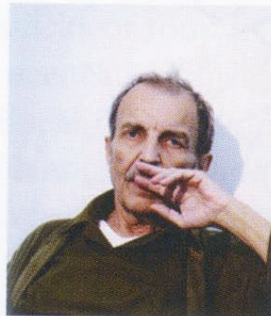


# 36 FRANZ WEST

**Category: Artist**  
**Nationality: Austrian**  
**Last Year: 29**



If there's a lot of lumpy, tactile, ambiguously sociable sculpture in the artworld right now (and there really is), you can thank Franz West. The Austrian has been making antimonumental artworks, often predicated on use – at first small-scale objects to be felt and fondled – since the 1970s. Right now, though, the whole artworld seems to be looking West. A canonisation is in motion: the last couple of years have seen his first major retrospectives, while at Venice this year he was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award: he responded by bringing a reconstruction of his studio kitchen to the Biennale, hung with the work of fellow artists and, in the Giardini, exhibiting a big pink phallic column tied in a playful knot.