



PRESS FILE

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THOMAS BAYRLE

ALL-IN-ONE

Introduction



ein Pils bitte!, 1972. Silkscreen print on cardboard, 88 x 63cm. Courtesy the artist

An influential and pioneering figure, German artist Thomas Bayrle (b. 1937 lives and works in Frankfurt) has been an important reference for several generations of artists, both through his teaching (he taught at the well-known Städelschule from 1975 to 2002), and through his participation in international exhibitions (Documenta 3, 6 and 13, the 50th Venice Biennial, etc.). Over the years, Bayrle has built up an extremely coherent body of work, one that tends towards the obsessive while combining allegiances to Pop, conceptual and Op art in unique ways.

In the 1960s, Bayrle started to produce works based on the serial repetition of the same pattern, a move inspired by structuralism, which was proving extremely influential for minimal, Pop and conceptual art. These results set the foundations for his singular visual language, perceptible no matter the media: collage, painting, sculpture, film or printed matter. At once critical and engaged, his practice emerged from or has been directly related to the protest movements of the times. Like his neighbours at the Frankfurt School, he was – and remains to this day – interested in mass culture and in propaganda methods. At the height of the Cold War, Bayrle's work incorporated the very symbols that both capitalist and communist societies had been forging on either side of the Iron Curtain.

The exhibition *All-in-One*, a title inspired by a Buddhist proverb turned marketing tool, offers a broad overview of Bayrle's career, from the first painted kinetic machines to his most recent work. The exhibition is arranged, not chronologically, but in such a way as to bring out the many themes and patterns that form the running thread of his oeuvre: consumer society, political propaganda, new technologies, sexuality, religion, urban development, etc.

Commissaire : Devrim Bayar