

**Gedenkrede von Gertrud Mally, München
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Zusammengefasst und übersetzt von Andrea Schmitz, München

L a u d a t i o

Albert Fischer his artist name is "Fise"

Albert Fischer is one of the most important deaf artists in Germany. His drawing of a man with a "long and pointed nose" has become a brand for "Fise" and an artistic and political symbol. His works are stamped by his deaf identity.

Albert has been on the way to develop a "deaf art". But destiny interrupted his work. It is a pity that we will have no other paintings from him. With his heart and with engagement he worked for the deaf community.

Albert Fischer was born in 1940, in Munich.

At the age of one year he lost his hearing through meningitis.

He went to the deaf schools at Hohenwart, Tegernsee and Munich, during 11 years. With 18 years, he started to study at the Blocherer School for graphic design in Munich.

After 4 years, followed a practical training as restorer at the Doener-Institute.

Already during his studies, he made caricatures, which disappeared in a drawer and reappeared some time later.

In 1965 he became a free-lance restorer of paintings in Munich. However, he always painted (in oil, water color, with pen and pencil) as free painter, mainly the winter landscape of the surroundings of the Ammersee.

In the sixties, he met Heidemarie, they married and with the son Oliver they became a family.

Besides his profession and his work as a painter, he always studied history of art and natural sciences. Philosophy was his main interest.

In the nineties, began the struggle for the recognition of sign language. Albert became a member of the team editing "Selbstbewusst werden" (How to become selfconscious), a magazine for the deaf und hearing. For the first time a deaf person created caricatures and satires which helped the deaf movement.

Albert Fischer painted his colored fishes – according to his name – and made a precious contribution to the deaf identity.

In October 1994, he had the inspiration of the comic person with the pointed nose and the thick belly. With passionate devotion he devoted himself to free painting. Fishes were his main subject, which had instead of fins arms and legs with which they could move around and sign. It was a break-through for him.

"Art makes visible" - according to this slogan Albert showed the deaf identity through his art. Deaf art always has existed but it has been hidden. Now, he showed it. Deaf culture and deaf art became visible.

The fishes with big eyes and without ears represent the signing eye minded person without hearing. Furthermore, his paintings show his love for nature and for philosophy and his endeavour to be part of the universe. His interests were "deaf culture" and "philosophy of the sign language".

According to Albert, deaf art without an artistic self-consciousness is impossible. He very much hoped that one day deaf art would be recognized by the science and critics of art.

The cultural authority of Starnberg appreciated the work of Albert with the following words:

„ Albert Fischer is not only a painter but he also developed a deaf art, an understanding of art that has its origin in an own identity and a new language of form...“

Painting, however, was not his only life. He also became part of the age of communication and created a homepage FISEART. He there published his personal thoughts in a diary and reached a wide public.

The Munich Deaf Association recognized his engagement for the interests of the deaf with the award "Deaf Culture 2001".

Albert was at the same time demanding and modest. His friends, deaf and hearing, liked him very much.

His works will remain even if he is no longer among us. They contribute to the deaf movement and a deaf art. His vivid colours and his compositions, his ideas and his diaries enrich our life.

We thank him and we honour him. May his work always remain accessible to the great public.