2004** *Sculptures: Cité perdue*, JGM. Galerie, Paris, France
- Igor Mitoraj. Sculptures monumentales*, Jardin des Tuileries, Paris, France
- Mitoraj ai Mercati di Traiano*, Mercati di Traiano, Rome, Italy
- Zamek Królewski, Warsaw, Poland
- 2003** *Igor Mitoraj*, International Center of Culture, Kracow, Poland
- Museum Narodowe, Poznań, Poland
- Igor Mitoraj*, Galería Joan Gaspar, Madrid, Spain
- 2002** *Die schönheit. Eine zerbochene utopie*, Istitut Mathildenhöhe, Darmstadt, Germany
- Igor Mitoraj*, Museo d'Arte Moderna, Lugano, Switzerland
- Igor Mitoraj*, Galleria Tega, Milan, Italy
- JGM. Galerie, Paris, France
- Festival Puccini: Manon Lescaut*, Torre del Lago, Italy
- Galería Joan Gaspar, Barcelona, Spain
- Dubai, R29 Bluewaters Boulevard, Bluewaters Island. Forte dei Marmi, Via Carducci 14, 55047, Lucca, Italy.
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2001 *Igor Mitoraj, nouvelle mythologie*, Musée Olympique, Lausanne, Switzerland

Die Galerie, Kaiserplatz, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

2000 JGM. Galerie, Paris, France

Mitoraj miti incrociati, Galleria d'Arte Contini, Venice, Italy

Igor Mitoraj, Plastiken und Zeichnungen, Mumm Akademie, Villa Hajo Rüter, Eltville, Germany

Igor Mitoraj, Plastiken und Zeichnungen, Kunstverein Bamberg, Villa Concordia, Bamberg, Germany

Recent Bronzes, Miriam Shiell Fine Art, Toronto, Canada

Mitoraj: nostalgia del mito, San Marino

1999 *Igor Mitoraj. Dei ed Eroi*, Palazzo Pitti, Museo Archeologico, Giardino di Boboli, Florence, Italy

Galería Joan Gaspar, Barcelona, Spain

Museo degli Uffizi, Florence, Italy

Zoumboulakis Galleries, Athens, Greece

1998 Die Galerie, Opernplatz, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Mitoraj. Sculture, Galleria d'Arte Contini, Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy

1997 La Défense, KPMG, Paris, France

Igor Mitoraj. Raadselachtige Schoonheid, Museum Beelden aan Zee, Scheveningen, Holland

Mitoraj, Il giardino delle muse, Biblioteca di via Senato, Milan, Italy

Istituto polacco, Rome, Italy



Mitoraj. Sculture, Galleria d'Arte Contini, Forte dei Marmi, Italy

Chiesa di Sant'Agostino, Piazza Duomo, Pietrasanta, Italy

1996 Academy Gallery, Bath, UK

Igor Mitoraj, Galleria d'Arte Contini, Prato, Italy

Marisa Del Re Gallery, Palm Beach, USA

1995 *Igor Mitoraj*, Casa del Cordón, Burgos, Spain

Igor Mitoraj, Galleria d'Arte Contini, Prato, Italy

Larmes amères d'Aphrodite, Marisa Del Re Gallery, New York, USA

Park Ryu Sook Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

Chiostro San Francesco, Galleria Medusa, Cesena, Italy

1994 *Time machine*, The British Museum, London, UK

Galería Joan Gaspar, Barcelona, Spain

Muzeum Narodowe, Wrocław, Poland

Galerie Nationale, Łódź, Poland

Galería Lévy, Madrid, Spain

Sala Imagen, Sevilla, Spain

Museo de Navaja, Pamplona, Spain

Fundación Caja Vital Kutxa, Vitoria Gasteiz, Spain

1993 JGM. Galerie, Parigi, France

Galeria Krdegarda, Warsaw, Poland



Galleria Forni, Bologna,

Italy

Università de Cracovie, Cracow, Poland

Galerie Nazionale, Poznań, Poland

1992 The Economist Plaza, London, UK

BSG Fine Art Gallery, London, UK

Accademia Italiana, London, UK

Igor Mitoraj, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Leeds, Wakefield, UK

ARCO/JGM. Galerie, Madrid, Spain

1991 *Têtes*, JGM. Galerie, Paris, France

Igor Mitoraj, Castello Sforzesco, Milano, Italy Thomas Tivelli

Gallery, Aspen, USA

The M&I Rayburn Foundation, New York, USA

1990 *Igor Mitoraj. Sculptures and drawings*, Gerald Peters Gallery, Dallas, USA

Stembock-Fermor Gallery, Stockholm Art Fair, Stockholm, Sweden

1989 *Igor Mitoraj*, Galería Joan Gaspar, Barcelona, Spain

Igor Mitoraj. Sculptures 1989, New York Academy of Art, New York, USA

Mitoraj. Sculture e disegni, Rocca Malatestiana, Cesena, Italy

1988 Galería Lévy, Madrid, Spain

Galleria Valente, Artforum, Hamburg, Germany

1987 *Igor Mitoraj. Elegie per Roma*, Galleria Due Ci, Rome, Italy

Palazzo Strozzi, Florence, Italy

Igor Mitoraj. Sculture 1987, Compagnia del Disegno, Milan, Italy

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Stembock-Fermor Gallery,

Ghent, Belgium

1986 *Igor Mitoraj. Sculptures 1976-1986*, Galerie La Hune, Paris, France

Galerie Pierre Huber, Geneva, Switzerland

Igor Mitoraj. Sculture, Castello dell'Imperatore, Prato, Italy

Galerie Stemmler- Adler, Heidelberg, Germany

1985 *Igor Mitoraj. Sculture*, Museo di Castel Sant'Angelo, Rome, Italy*Igor Mitoraj. Sculture*, Compagnia del Disegno, Milan, Italy

Galleria Tavolozza, Palermo, Italy

Maison de la Culture, Metz, France

1984 Galerie l'Orangerie, Cologne, Germany*Igor Mitoraj. Sculpturen, Zeichnungen*, Galerie Lévy, Hamburg, Germany

Galerie Lévy, Paris, France

Galleria Toninelli, Rome, Italy

1983 Galerie Lévy, Paris, France

Galerie Artcurial, Fribourg, Switzerland

Galerie Cupillard, Saint-Tropez, France

1982 La Rocabella, Monte-Carlo, Monaco*Kunst in Köln*, Galerie Lévy, Cologne, Germany**1981** Galerie Artcurial, Paris, France

Galerie Lévy, Paris, France

Kunst in Köln, Galerie Lévy, Cologne, Germany



1980 Fondation Veranneman,

Kruishoutem, Belgium

Igor Mitoraj. Sculpturen, Galerie Lévy, Hambourg, Germany

Galerie Mathilde, Amsterdam, Holland

Galerie G. Bach, Geneva, Switzerland

1979 Galerie Cupillard, Grenoble, France

Galerie Bornand, Marseilles, France Studio 40, The Hague, Holland