

**Text: Interview Peter O. Rentsch (April 2003)** (translated)

**Peter O. Rentsch:** *Ms. Ochsner, what drives you to create such objects?*

**Claire Ochsner:**

Today, I can't imagine my life without colors and forms. I came to sculpture through color because I find the three-dimensional aspect very interesting. A sculpture presents a new shape from every angle. That fascinates me; I even make sketches during my holidays.

**Rentsch:** *But you can hardly manage it all on your own anymore, since your sculptures are becoming increasingly complex—sometimes even movable...*

**Ochsner:**

Large sculptures are extremely labor-intensive. I used to do everything myself. For example, it took me two years to create the dragon slide. For major exhibitions, like those in the park "Im Grünen" in Basel or in the botanical gardens in Zurich and Geneva, I had to create about 30 new, large sculptures each time. Thanks to my success, I can now rely on a staff based on the principle: everything others can do better, they should do. That means I always provide the concept, the full-scale rough structure, and the painting. Depending on the project, I work with an all-rounder, a metalworker, a precision mechanic, or an auto body specialist—all skilled craftsmen.

**Rentsch:** *How did you come to create movable objects?*

**Ochsner:**

Movement has become an additional dimension: the object is presented to the viewer from all sides. I find especially the movement in the wind exciting—it's always a bit different.

**Rentsch:** *What are your favorite forms?*

**Ochsner:**

I've developed my own visual language. Much of it is round and influenced by nature. Basically, most of what I create is based on the circle, the sphere, or the spiral.

**Rentsch:** *According to what principles do you design?*

**Ochsner:**

I'm always seeking a certain lightness; ideally, I would only create floating art. Thanks to steel structures, a fairly delicate yet solid design is possible. The goal in the design process is to realize my dream vision with as few compromises as possible.

**Rentsch:** *Your works—especially the mobiles—are very playful and whimsical...*

**Ochsner:**

Play and fun—that is art!

**Rentsch:** *In the park "Im Grünen" there's the captivating element of water, which brings out your objects particularly well.*

**Ochsner:**

That's right. The background is important for a sculpture. Because of the beautiful lakes, I specifically created five water-spouting sculptures.