

## AXEL BECKER ON THE AWARDED SCULPTURE

# 'The greatest recognition for me are the words of prof. Diminić when he said that what I was doing was very good'

Eleonora Vlačić  
Pohot: **Dani Celiija**

We had the opportunity to meet the German visual artist Axel Becker, who spends every bit of his free time at his family home in Rabac, last year when he exhibited his works at the City Gallery. Becker lives in Frankfurt, but occasionally or as he says, "much less than he would like", he is also our fellow citizen, given that his life-long companion, Romana, is a native of Croatia.

### THIRD AWARD

At this year's Art Fair Zagreb, he received the third prize for the sculpture 'Početak-Blue' (Start-Blue). At the Art Fair Zagreb galleries and artists from Italy, Austria, Germany, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Croatia were represented, and the committee for evaluation of works of art was also international.

Axel Becker's display in Zagreb, located in the VIP area, was visited by many public figures, such as Minister Marija Vučković, Zagreb Mayor Milan Bandić, Labin Mayor Valter Glavičić, and many others.

Axel's sculpture 'Početak-Blue', won an award at another exhibition. Specifically, on November 10<sup>th</sup> at the 31<sup>st</sup>



Axel Becker with his award



Romana and Axel Becker



With the late Josip Diminić

Stuttgart Art Exhibition, out of 70 exhibited works from all over Germany, it was declared the 4<sup>th</sup> best work i.e. sculpture.

### 104<sup>th</sup> STUDENT OF JOSIP DIMINIĆ

Axel told us, with a happy glitter in his eyes, that he was very pleased with this award, because he had made this sculpture in Rabac and Diminić. He nostalgically thought back on the now deceased professor Josip Diminić, who had been resting in the shade of a fig tree and would from time to time stand up, look at, stroke the sculpture, and just say, "That's very good, Axel."

Axel designed and sculpted the sculpture using the tools from Professor Diminić's studio. He sadly tells us that every time he passes his hand over this sculpture, he sees the satisfied face of Professor Diminić, whose death hit him particularly hard.


In addition to his job in the finance sector, Axel has been active in the arts sector for over 20 years. He learned a lot from his father, who is also an artist, and he teaches others. All of his paintings are three-dimensional, and his style is pure minimalism. He points out that today, when information is all around us, one needs something intensely strong but pure.

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Art Fair Zagreb was also visited by Milan Bandić





He finds inspiration in movement, glance, light, darkness, everything in his surroundings. But the most important thing, says Axel, is to have a family backing you, a couple of friends and a good team. His greatest support is his wife, Romana, who does management for him, and we must admit that she is perfect for it.

He is accompanied to all his shows by his brother-in-law Romeo and his wife, German-born Maria, who usually live in Munich, and are there for him every time he needs them.

"The team you work with is also very important. Romana organizes and does everything, but we have an exceptional team: designer Ivona Verbanac from Labin, photographer Đani Celija from Pula, printing house Jung & Brecht from Weil im Schönbuch, and the translation team ET Cetera from Zagreb."

Axel Becker has so far done exhibitions in Germany, Slovenia, Italy and Croatia. He is a member of the Württembergischer Kunstverein Stuttgart Association.

He creates his works in a studio in

Rabac and Schwarzwald. When he speaks of Istria one can feel the great connection he has with Labin and the people there, among whom he has made many friends.

When we asked him about a recognition that was most important to him, he just laughed sadly and said, "When Professor Diminić came to me and said, 'Axel, you are my 104<sup>th</sup> student and what you are doing is good... It is really, really good...'"