

Thomas Nowotny has been born in Salzburg 1965 (Austria).

“A real multi talented artist – he works in different medias - such as photography, painting, video, and creates artistic room and event concepts...for every single theme Nowotny needs a different solution of expression!”

**Erich Pimmingstorfer*

1983 **Matura** Akademisches Gymnasium Salzburg / A

1989 Diplom **Bühnenbild** – (Prof. Bruno Galleé, Prof. Imre Vince, Prof. Othmar Schwarz), Mozarteum SALZBURG / A

1990 Projekte für **André Heller**, Heller Werkstatt (Hr. Stefan Seigner) WIEN / A

1991 **Förderprogramm** des Landes Salzburg für bildende Kunst (**Katalog-91**) / A

1991-96 **Studio** in MATTSEE, alte Schöchli Werft, Salzburg / A

1995-2002 **Studio** in WILLIAMSBURG - BROOKLYN, 60 Berry Street / USA

1998-2002 **Studio** in BERGHEIM bei Salzburg (**Katalog**) / A

2002/04 **Studio** zeitweise in BERLIN / D

2002-17 **Wohnsitz** in HALLEIN / A

2006-17 **Studio** in HALLEIN / A

2013-17 **Studio** in MATTSEE, alte Schöchli Werft / A

2017 **Wohnsitz** in SALZBURG / A

2017 **Studio BBH33** in SALZBURG / A

From **1985-1989** Nowotny studied Stage Design at the University Salzburg Mozarteum. **1991** he started up as a painter, supported by the cultural promotion program of Salzburg. Soon he made his decision to go to New York and to swing between two completely different worlds.

During his **“New York days” (1995-2002)** working in his Brooklyn loft at 60 Berry Street, he developed his individual style, creating his own expression of art. His basic work is to capture images, and afterwards mixing these together - first cutting the photographs in stripes and weaving these into iron grids and later creating his artistic work via digital programs (Series: **“Grid pictures”, “Welcome to civilisation”, “Zone Zapping”**)

Over more than two decades Nowotny is travelling around the world watching carefully, taking pictures, creating his personal picture archive containing thousands of photos - all images he is using are authentic.

“Since his work has a strong connection to the idea of place, it recalls one of the best-kept secrets in contemporary philosophy, the erasure of the difference between place and space.

Nowotny-s image-combinations give movement to the grid. This flexibility develops into an evolutionary process by which the works and their expressive pictorial resources of events, people, places, and spaces, not only challenge the use of photographic imagery but also our ability to mentally capture the essence of an image and its genealogy.” *Berta Sichel, NYC

1999, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia in Madrid / **Series:** “Welcome to civilisation”

2003-2010 the series **“Beyond future”** and **“Landscapes beyond”** show a vision of our environment beyond future. Nowotny produces fictions of our world. It is all about reinventing reality using same techniques as mass media which is changing our perception of reality step by step because we are getting used to accept wrong contents.

“His Hyper-Reality challenges the spectator!” *Margit Zuckriegl, Dir. of the Austrian photography collection till 2016 / MdM-Rupertinum Salzburg.

Series: “Beyond future” and “Landscapes beyond”

In the following **“Puzzle”** series (digital) Nowotny uses his individual puzzle grids symbolizing our fragmented world - in which humans have to try to fit in.

“Even the picture is structured by a system and parts are missing or having been replaced – we try to keep up the image of a perfect world. The image seems to be in balance, but obviously it is not.” *Thomas Nowotny

2008 Nowotny starts to paint again.

The series **“Clouds”** has been the first step to challenge his painting skills again.

Additional to his paintings he developed the series **“Urban skies”** by choosing an image and afterwards deciding which of the photos of the painted clouds fits to the scene.

“In his new works it is not about constructing or creating a virtual or digital World, it is about to enrich the photos with additive Valeurs, and to create an image between documentation and emotional reflection.” *Margit Zuckriegl, Dir. of the Austrian

photography collection till 2016 / MdM-Rupertinum Salzburg. **Series:** “Urban skies“

“It is all about the second you cannot tell is going to be OK - or becoming worse.”

*Ernst Löw actor, musician, writer / **Series:** “Beyond future” and “Urban skies”

2010

Nowotny begins to paint over his digital images and soon creating the **“Puzzle paintings”** and the series **“Bang Bang”** which is an ironic metaphor about a super woman cleaning out every situation.

“What men are not able for - she is able to solve ...the cyber woman is an icon of hope that everything will be alright again.”

* Thomas Nowotny / Series “Bang Bang”

2011-14

Nowotny works on his **final digital Series** such as **“Affenwelt”**, **“Trockenschwimmer”** and the series about the actor **Helmut Berger “REVERSE”**.

2012

Nowotny has been meeting the art dealer **Oskar Friedl** who encouraged him to close the circle of his artworks by **focusing where he has started at the very beginning of his career – Abstract paintings.**

2014 “Histologic paintings” have been shown to the public.

It turned out that the decision for painting has been the right one.

2016 The series **“Entangled paintings”** -

2018 The series **“Cosmic explosions”** -

2019 The **“Black series”** - have been presented successfully to the public.

“Today I know that my photographic work is like an inventory about our environment, and on the other hand I need my emotional painting statement too!

I decided, in the time I paint, to step outside of everything regulating and limiting my instinct. In this moment it is about me the empty canvas and paint, my conscious reflection about now. For me painting is one of the most freeing and honest of expressions, like partaking of recreation in a resort, pushing away everything that bothers my mind. To get into the flow, to fly as high and to dive as deep as I can, without destroying myself, to find the unexpected - that is always my goal.”

* Thomas Nowotny

“To create rooms with light that allow the spirit to roam free is probably the biggest gift that Nowotny has to give. He does it because man is not in harmony with nature any longer. Hard, repellent urban environments interest him because it is the absence of everything that has formed him and what he has grown out of. He finds himself in the mirror images of the glass facades or simply in the view up into the sky. The clouds that move freely over the entire excesses guide him back to his origins, his paintings.”

* Oskar Friedl 2012

Bibliography:

1991 **Katalog-91 Förderprogramm** des Landes Salzburg für bildende Kunst / A

1993 **Katalog** „3D Pictures“ / A

1994/95 **Katalog** „Die gebrochene Sonne“ / A

1995/96 **Katalog** “Cosmic pictures” und „Urban pictures“ / A

1999 **Katalog** 97-2000 „Welcome to Civilisation“ / A

2001 **Katalog** 2000-02 „Zone Zapping“ / A

2010 **Katalog** - Works 2000-10 „Beyond future“ – inklusive der Serien: “Odyssee”, “Urban sky”, “Urban puzzle”, “Urban” / A

2012 **Katalog** - Works 2012-2001 “Thomas Nowotny” – Oskar Friedl Chicago / USA

2014 **Katalog** „DIGITAL ART“ Thomas Nowotny - **Hwajeong Museum Seoul** / Süd- KOREA

2018 **Katalog** „Cosmic explosions“ Thomas Nowotny paintings 2018-12– Kunsthandel Friedl NÜRNBERG / D

Collections:

Ministerium für Kunst Österreich, Stadt Salzburg, Land Salzburg, MdM-Rupertinum Salzburg, Hypo Bank, Salzburger Sparkasse, Raiffeisen Bank, Young Eun Museum, Museum of Maga, Hwajeong Museum...und private Sammlungen