

NICOLAS SCHÖFFER

(Kalocsa, Hungary, 1912 – Paris, France, 1992)



Nicolas Schöffer pioneered a groundbreaking synthesis of art, science, and technology that redefined the possibilities of artistic creation in the 20th century. Renowned for his visionary cybernetic sculptures and immersive environments, his work foregrounded the dynamic interplay between movement, light, and interactivity.

In the postwar period, Schöffer emerged as a central figure in kinetic and cybernetic art, formulating a radical new aesthetic based on systems theory and real-time responsiveness. His collaboration with engineers, architects, and musicians resulted in works that blurred disciplinary boundaries, anticipating the digital and multimedia art forms of today.

Schöffer's iconic CYSP 1 (1956)—the first autonomous cybernetic sculpture—responded to sound, light, and movement through sensors and motors, establishing a feedback loop between viewer and artwork. These explorations reflected his belief that art should not only reflect but actively shape its environment, turning perception into participation.

Beyond sculpture, Schöffer envisioned a total integration of art into urban life. His proposals for cybernetic cities, light towers, and spatial orchestras imagined technology as a tool for enhancing human experience, social harmony, and spatial intelligence. For Schöffer, the artist was a "homo cyberneticus," orchestrating a new harmony between man and machine.

He lived and worked in Paris, France, until his death in 1992. His visionary legacy continues to resonate across contemporary art, design, and media theory, challenging us to reconsider the role of technology in shaping aesthetic and social realities.

EXPOSICIONES INDIVIDUALES (SELECCIÓN)

- 2017 An Implosion of Time, Maddox Gallery (Maddox Arts), London, UK
- 2015 Nicolas Schöffer: Retrospective, Mucsarnok/Kunsthalle, Budapest, Hungary
- 2014 Nicolas Schöffer, Galerie de la Villa des Arts, Paris, France
- 2013 Homenaje à Schöffer – La lumière ne s'arrête pas là, Netic Lab (Jardín de la Villa des Arts), Paris, France
- 2012 Schöffer dans le monde – La Ville schöfférienne, Instituto Húngaro, Paris, France
- 2011 Nicolas Schöffer – Géométries et Trames, Espacio Meyer Zafra, Paris, France
- 2008 Nicolas Schöffer – Rythmes, Fundación Gyula Nagy, Lovas, Hungary
- 2011 Les boîtes lumineuses de Schöffer, Sonneveld House, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- 2006 Nicolas Schöffer – de l'art figuratif à l'art cybernétique, Capitainerie du Port, La Grande-Motte, France
- 2005 Nicolas Schöffer – Ballets de lumières, Espacio ELECTRA, Paris, France
- 2004 Nicolas Schöffer, Espacio Multimedia Gantner, Bourogne, France
- Nicolas Schöffer, Fundación Vasarely, Aix-en-Provence, France
- 2001 Nicolas Schöffer, ART PARIS (Carrusel del Louvre), Paris, France
- 2000 Nicolas Schöffer inconnu, Instituto Húngaro, Paris, France
- Nicolas Schöffer inconnu, Instituto Húngaro, Paris, France
- 1997 La Ville Cybernétique de Nicolas Schöffer, Galerie Didier Lecointre–Dominique Drouet, Paris, France .
- 1996 Nicolas Schöffer: sus orígenes, familia y vida, Museo Schöffer, Kalocsa, Hungary
- 1994 Hommage à Nicolas Schöffer, Centre Noroît, Arras, France
- Nicolas Schöffer, Instituto Francés, Bonn, Germany

1977 Nicolas Schöffer, Museo de Arte Moderno de Bonn, Bonn, Germany

1973 1973: Nicolas Schöffer, Museo de Aarau, Aarau, Switzerland

1973: Nicolas Schöffer, Centro Industrial Montedison, Milan, Italy

EXPOSICIONES COLECTIVAS (SELECCIÓN)

2025 Electric Op, Buffalo AKG Art Museum, Buffalo, Estados Unidos

2024 Blanc, Galerie Denise René Paris, France

Petits Formats, Galerie Denise René, Paris, France

2023 Hier | Demain, Galerie Denise René, Paris, France

2021 Sélection 44-22: Forme / Mouvement, Galerie Denise René, Paris, France

2020 Vertigo. Op Art und eine Geschichte des Schwindels (1520–1970), Kunstmuseum Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Germany

2019 The Assembled Hum no an, Museo Folkwang, Essen, Germany

2018 Zero, Museum of Old and New Art (MONA), Hobart (Tasmania), Australia

2016 1,000 m² of Desire: Architecture and Sexuality, Centro de Cultura Contemporánea de Barcelona (CCCCB), Barcelona, Spain

Retrospect: Kinetika 1967, Lower Belvedere, Viena, Austria

KYLDEX 1, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Caracas (MAC), Caracas, Venezuela

2015 Five Issues of Studio International, Raven Row, London, UK

Nouvelle présentation des collections modernes (1905–1965), Centro Pompidou, Paris, France

2013 On Abstraction III: At the Same Time, Elsewhere, Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal (MAC), Montreal, Canada

Dynamo. Un siècle de lumière et de mouvement dans l'art (1913–2013), Grand Palais, Paris, France

- 2024 Danser sa vie, Centro Pompidou, Paris, France
- 2011 Sculptures en mouvement, Espacio Pierre Cardin (Château Lacoste), France
- 2010 Sémaphores, Musée Fernand Léger, Biot, France
- Estructuras sonoras y visuales de Nicolas Schöffer, Universidad de Marne-la-Vallée, France
- 2002 Paris, capitale des arts 1900–1968, Museo Guggenheim, Bilbao, Spain; Royal Academy, London, UK
- 2001 Luminodynamisme et Cybernétique de Nicolas Schöffer (1912–1992), Espace 36 (asoc. arte contemporáneo), Saint-Omer, France
- 2000 Intuitio, Innovacio, Invencio, Mücsarnok (Museo de Bellas Artes), Budapest, Hungary
- De Dufy à Chaissac, Museo de Bellas Artes, Nantes, France
- 1999 L'art, l'air, l'espace, Musée de l'Air et de l'Espace (Le Bourget), France
- Kaohsiung International Sculpture Festival, Museo de Bellas Artes, Kaohsiung, Taiwán
- 1998 Les Champs de la Sculpture, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Taipéi, Taiwán
- 1997 La Villa des arts aujourd'hui, Ayuntamiento del distrito XVIII, Paris, France
- 1995 Klangskulpturen – Augenmusik, Museo Ludwig (Deutschherrnhaus), Bonn, Germany
- Europa de posguerra (1945–65): Arte después del diluvio, Centro Cultural Caixa, Barcelona, Spain
- 1994 L'art spatio-lumino-dynamique ou comment lier l'Art et la Science, Espacio Cultural Louis Aragon, Camon, France