

In 1962 I was born into a family of gold-and silversmiths, watch-makers and jewellery enthusiasts in fifth generation. My father is Swiss, my mother German and I have grandparents from Austria too. Founded in 1832, the business my mother took over from her parents when I was about 10, sold fine watches, exclusive jewels and hand made silverware in the city centre of Lubeck in the very north of Germany. Above my mothers' business, my dad ran the busy workshop imbued of **Bauhaus** and **Scandinavian Modernism**. He turned 82 this year and still smiths new silver beakers, tablets and bowls and runs his own gallery where he also shows paintings, photography, metal and ceramic sculptures by other artist makers.

There weren't many options, so I started a goldsmith-apprenticeship in 1980 with a young and innovative master-craftsman from Vienna, **Wilhelm Reindl**. After completing the apprenticeship and collecting experiences in the trade as a model maker, designing and producing fine jewellery for the top-end market in Geneva and later on in Lenzburg and Zurich, it was time for a massive change and challenge.

Being a MA-student in London was a mind-blowing, great and intense experience. In 1993 I graduated from the **Royal College of Art** with distinction, turning towards an interdisciplinary and radically experimental practice, in the need to be expanding and challenging my own tradition and the field I am working in.

Over the past 22 years I didn't stop asking questions, I didn't pause in exposing what matters to me. I get on with what I need to be doing and some of my work is discussed in leading galleries, museums and international public collections.

My studio is now based in Zurich. Here I live with my Catalan wife and our daughter, but my engagement in artistic research takes place also at **Sheffield Hallam University** in England, where I work since 1993 and hold a professorial post at the **Art & Design Research Centre (ADRC)** since 2003. To me, thinking, sharing and doing goes hand in hand.

Christoph Zellweger (on sharing / education)

Maybe because I studied late to find out about my own creative process, I am still very curious about other artists' processes and ideas. I feel dedicated to research and interested in the quests of students and fellow artists and worked as a teacher, lecturer and coach in Art and Design education since 1993. In 1997 I set up and led one of the first MA's in **Metalwork & Jewellery** in the UK until 2002 at **Sheffield Hallam University**. Anually I ran experimental workshops at the **Gerrit Rietveld Academy** in Amsterdam and at **Arco** in Lisbon in the late 90s, became a mentor on the MA at **Konstfack** in Stockholm, a visiting professor the **Academy of Fine Art Nuremberg** and at **Cranbrook Academy of Art** in Detroit. Between 2009-2016 I have been a coach for Visual Artists from Mumbai, India, for the **Futur Foundation** in Switzerland. I followed an invitation to run the MA at the **Royal Academy of Art** in Antwerp in 2015 for a year and have been a mentor to MA students at **Alchimia**, Italy and in Product Design at the **Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts** since 2009.

Since 2016 I am in the process of setting up an exciting new Bachelor study program, entitled **XS Jewellery** at the **University of Applied Sciences and Arts in Lucerne**, besides working in my Zurich-based studio and exhibiting widely.

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