



# GILBERT LUPFER

Exhibition Catalogue – Gilbert Lupfer – July/August 2025



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# GILBERT LUPFER

## Biography and Career Highlights

Gilbert Lupfer is an artist by nature.

**Life's circumstances led him through construction sites, historic landmarks, the School of Fine Arts in Strasbourg, and the School of Applied Arts in Metz. Married with children, he paints, sculpts, and draws. He founded the Association of Free Artists in Thionville and introduces both children and adults to artistic expression in his studio and in schools.**

**He has exhibited in Thionville, Paris, Metz... He was invited to join the artists' colony in Hortobágy, Hungary, and traveled the country with his works. He collaborates with a German company, working in Stuttgart and Berlin. Eventually, he settled in a small village in the Saulnois region of Lorraine.**

**Thanks to his courage, skill, and perseverance, he transformed the ruins of the outbuildings of the Saint-Epvre château into a spacious studio open to the public. Never abandoning his exploratory spirit, he presents a new collection of paintings, sculptures, and drawings each year—using every imaginable technique: airbrush, engraving, painting with knives and combs, modeling—on a wide range of surfaces: canvas, paper, walls, floors and ceilings, glass, wood, and clay.**

**He acts as a bridge between generations, bringing ancestral craftsmanship into contemporary—and at times futuristic—works. He particularly enjoys working on a large scale! At Saint-Epvre, the permanent exhibition invites art lovers into a dialogue about human connection through a visual language shaped by lines, forms, and colors.**

**1962–1963 and 1966–1968:** Gilbert Lupfer attends the School of Fine Arts in Strasbourg as an independent student.

**1967:** He works in decoration and advertising and restores Dollis in Strasbourg.

**1969:** First exhibition of rapid figurative drawings.

**1970:** Creates around thirty ink drawings titled Landscapes of Alsace for Dillenseguer.

**1977:** Works with stained glass in Kaysersberg, then moves to Lorraine to devote himself fully to the exploration of new artistic techniques and forms.

**1979:** Enrolls at the School of Fine Arts in Metz. Exhibits in Herserange (Meurthe-et-Moselle) alongside amateur painter Bolognini and Jupilat, a student at the Metz School of Fine Arts.

**1980:** Organizes a group exhibition with five painters at the Metz School of Fine Arts. In December, he presents Games of Light at the Banque Populaire—works on canvas created with palette knives.

**1983:** Deeply inspired by musical instruments, Lupfer creates a series of twenty-two oil paintings, presented to the public during the The Organ and Its Craftsmanship exhibition, organized by the city of Thionville.

**1984:** Works with clay and creates fantastical figures, incorporating sound membranes and clockwork mechanisms.

**1985:** Invents his Birds—delicate, airy mobiles constructed from fine wooden rods, the result of research into the interplay of line and color.

**1987:** Realizes an artistic dream: line comes to life—animated, expressive, playful in its simplicity. Thus, the little figure Intello is born. That same year, he experiments with a new technique combining airbrush and torn paper. In Sancy (Meurthe-et-Moselle), he completes an outdoor mural consisting of four panels (5 meters by 3 meters each) and an additional 6-meter panel.

**1981:** Founds the „Association des Artistes Libres“ (AAL) and begins teaching painting to children (from preschool to elementary levels) in regional schools. The children exhibit their works as part of cultural events.

**1987:** Invited as an honorary member to the Hortobágyi Alkotótelep artists' colony in Hungary, representing France. In November, he exhibits at the University of Agronomy in Debrecen.

**1987–1988:** The AAL invites around thirty Hungarian artists from the Hortobágyi colony and organizes an exhibition and art seminar.

**1988:** Designs and completes a French restaurant with full creative freedom, followed by the interior decoration of a nightclub.

**1989:** Embarks on a major exhibition tour across Hungary.

**1991:** For Phöenix, a clothing store chain, he decorates the Debrecen location with three large abstract canvases.

**1992:** Undertakes multiple study visits to Debrecen and Budapest to analyze the changes in local behavior and artistic expression following the opening of national borders.

**1993:** Back in France, he dedicates himself to the construction and development of his own studio.

**1994:** Creates a symbolic sculpture for the city of Berlin, The Stone with the Golden Leaf.

**1995, 1996, 1998:** Participates in the annual artists' exhibition at Stuttgart City Hall, showcasing abstract and colorful works.

**1996:** Opens his studio in Saint-Epvre (Lorraine), where he has since held an annual solo exhibition.

**2000:** Paints a mural on the exterior wall of the German TV channel ZDF in Berlin.

**2001:** The Association des Artistes Libres celebrates its 20th anniversary.

**2003:** Leads workshops focused on a glass-based project titled Paintings and Deformations.

## AN ŒUVRE BETWEEN PAINTING AND SCULPTURE

### Technique and Artistic Approach

Recognized as an artist „open to materials,“ Gilbert Lupfer combines oil and acrylic glazes, aerosol spray, scraper and palette knife strokes, dry pastels, photographic transfers on canvas, and black-and-white graphic elements. For his sculptural work, he turns to wood, clay, stone, and glass. Many of his supports exceed two meters in height and are worked on while standing; notably, a nine-meter-long scroll served as the centerpiece of his 2014 pastel exhibition.

His thematic cycles shift each year. In 2015, the Graphismes series explored purely graphic abstraction; in 2016, the central motif was the (plant) leaf. For this theme, Lupfer stretched a network of cords and ink lines that evoke—depending on the viewer’s perspective—branches, rigging, or foliage. The painted surface is then partially scratched away using a drypoint needle.

### Current Position

To date, Lupfer has held over thirty solo exhibitions in Saint-Epvre alone. Through his commitment to education—offering workshops and guided tours—Atelier GL has become a regional hub for experimental painting. Visitors particularly value the interactive quality of his presentations: works can be viewed in the round and, in the case of sculptures, gently touched. In this way, Gilbert Lupfer remains not only a “troubadour of modern times,” but above all a tireless advocate for both pictorial and manual art in Lorraine.



LEFT: Impressions from Lupfer’s studio-gallery-laboratory

All Photos in this Catalogue: Le Républicain lorrain

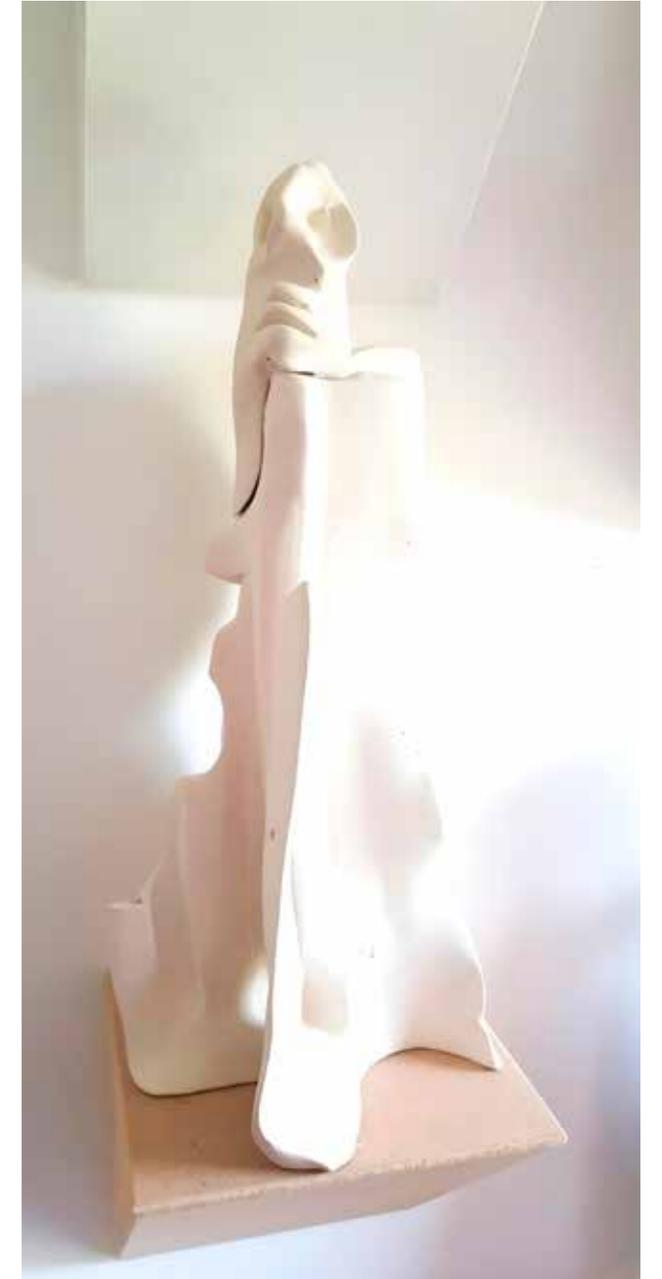
ON THIS PAGE: In 2021, Lupfer worked on a painting combining paint and India ink, which he scratched into.





**ON THIS PAGE:**  
Impressions from Lupfer's studio-gallery-laboratory

**RIGHT:**  
Lupfer's sculptures are made of terracotta or bronze.



## IMPRESSUM

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# GILBERT LUPFER

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