

MEDIA RELEASE

07.09. 24.11.2024

Ian Anüll
London Blue

“Help!” As visitors become immersed in the deep blue of Ian Anüll’s exhibition *London Blue*, this cry resounds around them. The girl group Bananarama recorded the famous Beatles song together with the comedy music project Lananeeneenoonoo in support of the charitable organisation Comic Relief and collected a lot of donations as a result. During his studio residency in London in 2021 Ian Anüll unearthed the single in a record shop. The artist wandered about that metropolis both mentally and physically. As an attentive observer, he discovered natural and civilizational flotsam and jetsam, objects and curious aperçus: shells, stones, plastic spoons, false eyelashes and, repeatedly, newspaper items. The coincidence of objects, image and text fragments engendered flashes of inspiration in the artist rise, which he transposed into works of art, usually resorting to only minimal interventions.

On the very first evening of his stay, he found a plank covered in white plastic. Later in the studio, he wrote the day’s six winning Lotto numbers on his find, thus creating the first object in the series *6 Richtige* (6 Winning Numbers). Here the artist blithely links reward, luck, magic, play and the lure of the first prize, which proves illusory most of the time. A few days later, a gleaming blue tile in a building site skip caught Ian Anüll’s eye. This found object stimulated some research and engendered countless thoughts, ideas, connections and sequels, resulting in a multi-part series of works. In a paint shop, the artist found out that the intense shade of blue was called Prussian or Paris Blue. Subsequently he became preoccupied with the history of the colour and its significance. Berlin Blue – in German the most common name for it today – was discovered by chance in 1706. The discovery is attributed to the Swiss chemist Johann Jacob Diesbach, who worked in Berlin as a manufacturer of dyes and pigments and, like many chemists and apothecaries in his day, engaged in alchemical attempts to produce gold. Depending on the production site, the colour was given different names, whereby “Prussian” possibly refers to the blue uniforms of Prussian soldiers. In the medical field, Berlin Blue is used in the treatment of caesium poisoning.

Ian Anüll combines these different items of information about the colour and adds other associations. Alchemy, transformation, uniforms or Japanese woodcuts in Prussian blue are just some of the aspects that inspired Ian Anüll. Having found canvases the size of tiles in a shop, he created collages on them using photographs, newspaper snippets and objects. This diary-like series of works and other works he created in London are linked by that shade of blue. In them, Anüll combines the diverse finds to produce pointed, playful and analytical commentaries on current affairs, with a special focus on powerful people, for example, Vladimir Putin or Boris Johnson, social phenomena, the beauty craze, religion, the British government’s handling of the pandemic, the excesses of capitalism or the art market.

curated by Eveline Suter

DATES

Media Preview

Friday, 06.09., 10.15 am

Opening

Friday, 06.09., from 6 pm

Greeting and introduction

Fanni Fetzler, Director Kunstmuseum Luzern

Eveline Suter, Curator

Surprise Records

Wednesday, 30.10., 6 pm

Talk with the artist Ian Anüll and the curator Eveline Suter.

Afterwards, Ian Anüll will play records.

Public Tours

Wednesdays 6 pm and Sundays 11 am according to website

Schools

Various offers for all levels

Publication

Ian Anüll. London Blue, with a text by Eveline Suter, d/e, ed. by Ian Anüll and Emilie Guenat, Vexer Verlag, St.Gallen/Berlin, ISBN 978-3-907112-90-8 (d)/ 978-3-907112-92-2 (e), CHF 25.–, for members KGL CHF 20.–

Edition

Untitled aus der Serie *Trademark*, 2024, Serigraphy on canvas on cardboard, diameter 30 cm, edition 38, CHF 380.–

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