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TALK BY
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SCHMIDLIN

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The “fire” sculpture

Since last summer, an impressive work of art has graced the carpark in front of the hotel. Many Arosa guests walking past the hotel stop for a moment to marvel at the work of art. It's worth giving the sculpture a closer look. The statue was created specially for Hof Maran by the renowned wood sculptor Stephan Schmidlin. He is a sculptor and runs an atelier in Cham. The wood sculptor has already exhibited at Art Chicago, London, and Monaco. Schmidlin's Lothar sculpture was unveiled in Monaco by Prince Albert himself. Schmidlin also produced sculptures for the World Football Association Fifa and for the ESAF Swiss Wrestling and Alpine festival.

THE 4 ELEMENTS

Some guests might recognise the sculpture, which has a significant influence on the appearance of the exterior view of Hof Maran.

The sculpture is part of the sculpture series “The four elements” for which Stephan Schmidlin created around 20 figures representing the themes fire, water, air and earth. Most of the sculptures in the series are made of wood. The most elaborate was the sculpture modelling the element fire. “I worked on the bronze sculpture for half a year,” says Schmidlin.

The original sculptures can be viewed in the sculpture park at Hotel Riverside in Glattfelden. The sculpture park isn't just for adults, it's also intended for children. What makes Stephan Schmidlin so special is that he was able to make his sculpture park a reality during his lifetime – a rare honour that only a few artists will be awarded.

For Hof Maran, Stephan Schmidlin has created an “Alpine version” of the “fire” sculpture, which is one of a kind worldwide. While the original roasts a Cervelat above the fire, Stephan Schmidlin has created a version for Hof Maran in which the five people heat cheeses in the caquelon above the fire. This makes it a perfect fit for Arosa's mountain landscape.

The “fire” in the fondue conquelon symbolises warmth on cold days in the snow to warm your hands and mind on cold winter days.

While Stephan Schmidlin sparks an actual fire in the original with gas, a warm light serves as a symbol of fire at Hof Maran. The reason for this is the issue of safety and to prevent any risk in a busy day-to-day with many guests. The 1.5 ton heavy bronze sculpture went through a lengthy production process, which took about half a year. At the beginning of an idea, the first

sketches are created, and Stephan Schmidlin makes a small model from wax. Then a negative is made. Nowadays, it is made from silicon and stabilised with plaster. The bronze figure is then cast. Creating a statue includes countless small tasks. That is why such a statue often takes several months of production time.

The sculpture was produced at Hutter's art foundry in Amriswil, which is known for its high-quality casting products, especially in the field of artificial casting.

The sculpture is particularly impressive in the evening. The various seasons also give the sculpture its own unique appearance, whether it's when the snow is falling softly, or in summer when the first rays of sun bathe the statue in a reddish light.

THE 3 GOLFERS

Many guests are probably also familiar with Stephan Schmidlin's second statue at Hof Maran – The 3 Golfers. It has graced the hotel's entrance for many years. The Three Golfers collection is unique in style. Stephan Schmidlin, himself a passionate golfer, took a look at the various stages of the swing of a golfer. The object is made of bronze and features a beautiful green hue. The formation of patina on bronze is a chemical reaction created by exposure to humidity, oxygen and other environmental influences, giving the object its pleasant green colour.

schmidlin-sculpteur.ch



About Stephan Schmidlin

“THE MOST DIFFICULT THE WORK, THE MORE HE ENJOYS IT”

Whether as a gymnast, cabaret artist or artist – if Stephan Schmidlin does something, then he does it right. Stephan Schmidlin is known to many as part of the comedic duo Schmirinski. He owes his success – regardless of the phase of his life – to his creativity, discipline and determination.

Our tip: the book “Schmidlin” – a high-quality collection of sculptures that have shaped Stephan Schmidlin for many years – can be found in our hotel bar. Treat yourself to a few stimulating moments with his work's business card over a local tippel in front of the fireplace.