

The Artist and His Vision

Benoît Maubrey, born in 1952, has established himself as a notable figure in contemporary art through his unique approach to sculpture. While technically classified as a sculptor, Maubrey identifies himself as "the creator of 'electroacoustic sculptures.'" His work represents a distinctive fusion of three-dimensional art and sound, contributing to various fields including dance, sculpture, sound, and technology in urban spaces.

A Unique Approach to Materials and Space

Maubrey's artistic methodology centers on the innovative use of recycled materials, particularly speakers. As he explains, "I use recycled loudspeakers much in the same way that a sculptor uses clay or wood: as modern building blocks to create artworks." However, the purpose of these sculptures goes beyond aesthetic purposes. Their primary function, according to Maubrey, is "to supply sound to a public space and create a public 'hotspot.'"

Interactive Art and Community Engagement

What distinguishes Maubrey's work is its interactive nature. His sculptures become platforms for public expression, where people can participate by "playing their own music, talking via their cell phones and expressing themselves via 'hearable' social media." Through this engagement, he notes that "their voices become an integral part of the sculpture." This approach reflects his commitment to working "mainly in public spaces using sound to make the air vibrate and letting people express themselves."

Technology and Artistic Evolution

Maubrey maintains an open stance toward technological advancement in art. His perspective on the future of art and technology is optimistic, noting that he's excited about "moving ahead and empower[ing] our fantasies." Regarding digital platforms, he states that he "allow[s] digital platforms to use my work," suggesting a practical approach to technological integration. "Modern media and platforms should be used for all forms of art," says Maubrey.

Vision for the Future of Art

Maubrey advocates for greater recognition of public art, asserting that "all galleries should acknowledge and support art in public spaces." His philosophy about art's purpose is straightforward yet profound: "Art should encourage us to use our energy and fuel our fantasies (and fun)."

Conclusion

Benoît Maubrey's work represents a unique intersection of sculpture, sound, and public engagement. Through his electroacoustic sculptures, he has created a new form of artistic expression that actively involves the community while pushing the boundaries of traditional sculpture. His approach demonstrates how public spaces can become venues for interactive artistic experiences that engage and empower communities.