

## ALEXANDER POLZIN

### SCULPTOR, PAINTER, STAGE DESIGNER AND DIRECTOR

Alexander Polzin was born in East Berlin in 1973 and completed his training as a stonemason before beginning an international career as a sculptor and painter. His sculptures and paintings have been seen around the world, and he has an interest in the art of monuments in public spaces. He collaborates with writers, composers, musicians, choreographers and scientists, and in the last decade his artistic curiosity has led him towards stage design for dance, opera, and theatre. He has also taken his vision further in serving as a director.

Polzin recently created the stage design for *Mitridate* (Malmö Opera/The Royal Theatre in Copenhagen/Concerto Copenhagen/Skånes Dansteater), an innovative three-way creative collaboration with director Ralf Pleger and choreographer Fernando Melo. He first worked with Pleger on Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* at La Monnaie in 2019 (later staged at Teatro Comunale di Bologna in 2020), collaborating on the artistic concept as well as designing the sets.

Previous stage design includes Verdi's *Aida* at Israel Opera (2022), Gluck's *Iphigénie en Tauride* for Grand Théâtre de Genève (2015), Wagner's *Parsifal* for Salzburg Festival and Beijing Music Festival (2013) and Verdi's *Falstaff* at L'Opéra des Nations (2016). He has designed the sets for four productions at Teatro Real, Madrid, including Sotelo's *El público* (2015), Wagner's *Lohengrin* (2013), Rihm's *The Conquest of Mexico* (2013) and Jurado's *La Pagina en blanco* (2011).

As well as working with opera, Polzin has created visual representations of orchestral repertoire, including for Bernstein's *The Age of Anxiety* with Aarhus Symphony Orchestra and Grieg's *Peer Gynt* for Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, both in 2014. He made his directing debut at the Tiroler Festspiele Erl with *Fidelio* in 2014.

Polzin has co-created various projects, including *The Art of Being Human* with viol player Laurence Dreyfus and choreographer Sommer Ulrickson, which had its world premiere at the Boulez Saal, UK premiere in Snape Maltings (June 2023) and was most recently performed at the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg (March 2025). He also co-created *Love in Fragments*, working alongside cellist Alban Gerhardt, violinist Gergana Gergova and Ulrickson, inspired by Roland Barthes' *A Lover's Discourse*, which premiered at the 92Y in New York (2019).

As a sculptor and painter, Polzin's works have been exhibited around the world. Most recently, his Double Angel was exhibited at the Venice Biennale, and one of his Bach sculptures was installed at the Royal Academy of Music. Requiem (Homage to György Kurtág) is currently installed at the New York City Library. His representations of the human form and the subtexts they contain are ideally suited to public spaces and have been seen in a vast array of civic centres and galleries. His public sculptures include The Fallen Angel for Collegium Helveticum, Zürich; Giordano Bruno Monument in Berlin's Potsdamer Platz; Socrates for Tel Aviv University, The Couple, for Opéra national de Paris and his memorial sculpture to Paul Celan in the Anne Frank Garden, Paris.