





- Werbeinserat, Steigen Sie nicht ein!, 1960, Gestaltung: Karl Gerstner, Text: Markus Kutter, Donation: Gerstner, Gredinger + Kutter, Werbeagentur AG, Basel, CH. Abbildung: Museum für Gestaltung Zürich / ZHdK.
- Werbeinserat, Schauen Sie nicht hin!, um 1960, Gestaltung: Karl Gerstner, Text: Markus Kutter, Donation: Gerstner, Gredinger + Kutter, Werbeagentur AG, Basel, CH. Abbildung: Museum für Gestaltung Zürich / ZHdK.

Ever since it was founded, in 1959, the Basel advertising agency Gerstner + Kutter has attracted attention with its exceptional advertising campaigns. In a series of advertisements from 1960 for the Zurich car dealership C. Schlotterbeck, the Citroën 2 CV was advertised with negative headlines like "Don't buy this car!" accentuated with ironic and humorous captions accompanying the images.

2

The innovative advertising campaigns by the Basel agency Gerstner + Kutter, headed by the graphic designer Karl Gerstner (1930–2017) and the copywriter Markus Kutter (1925–2005), attracted first local and then international attention. The firm's very first advertising commissions, which came from the duo's circle of acquaintances, already revealed extraordinary approaches. For example, the campaign for the reopening of the Rheinbrücke department store in Basel visualized a virtual dialogue between a customer and the Rhine bridge (*Rheinbrücke*). Even more daring was an advertising campaign for the Zurich car dealership C. Schlotterbeck featuring the legendary Citroën 2 CV, which appeared in the daily press. Kutter used negative headlines throughout,

Museum Zürcher für Gestaltung Hochschule der Zürich Künste

juxtaposed with corresponding visual irony generated by his colleague Gerstner. The headlines of this four-part series were summarized in the last advertisement. They read: "Don't look!", "Don't get in!", "Don't take a test drive!", and at the very end, big and bold, "Don't buy this car!" Beneath this, written in lowercase letters, were the words: "... if you don't expect something new from a car." Then, paradoxically, the advantages of a small car were listed, while beneath this a black bar almost completely obscured the depicted 2 CV, thus ostensibly discouraging the readership from purchasing the vehicle. The extensive photographs that Kutter organized for the casting were produced by Gerstner. The client seemed to approve of the witty and flippant campaign. In any event, the duo became an overnight sensation. (Barbara Junod)

Werbeinserat, Kaufen Sie diesen Wagen nichtl, 1960 Gestaltung: Gerstner + Kutter, Basel, CH / Karl Gerstner Text: Gerstner + Kutter, Basel, CH / Markus Kutter Auftrag: C. Schlotterbeck Automobile AG, Zürich, CH Material/Technik: Papier, Andruck 34.9 × 49.8 cm

Donation: Gerstner, Gredinger + Kutter, Werbeagentur AG, Basel, CH Eigentum: Museum für Gestaltung Zürich / ZHdK

museum-gestaltung.ch eGuide.ch eMuseum.ch https://www.eguide.ch/en/objekt/kaufen-sie-diesen-wagen-nicht/