

PORTRAITS <https://honetschlaeger.com/chairs/>

Edgar Honetschläger has been portraying people since 1989 - all in the same technique and with the same intention. The images are carried out in red oil color on raw canvas, sized 180x140 or 180x120 cm. Each of them captures someone who majorly influences both his life and his artistic practice. Some of them are contemporaries, known or unknown to him, others are people he cares for and loves, some have passed away centuries ago - they talk to him through their literature, their art, their spirit - they inspire him.

A good naturalistic portrait contains the character, the spirit of the portrayed person. Edgar translates people into chairs - he portrays them as chairs. Each of his so called chair-portrait represents the character of the portrayed. Why would one want to have a person represented by a painted chair? Of all commodities we use, the chair resembles us the most – first of all in terms of anatomy, as it is supposed to fit the shape of our body, their ‘physiognomy’ resembles people. Humans have a very intimate relationship with chairs as most of us spend more time on them than anywhere else (except in bed). The chair can be used as a commodity, as a gadget of convenience, but it can also represent a human being e.g. in the apsis of churches we often find a chair, wooden or marble that is never being used - even during service it remains empty. It is reserved for the bishop and therefore it represents the dignity. Although the clergyman was/is never present nobody is allowed to use it. It is reserved for him only as it represents and substitutes him and his status. Chairs could and can refer to the social status of the user - the higher ranked a person was/is, the more comfortable the chair had/has to be.

Though Edgar works in many different mediums painting is chosen in this context for a reason. Since the canvas is not being treated with gesso, stains occur on the surface of the raw linen. Often the very thick layer of red oil paint extracts linseed oil that soaks the canvas around the image and stains it dark. The chair develops a shadow that appears as if it was surrounded by an aura, a process that cannot be influenced. Some chairs/humans have more of an aura, some less, some don't seem to have any. All chairs appear awkwardly flat since there is no central perspective applied to the paintings as the artist strongly opposes central perspective. Most of them have only two legs instead of four, some are wrecks others have missing parts, they all have handicaps. None of them is perfect.

On first glimpse a red-chair-image he chose to represent a person might appear random. Why for example would Jean Luc-Godard have the shape of the chair he ‘selected’ or made him to be? Why does he turn someone into an existing chair or a made up chair, an abstraction, for whom does he invent a chair that does not exist? If one were to flip through some of the chair-portraits and found a person he/she personally knows and on top of it another chair-portrait of a person enjoying world wide recognition, then one could get an idea of how he translates their persona into a chair. He thinks of people who he's fully in tune with, he feels, reads them and a chair appears in his imagination that is them. Yet e.g. the artist Yoko Ono turned into a sofa that appears like half a grapefruit, Apichatpong Weerasethakul turned into a bunch of feathers floating in the wind – once in a while he doesn't succeed in transmuting a personality into a chair as their character is too complex.

In a photo Series entitled 97-(13+1) which was featured at documenta X, Kassel 1997, he referred to the concept above.

## List of portrayed 1989-2024

1. PIERGIORGIO BOTTOS (cameraman) 2013
2. CLAUDE LEVY-STRAUSS (anthropologist) 2011
3. RANDY NEWMAN (musician/composer) 2011
4. REINHARD JUD (film director/screen writer) 2011
5. MIHOKO SUGIURA (restaurant owner) 2011
6. LUCAS REINER (artist) 2012
7. MARIA PANY-HONETSCHLÄGER (restaurant manager) 2005
8. ISHIHARA NOBUHIRO (artist) 2010
9. ENRICO LUNGHI (curator) 2012
10. KAZUKO MIYAMOTO (artist) 2010
11. RAOUL DUFY (artist) 2012
12. THOMAS FEUERSTEIN (artist) 2010
13. YOKO ONO (artist) 2008
14. FOSCO MARAINI (anthropologist) 2009
15. KATHARINA STEINKELLNER (ngo/fundraiser) 2008
16. SYLVIA ECKERMANN (artist) 2012
17. FRANZ GRAF (artist) 2013
18. ANDREI TARKOVSKY (film director) 2011
19. DEREK JARMAN (film director) 2009
20. ERNST J. FUCHS (architect) 2007
21. CHRISTIAN FENNESZ (musician) 2009
22. SHERRI WARD (garden architect) 2008
23. APICHATPONG WEERASETHAKUL (artist/film maker) 2007
24. NOEMIE BALLOF (student) 2010
25. KURAHARA YASUYUKI (business executive/musician) 2010
26. KAZUTO TAGUCHI (student) 2012
27. GERTJAN ZUILHOF (film programmer/art historian) 1998
28. PETER WALDENBERGER (radio producer) 2007
29. ERHARD GROSSNIG (industrialist) 1990
30. MARGARETHE SEE (art teacher) 1993
31. MIDORI YAMAMURA (art historian/curator) 1992
32. EDGAR HONETSCHLÄGER (artist/filmmaker) 1989
33. EDGAR HONETSCHLÄGER (artist/filmmaker) 2006
34. EDGAR HONETSCHLÄGER (artist/filmmaker) 2013
35. ROLAND TEICHMANN (bureaucrat/photographer) 2010
36. CHRIS MARKER (film maker) 2006
37. FERNANDO PESSOA (writer/poet) 2013
38. DONALD RICHIE (writer/film critic) 2013
39. MEINHARD RAUCHENSTEINER (philosopher/writer/bureaucrat) 2012
40. MARIA CONCETTA SPINOSA (interpreter) 2013
41. HAZEL ROSENSTRAUCH (writer) 2008
42. CLARICE LISPECTOR (writer) 2013
43. BRIGITTE WÖSS (teacher) 2013
44. SABRINA MONTANARO (dreamer) 2012
45. JEAN-LUC GODARD (film director) 2010
46. CATHERINE DAVID (curator/art historian) 2010
47. 14 PEOPLE, documenta X (triptych) 1997
48. FEDERICO FELLINI (film director) 2005
49. JACQUES TATI (film director) 2009
50. OTTO HONETSCHLÄGER (business man) 2013
51. CY TWOMBLY (painter) 2015
52. AKIRA KUROSAWA (film director) 2013
53. JAN TABOR (architecture critic) 2014
54. MORTON FELDMAN (composer) 2014
55. LUCHINO VISCONTI (film director) 2013
56. OGAWA USEN (painter) 2015
57. FEDERICO SECONDO (emperor) 2016
58. MICHELANGELO CARAVAGGIO (artist) 2015
59. JOHN CASSAVETTES (film director) 2016
60. MAX HARNONCOURT (IT specialist) 2016

61. NORBERT ARTNER (artist) 2015
62. JOHANNES SPALT JR. (production designer/photographer) 2013
63. ZHIXUAN FRIDA LI (art theorist) 2016
64. WASSILY KANDINSKY (artist) 2012
65. YASUJIRO OZU (film director) 2009-2018
66. GIORGIA O'KEEFFE (artist) 2017
67. MAKO IDEMITSU (artist) 2017
68. KAZUKO KOIKE (curator) 2017
69. LUKAS BECK (photographer) 2017
70. STEFAN GRISSEMANN (journalist) 2017
71. ANJA SALOMONOWITZ (film director) 2017
72. OLAF MÖLLER (film programmer) 2017
73. OSCAR NIEMEYER (architect) 2017
74. MARIE-THERESE HARNONCOURT (architect) 2017
75. HENNY ULM (art historian) 2017
76. STEFAN FAULAND (film editor) 2017
77. BARBARA FRÄNZEN (music+film expert) 2017
78. MARTIN BÖHM (auction house director) 2017
79. WOLFGANG LORENZ (tv director) 2017
80. KURT KLADLER (gallerist) 2017
81. MIDORI MITAMURA (artist) 2017
82. PAULINE SCHÜRZ (bureaucrat/neighbor)
83. LEZA LOWITZ (writer) 2004
84. MARTIN HOCHLEITNER (art historian) 2010
85. JOSEPH BEUYS (artist) 2010
86. JOHANNES SPALT SR. (architect) 2004
87. YUKIKA KUDO (producer/film director) 1994
88. FRANCO KAPPL (artist) 1995
89. DAVID HOCKNEY (artist) 2011
90. HISHIDA SHUNSO (artist) 2011
91. PETER ABLINGER (composer) 2008
92. CAROLINE ALKHAFAJI BÖHM (philanthropist) 2012
93. DAVID WÖSS (business man) 2007
94. JOHANN LEITNER (musician) 2017
95. CLAUDIA MÄRZENDORFER (artist) 2017
96. ISABELLA GULLO (agent) 2017
97. RYO LEO KOGAI (scholar) 2017
98. PIERO DELLA FRANCESCA (artist) 2017
99. GIOTTO (artist) 2017
100. FRA ANGELICO (artist) 2017
101. MARIO CODOGNATO (art historian) 2017
102. KATSUSHIKA HOKUSAI (artist) 2017
103. KLEMENS ORTMAYER (photographer) 2017
104. HOSHU NAGAOKA (buddhist priest) 2006
105. THORSTEN SADOWSKY (art historian) 2017
106. MASACCIO (artist) 2017
107. SIMON WÖSS, (philosopher), 2017
108. MARGARETHE SCHÜTTE LIHOTZKY (architect) 2018
109. CARLO BRIGNOLA (sculptor) 2019
110. BENEDETTA TORINO (art manager) 2019
111. JAMES GOLDWASSER (book dealer) 2019
112. GUIDO LARCHER (artist) 2021
113. GIOVANNA u RENATO MOSCHONI (farmers) 2021
114. SUSANNA WÖSS (fashion designer) 2021
115. THOMAS WOSCHITZ (film director) 2021
116. TABLEA 2019: CLAUDIA RUSPOLI, NATHALIE D'AQUINO DI CARAMANICO, PAOLA IGLIORI (DELLA ROVERE), DOMITILLA HARDING GETTY, ROSIE BOWDREY, CORDULA VON KELLER, ALESSANDRO TWOMBLY, SUSI BONIVER, URS ALBRECHT, GAIA FRANCHETTI, THOMAS HUTTON, EDGAR HONETSCHLÄGER, YANNA AVIS
117. AQUILES HADJIS (artist) 2022

- I 18. FABRIZIO FARRONI (camerman, photographer) 2022
- I 19. MARIE-ISABELLE HOFMANN (human rights lawyer) 2023
- I 20. EDGAR HONETSCHLÄGER (artist, filmmaker) 2023
- I 21. GIORDANO BRUNO (philosoper) 2024
- I 22. GIAN LORENZO BERNINI (artist) 2023
- I 23. IANNIS XENAKIS (composer) 2023
- I 24. LUC FERRARI (composer) 2024
- I 25. SONJA BÄUMEL (artist) 2024
- I 26. MICHAEL WÖSS (dreamer) 2023
- I 27. CRISTINA DI STASIO (founder) 2023
- I 28. PARTENOPE (siren) 2023