



# Ernst Gamperl

## Urkraft

Ernst Gamperl

Frank Matthias Kammel

Antonia Boström

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- Offers a fresh perspective on the potential of wood as an artistic medium
- Utilizes wood from majestic, centuries-old trees, often reclaimed from nature
- Emphasizes the organic nature of wood, incorporating its natural imperfections
- Works featured in prestigious museums worldwide
- Exhibitions include: Bayerisches Nationalmuseum, Munich, May 14 – October 5, 2025; Galerie Handwerk, Munich, June 27 – August 2, 2025; Sarah Myerscough Gallery, London, 3 October - 29 November 2025

The relationship Ernst Gamperl, an artist of international renown, has developed with wood as a living material and the acknowledgment of inescapable serendipity are a source of creative inspiration as well as the driving forces behind his work – a work revolving around the artist's deep connection with nature and respect for his raw material. The wood worked by Gamperl sometimes comes from majestic trees tens or even hundreds of years old – grown in nature, it is nature that has often sent these unmistakable creatures crashing down.

Trees are an integral part of creation, symbols of life and strength that Gamperl has studied and “perceived” for many years in symbiosis with their essence and nature. His ability to combine an unconventional approach to the material with a revolutionary technique and an original interpretation honed over many years results in works that stand out for their elegance and charisma. Gamperl stretches technique to its limits in creating powerful sculptures that unflinchingly stir the viewer, who discovers something never before encountered.

Text in English, Italian and German.

The monograph provides a comprehensive analysis of the life and work of **Ernst Gamperl**, tracing his extraordinary career spanning almost forty years. Born in Munich and trained as a carpenter, Gamperl taught himself to use his skills for artistic ends, attracting international attention very early on. Living and working in northern Italy was instrumental in his development, not to mention his proximity to Milan. Frequenting artists, musicians, designers, photographers, museum curators and gallery owners, he soon began to build a network of important partners. His works are exhibited in numerous museums and private collections around the world, including the Issey Miyake Collection in Japan, the LOEWE Foundation in Madrid, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Amorepacific Museum of Art in Seoul, the Fond National d'Art Contemporain in Paris, and the Neue Sammlung in Munich. Among his numerous awards, Gamperl was the very first winner of the LOEWE Craft Prize in 2017, one of the most important art prizes in the world. **Frank Matthias Kammel** is a German art historian and General Director of the Bavarian National Museum in Munich. He studied art history, classical archaeology and aesthetics at Humboldt University, specializing in medieval art. He worked at the National Museums in Berlin and at the Germanisches Nationalmuseum in Nuremberg, where he was also deputy director. Kammel appears as an expert on sculpture and religious folk art in the Bavarian television programme Kunst und Krempel. **Antonia Boström** is an art historian and curator with a long career in major museums in Britain and the US, including the Victoria & Albert Museum, The Detroit Institute of Arts, the J. Paul Getty Museum and The Nelson Atkins Museum of Art. She has specialized in the Baroque sculptor F.X. Messerschmidt, on whom she curated the Messerschmidt and Modernity exhibition at the Getty Museum. She serves on the expert panel of the LOEWE Foundation Craft Prize, and is a trustee of the Henry Moore Foundation.

