

DETRITUS & ART / A personal point of view on Environment and Art by Rainer Stegmann

Diedel Kloever, an artist that brings scrap to life

I met Diedel Kloever in his beautiful garden in Varel, Germany. He is a very hospitable and friendly person, deeply connected to his homeland. He sent me the following text, which is part of his biography written by Laava Royal (www.laavaroyal.com). To me, it characterizes Diedel Kloever's work perfectly:

Sculptor, musician, and festival producer, Diedel Kloever has spent the past two decades turning discarded metal into living works of art. He describes himself as a "scrap artist." Known for his Yard Art sculpture garden, Kloever welds old tools, car parts, and other unwanted metal into strikingly lifelike figures—animal and human forms that seem alive with energy.

Kloever was always drawn to painting, tinkering, and creating. However, it wasn't until the early 2000s, after he taught himself to weld, that he discovered his authentic artistic voice. Unlike many sculptors who start with a sketch, Kloever begins with the raw material itself. The scraps decide what story they want to tell. Each piece evolves organically, guided by the metal's shapes and his intuitive sense of form. The results are strikingly realistic, two of his most impressive pieces being a massive silverback gorilla head that seems to return your gaze, and a rhino that stands sentinel as the garden's "watchman". He not only sculpts realistic-looking animals but also gives them an expression and brings them to life.

Diedel Kloever showed me his impressive workshop, where he creates his sculptures like a locksmith, using a variety of tools, including welding equipment. It is often forgotten that when we admire sculptures and statues, there is the hard work of the manufacturing process and the craftsmanship that the artist must possess. I think the examples presented here speak for themselves. I am always pleasantly surprised by the enthusiasm Diedel Kloever shows in creating his work. It reminds me of scientists who are as devoted to their work as artists like him are. They want to solve a problem that makes them think about it "all the time". Only when you are really devoted to your work outstanding results can be reached.

Diedel Kloever receives his metal scrap from a local manufacturer and has no trouble obtaining adequate material. In general, scrap metals are recycled. Recycling pure iron and steel is standard practice, but alloy steel, which accounts for about 20% of total iron and steel, cannot be recycled in the same way because it produces inferior steel; therefore, alloy steel must be separated from delivered steel scrap upfront in a complex process. Recycling

involves separating alloying metals during thermal recycling, as different metals melt at different temperatures; this process does not achieve 100% separation. Diedel Kloever opens our eyes to the beauty that hides in scrap, as well as to its material value.

More information about the artist can be found on his website at www.yard-art.de.



In the next issue of DETRITUS, I will discuss with you whether the image presented is art or waste

