

Fountain sculpture in Immenstaad



Seen with the horizontal breadth of the lake – with the Swiss Alps in the background – the fountain provides a vertical landmark.

The water collects in a large stepped roundel and then flows, regulated by weirs if necessary, through channels and back into Lake Constance.

On the land side the fountain runs radially in the form of natural stone steles placed on a bed of river pebbles. The location needs a scale of about 300 square metres to develop its full symbolic power and range of uses. 'Free man in the elemental universe' is Herbert Dreiseitl's name for his bronze sculpture. We can believe this – or something completely different. And it is also possible to have different ideas about using the sculpture. The ensemble as a whole is not meant to be just a landmark. It has certainly become a popular meeting-point and place to spend some time. Children like to climb around the steles, and play in the water among the drainage channels with their little weirs, and to use the gravel bed as an area for their own excursions. Adults join in the games, work out the flow patterns of the water on sculpted steles or lose themselves in the visual interplay of distance and proximity. When the lake floods parts of the fountain when the snow melts in summer people are reminded of things that are happening beyond the sculpture, in the far distance. Perhaps a boat is departing for that destination.



Children find little weirs that can be used to regulate the flow of the water back into Lake Constance.



The water and wind sculpture in a föhn storm

