

## Suitcase Installation/Three Colour Canons

- Where: Sihl, underneath the motorway viaduct, and Kalandersplatz, underneath the bridge (hotel/mall link).
- Who: **Roman Signer**. Born 1938 in Appenzell. Sculptor, draughtsman, performance and installation artist, videographer. Lives and works in St. Gallen.
- What: **Suitcase Installation**, 2007. Galvanised bars as a closed loop, black metal suitcase, electronic motor, water.  
**Three Colour Canons**, 2007. Three chrome-steel tubes, three colour stains, gunpowder, the colour blue.

Roman Signer first studied draughtsmanship then attended the Schools of Applied Arts in Zurich and Lucerne between 1966 and 1971. He has been working as a freelance artist since 1972 and is today considered one of Switzerland's most important contemporary artists. While his traditional sculptures are often notable for their memorial character, since the 1960s Signer has been creating a new form of three-dimensional works: he takes everyday objects and highlights their ephemeral character, time and transience by using natural materials such as water, stones or wind to transform them. He also often emphasises the transient nature of things by putting objects such as tables and chairs into a new, alien context and blowing them up. It is mainly his reputation as an 'explosion artist' that has won him international recognition. He captures these actions on film, in photographs and in his ephemeral temporal sculptures in which he is often involved himself.

Signer has produced two different 'temporal sculptures' for Sihlcity as a direct commission from the architect Theo Hotz:

### **Suitcase Installation:**

A black metal suitcase driven by an electronic motor moves round a closed loop of bars underneath the motorway viaduct at the Sihl. This suitcase is a special piece of luggage, however, as rather than carrying the most important items needed for a trip, e.g. clothes and other necessities, it instead holds water, life's most important and precious substance. The suitcase is filled with water underneath the bridge before setting off on its journey, rotating round its own axis full of life energy. A small tube at the bottom of the suitcase allows the water to flow out and draw a fleeting trace in the Sihl 10 metres below. The small suitcase then has to return to the filling station to replenish itself before losing its store of water again... Here in Sihlcity, Signer has tackled a profound topic, namely transience and memento mori, with playful wit and humour.

