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- 1 Fototafel, Dreischalenbrunnen von Hermann Obrist, Datierung unbekannt, Fotografie: Verlagsanstalt für Kunst München, DE, Donation: Marie-Luise Obrist. Abbildung: Museum für Gestaltung Zürich / ZHdK
- 2 Modell zu einem Nutzbrunnen für Mensch, Vieh, Hund und Vogel, um 1900, Entwurf/Ausführung: Hermann Obrist, Donation: Marie-Luise Obrist, Amaranth Obrist. Abbildung: Museum für Gestaltung Zürich / ZHdK

The Swiss native Hermann Obrist (1862–1927) is regarded as the initiator of the Munich Art Nouveau movement. As a sculptor, he mainly carried out commissioned work in the years following 1900, such as tombs and fountains that display his very own biomorphic language of form.

Hermann Obrist—whose importance was long underestimated by art historians—is in many respects representative of a time in which figurative shapes and lines inspired by natural organic growth were prevalent alongside a tendency toward abstraction. However, the path he took toward abstraction differed from that of other Art Nouveau artists. Obrist didn't abstract shapes in a reductive sense. Instead, he took up the formal dynamics that he discovered in nature—as a self-proclaimed collector, researcher, and observer—and incorporated them into his works in the manner of a collage. He paid special attention to organic and inorganic growth processes, rhythms, and movements. With their underlying laws as a starting point, the artist developed his works additively, by combining and merging the manifold structures he had observed. Thus, the fountain model seems to grow out of the rock rather than being carved

out of it. In the center of the model, rocks tower upward, almost as if they had been pushed up by seismic shifts. Water gushing from the taps brings to mind waterfalls that channel their way through mountains. (Julia Klinner)

Modell zu einem Dreischalenbrunnen, 1899  
Entwurf/Ausführung: Hermann Obrist  
Material/Technik: Gips, gegossen, gefasst  
43 × 55 cm  
Donation: Marie-Luise Obrist, Amaranth Obrist  
Eigentum: Museum für Gestaltung Zürich / ZHdK

<https://www.eguide.ch/en/objekt/ohne-titel-10/>