



**DAM**

## **WOLFGANG KIWUS | OUT OF THE ATTIC**

Solo exhibition

July 20 - August 26, 2023

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Wolfgang KIWUS was born in 1939 in Celle and lived in Stuttgart since 1959.

„What interests me more about computer graphics is the precise pleasures, the programmability of the beauty, of art,“ KIWUS wrote. With his drawings, Wolfgang KIWUS stands in the tradition of artists like Vera Molnar and Manfred Mohr, who have always used the computer as a tool for creating, way before the terms computer art or computer graphics became usual. In KIWUS's work, one is not lured by tricky arrangements and tricks, typical of the new digital collage aesthetic. KIWUS worked with humble equipment, which defined the ascetic aesthetic of his work.

Real computer artists are not those who make patchwork with their computers but those who contribute to the historical genesis of artistic tools from the development rooms of software companies. Wolfgang KIWUS dominated his computer. Programming might be something new for a plastic artist, but KIWUS played the flute at the Warsaw Philharmonic in his teenage years, so he had an advantage.

Regarding language, he worked for a long time as a radio playwright. He wrote prologues, epilogues, speeches for exhibitions, essays, and of course, programmes. His drawings are therefore just an extension of his speech. He never used standard software or painting programmes, he wrote his own in Pascal or Assembler. His drawings are based in mathematics, algorithms and the control of processes.

He started producing drawings with a dot matrix printer in 1984, first with nine needles, later with twenty four. It's printing process, row by row, is completely different from the plotter, which he started using in 1991. Plotter pens move at a speed of one inch per second and the thickness of the lines is determined by speed. It takes hours, sometimes days to get a drawing finished.

Wolfgang KIWUS came from the same circle as drawing-theorist and poet Max Bense. Bense's essay „Der Geistige Mensch und die Technik“ is the source material for KIWUS's drawing series with the same title, which received a PRISMA-Prize in 1993.

With this exhibition we commemorate the impressive work of Wolfgang KIWUS, who passed away in 2022.