

02.07. 04.09.2022

## Spot on Mathis Pfäffli

Floor is Lava

In Kooperation mit Kommission Bildende Kunst Stadt Luzern

Kuratiert von Laura Breitschmid / curated by Laura Breitschmid

In the game "Floor is Lava" a basic condition of everyday life is reversed: the floor, or ground, can no longer be walked on. As soon as these words are uttered, the players jump onto the nearest object: a bed, a bench, a doorstep or a window sill. If the "Floor is Lava", then movement is only possible by way of the furniture. What seems chaotic or strange is based on an agreement reached between the participants to interpret the world differently. "Floor is Lava" can be understood as a mind game designed to question and interpret social conditions and givens anew. In the solo exhibition Floor is Lava, the Lucerne artist Mathis Pfäffli (\*1983) is showing new works: drawings, and objects. Re-using and misappropriating both play a major role in Pfäffli's work. Just as the furniture in the game is allotted a different function, found objects originating from nature and industrial production are re-combined and can therefore be interpreted or conceived in a different way.

A grid made of steel cables introduces a horizontal level into the exhibition room, thereby organizing it. The cables are supported by metal rods, while discarded awnings structure the space. This construction condenses into a pavilion-like structure and various objects are attached to it. Mathis Pfäffli combines different lines: drawn with the pencil, taunted rope, grid structures and axes. The ceiling lighting has been exposed in parts. The lines of lamps are interrupted by the resulting gaps and by the shadows of smaller object.

Thoughts in Symmetry (Collectors) of 2021/2022 are independent works and at the same time sources of light in the exhibition. The glass objects hover in space and are reminiscent of measuring instruments from a science fiction film or test tubes whose task cannot be deciphered. What information do they collect? What for and for whom? The symmetrically elongated Thoughts in Symmetry (Collectors) are also collectors of memories. Pfäffli's objects made from found materials always contain their

own stories and references to their former functions and places of use. The reused materials are simultaneously inexplicable and familiar. Their previous and present utilization is never definitive, for with each new use or in each new exhibition, perspective and ascription change.

The series of drawings entitled *Tracer*, done for the publication of the same name, intermingles real, recalled and fictional spaces. Similarly, the model building Europaplatz 1 that is on show enters into a dialogue with its real surroundings. It is a model of the KKL Luzern made by the artist from memory. In the memories reality is shaped in keeping with our perceptions and feelings, and we shift meanings.

Different places and perspectives exist in parallel in Mathis Pfäffli's work, technoid objects, grid structures and stones combine to create worlds that seem fantastic and partly dystopian, that evoke familiar things, but also repeatedly elude us and adhere to their own logic.

## Daten / Dates

Unterwegs mit der Kuratorin

Mittwoch, 24.08., 18 Uhr

Rundgang mit Laura Breitschmid

Kunsthoch Luzern

Samstag, 27.08., 16 Uhr

*A Walk* mit Mathis Pfäffli

Gespräch in der Ausstellung

Sonntag, 04.09., 11 Uhr

Der Künstler Mathis Pfäffli im Gespräch mit Laura Breitschmid, Kuratorin

## Publikation / Publication

In der Reihe *spot on* der Stadt Luzern erscheint die Publikation / the book *Tracer* will be published in the series *spot on* of the City of Lucerne mit Texten von / with texts by Chantal Kaufmann, Julia Moritz, Sophia Rohwetter und / and Arnaud Wohlhauser,

### 3 MATHIS PFÄFFLI. FLOOR IS LAVA

hrsg. von / published by Stadt Luzern und Kunstmuseum Luzern, d/e, 176 Seiten / pages, Spector Books, ISBN 978-3-95905-669-4, CHF 35.–, für Mitglieder KGL / for members KGL CHF 30.–.

#### Edition

*Traced*, 2022, seriell hergestellte Kugelschreiberzeichnung / serialised biros drawing, 42 x 29.7 cm, 20 Unikate, CHF 300.–, für Mitglieder KGL / for members KGL CHF 250.–

supported by Stadt Luzern, Casimir Eigensatz Stiftung, RKK Regionalkonferenz Kultur.

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