

## *Lighting designer Ingo Maurer passed away in Munich*

Munich, 22 October 2019 | On 21 October 2019, Ingo Maurer passed away in Munich at the age of 87 surrounded by his family.

Born in 1932, Maurer's lamps and lighting objects are considered ground-breaking in design. His best-known designs include his debut work "Bulb" (1966), the low-voltage halogen system "YaYaHo" (1984, Ingo Maurer and team), the winged light bulb "Lucellino" (1992), the pendant lamp "Zettel'z" (1997), "One From The Heart" (1989) and "Porca Miseria!" (1994). His designs can be found in the collections of the world's most important museums, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York. An exhibition is currently being prepared at the Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich, which will provide insights into his work from November. Maurer has received numerous renowned awards, including the Design Prize of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Compasso d'Oro for his life's work.

Ingo Maurer has always been a pioneer in the development and use of the latest lighting innovations: as a great admirer of the light bulb, which he described as the "ideal symbiosis of poetry and technology", he used low-voltage halogen systems in the 1980s. Ingo Maurer produced the first LED desk lamp as early as 2001, and he started using OLEDs in 2006. Right up to the present day, the potential offered by LED technology has always been challenged by Ingo Maurer, who has used it in a versatile and creative way to achieve the best possible lighting effect.

His open mind led him abroad at an early age. Born on the island of Reichenau on Lake Constance, he went to the USA in 1960 after an apprenticeship as a typesetter and studies in commercial art. He worked there as a freelance graphic artist until 1963. After his return to Munich, he travelled a lot in Japan, Brazil, and other countries - again and again also in the USA. He also lived in New York for over 40 years. He has had a very special relationship with the pulsating metropolis since the sixties. "At home? Home is a place where I feel comfortable, and which inspires me. That can be in New York, Paris, Tokyo, Sao Paulo or even Munich," he liked to emphasise. "I am at home when I am with good friends. I need the provocation. That gives me strength to be creative."

Together with his long-time employees, he developed iconic luminaires at the interface between utility and art object in the design workshop in Munich-Schwabing. The special mixture of poetry and technology, pointed with an ironic wink, is a characteristic that distinguishes Ingo Maurer's design. Development processes are playful, unconventional, always in search of an extraordinary solution. The smallest details are thought through and discussed on the model. The result was to find the special solution that, like a spontaneous sketch, captivates with its lightness and touches people. It is not uncommon for users to be involved right from the start in the construction of the luminaire and, as in the case of "Zettel'z" (1997), invited to help design the luminaire. "First of all, the idea of an object arises in my head - like a dream structure. Only in the next step do I look for ways to realise it together with my team. Sometimes it takes decades for technical developments to make our idea possible," he said, describing the creative process. To be able to realise this vision without compromise, Ingo Maurer decided as early as 1966 to produce himself, so that it was also possible to manufacture small series. Even today, all luminaires are manufactured in Munich.

He has made his mark internationally with design commissions in both the private and public sectors. The illumination of the underground stations "Westfriedhof" (1998) and "Münchner Freiheit" (2009) in Munich as well as the pendulum "Flying to Peace" for the Frankfurt Trade Fair (2018) are just a few highlights of a long list of commissioned works. In 2018, he completed one of his most multi-faceted projects - an overall concept for the Tsinandali winery in Georgia. Since Saturday, the Residenztheater in Munich has been shining in new light, and with the "Silver Cloud", the light artist has created another iconic work.

The family and staff of Ingo Maurer GmbH bid farewell to a special person who inspired, challenged, and surprised them time and again. Ingo Maurer wrote over 50 years of lighting history.