

MEDIA RELEASE

02.07. 04.09.2021

spot on

Mathis Pfäffli. Floor is Lava

In cooperation with Bildende Kunst Stadt Luzern

«The floor is lava!» – as soon as this warning is uttered, everyone jumps onto the nearest object: a bed, a bench, a doorstep. In the game *The Floor is Lava*, the floor may not be touched and the items of furniture become protective islands and the only space that can be walked on. What may seem chaotic and strange is based on a rule, an alternative system of interpreting the world. Our life, our daily routine, our society are all shaped by rules and conventions. What happens when the collective imagination renders these invalid? Mathis Pfäffli is interested in shifting givens and conventions, which is why he calls his solo exhibition after the game *Floor is Lava*. Re-utilisation and misappropriation play a major role in his multi-media work. By means of drawings, sculptures, installations and texts, the artist takes found forms, elements and materials, as well as existing works, into ever new contexts, thereby pointing to the variability of interpretation and meaning.

The exhibition space at the Kunstmuseum Luzern is structured by a grid of ropes. This gives rise to a horizontal level where drawings and objects are hanging, standing and leaning. The ropes are supported by metal rods, forming a vertical structure. Here works like the glass objects *Thoughts in Symmetry* (2020) are both independent works and light sources. The series of drawings called *Tracer* (2021/22) was done for the publication of the same name. Using graphite on A3 sheets of paper Mathis Pfäffli has created a kind of picture story in which real buildings, such as the façade of the KKL, encounter fictive spaces. Architectures, exhibition rooms, technoid objects, sketches, leafless trees, grid structures and much more blend to form fantastic and partly uncanny worlds that may well evoke something familiar, but are also constantly eluding us and following a logic of their own. *Tracer* in English means a tool for tracing, the person tracing, and also the trace. *Tracer* also refers to the professions of graphic artist or technical draughtsman. In addition to these technical and graphic meanings of the term, “tracer” also belongs to the world of science fiction, which in turn crops up in Pfäffli’s drawing of futuristic hybrid landscapes.

The publication *Tracer* will appear in the series *spot on* (formerly *Junge Kunst der Stadt Luzern*). The commission of the Bildende Kunst Stadt Luzern is acknowledging the artist Mathis Pfäffli in volume 18 of the series. That volume contains the complete series of drawings called *Tracer*, a survey of his artistic work to date, and texts by Chantal Kaufmann, Julia Moritz, Sophia Roxane Rohwetter and Arnaud Wohlhauser.

Curated by Laura Breitschmid

TERMINE

Media Preview

Friday, 01.07., 10.15 am

Opening

Friday, 01.07., from 6 pm

Greeting and introduction

Andi Scheitlin, President Kunstgesellschaft Luzern

Fanni Fetzer, Director Kunstmuseum Luzern

Tatjana Erpen, Presiden Kommission Bildende Kunst Stadt Luzern

Laura Breitschmid, Curator

followed by drinks

The Curator as Guide

Mittwoch, 24.08., 18 Uhr

Tour with Laura Breitschmid

Public Tours

Wednesdays 8 pm and Sundays 11 am, as on website

Kunsthoch Luzern

Saturday, 27.08., 4 pm

A Walk with Mathis Pfäffli

Publication

Tracer in the series *spot on* of the Town Luzern with texts by Chantal Kaufmann, Julia Moritz, Sophia Rohwetter und Arnaud Wohlhauser, ed. by Stadt Luzern and Kunstmuseum Luzern, d/e, 176 Seiten, Spector Books, ISBN 978-3-95905.

Talk In the Exhibition

Sunday, 04.09., 11 am

The artist Mathis Pfäffli in conversation with Laura Breitschmid, Curator