

May 2021

When I was twenty-two, our dog was put to sleep. The veterinary asked if I'd like to keep his collar. Ten years later, the owner of a ryokan I stayed at on the island of Yakushima in Japan gifted me a blue ukidama, an old glass float he found on a nearby shore. From where I am sitting now, a small desk in my studio, I can see both the collar hanging from a window handle and the ukidama besides a flowerpot in a corner of the room.

March 2023

A small window. The walls, ceiling, door, furniture are made of a light beige pine wood. Outside, the light of the setting sun draws sharp lines in the snow. When I lean forward I can see my footsteps leading up to the rocks surrounding the mountain hut. Eight days ago I took a metal sphere from my studio and carried it up here, to the Stubai Glacier. Half an hour ago, I trudged out of the hut and up the mountain. I placed it on a small plateau beneath two rocks. This sphere belongs to the mountains now. In three days I will return home.

June 2023

Dozens of objects, scattered across the floor. Spheres made of wood, cast iron, glass. Metal sticks of different sizes are leaning against a wall. Cuboids, tripods, boxes. Some were made before I was born, produced for purposes I know nothing about. The simplest of shapes, sturdy and plain. Over the years, they fell into disuse, ended up in basements, boxes, attics, left behind in forests, drifted across oceans. I found them in people's homes, in markets, under a bridge, I bought them in auctions and antique stores. Over time, each of them took on characteristic properties: One retrieved into a corner of my living room the day it arrived and has not been moved to this day. One hibernates in complete darkness. Another belongs into someone's hand, it needs to be held. One weighs as much as an average mallard couple – when I look at it, I imagine two ducks, side by side, gliding across a pond.

August 2023

So one day, in years to come, someone might climb up into an attic, look around and in some corner, once again, discover one of these objects. A mute sphere, a marker drifting through the seasons. Someone might pick it up, take it home, look at it every now and then, and possibly, maybe, gift it to someone else.

(notes from sketchbook)

## Daniel Gustav Cramer

### *Objects*

EN

In 2009, Daniel Gustav Cramer installed an exhibition in the former space of the gallery. Framed by two found photographs, a small sculpture was placed on the floor. A cast iron sphere hanging from a metal tripod, titled *I*. A year later, at the Samsa in Berlin, a second sculpture, named *II*, was exhibited. Since then, a growing number of objects - found, produced by local artisans or made by himself - have become elements in his ongoing series of installations – alongside book works, photographs, texts and films. Their presence has always been subtle; objects that belong to the exhibitions as much as to the space they are shown in; physical notations left by the artist.

With each new object, Cramer confirms and questions the principles of the series, their objecthood and ontology. The works seem to linger at the threshold that separates things from works of art - not fitting in either of these two realms - simultaneously inhabiting both. They are composed of two elements: a material presence and a written document that gives account of the specific properties.

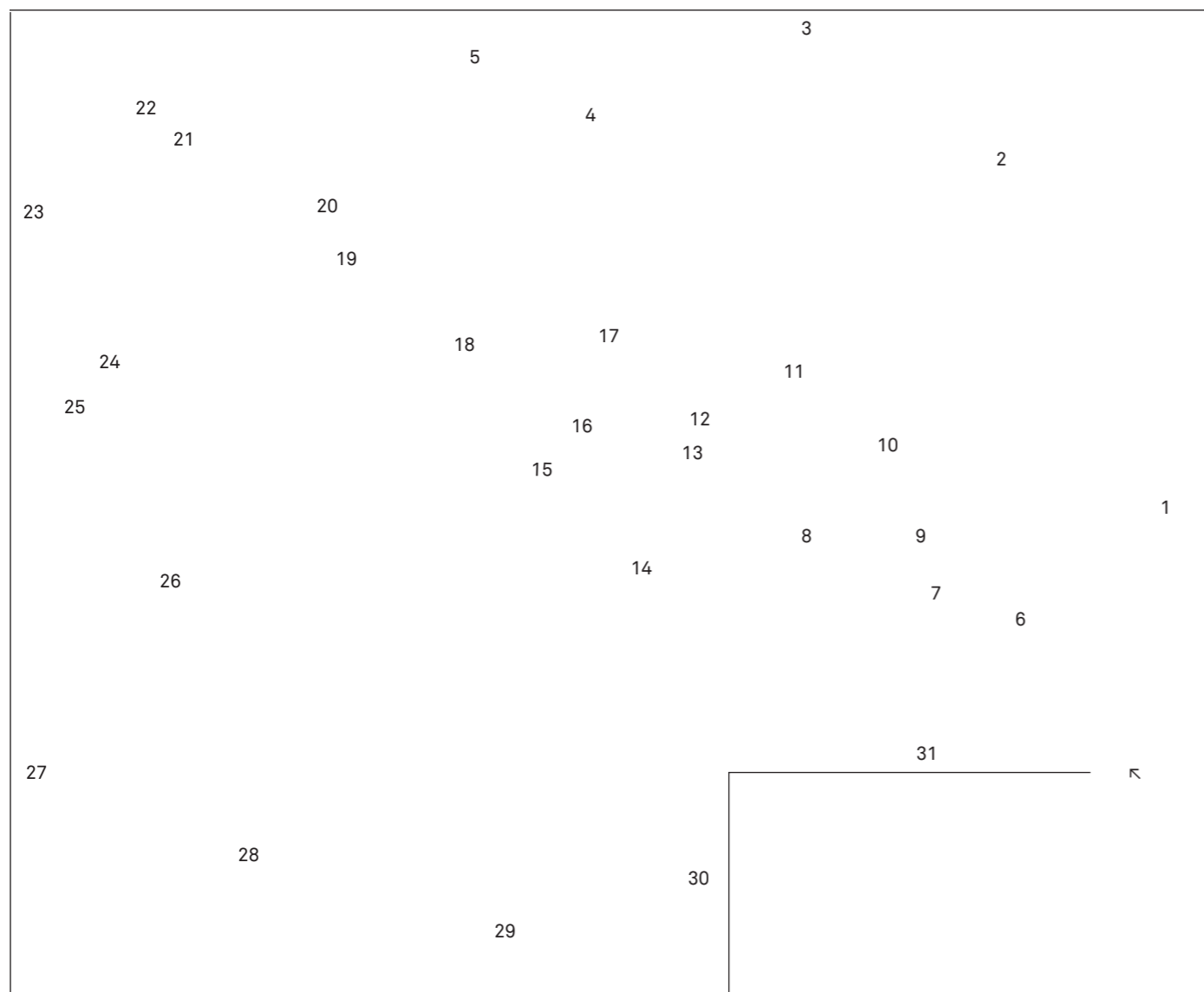
Several objects were never meant to be exhibited. *LXV* (2021) is a wooden, slightly deformed sphere that travelled with the help of two friends on a five month journey around the globe, only to return to the artists home thereafter. This performative act, carried out by vessels crossing oceans, postmen in Germany, Australia and the US, completed the work. The sphere today remains as artefact and evidence of this event. To install *XXXII* (2015), a small cast iron sphere needs to be buried beneath the ground, withdrawing itself from the possibility of being present. *LIII* (2019) claims to be a copy of *XIII* (2012), existing as its Doppelgänger. *LIV* (2020) takes on the name of its surrounding, a chameleon. It might be called *Hand* for as long as it is held, or named Shelf, Storage, and so on. *LXXXII* (2022) solely exists as its own number - it has no other form or representation.

For the exhibition, the two-part publication has been produced.

Daniel Gustav Cramer (b. 1975, Neuss, Germany) lives and works in Berlin.

Solo shows include Kunsthalle Mulhouse (FR), Salts, Biersfelden (CH), Kunsthhaus Glarus (CH), CAC Contemporary Art Center, Vilnius (LT), Kunstverein Nürnberg (DE), Documentahalle, Kassel (DE), Tongewölbe t25, Ingolstadt (DE). His work was presented in group shows, including dOCUMENTA(13), Kassel, (DE); Manifesta 14, Prishtine (XK); Palais de Tokyo, Paris, (FR), Mudam, Luxemburg (LU), Witte de With, Rotterdam (NL), Renaissance Society, Chicago (USA), Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt (DE); IAC FRAC, Villeurbanne (FR); Misk Art Center, Riyadh (KSA), Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo (JP), Artists Space, New York (EUA), Coleção Teixeira de Freitas at the Museu Coleção Berardo, Lisbon (PT).

His work is part of public and private collections, namely the Museo Reina Sofía Collection, Madrid (ES); CNAP, Paris (FR); Kadist, Paris / San Francisco; FRAC Île de France, Paris (FR); FRAC IAC Villeurbanne (FR); Laurent Fiévet Collection, Paris (FR); Pedro Barbosa Collection, Sao Paulo (BR); Coleção Teixeira de Freitas (PT); Pepe Kerenidis Collection, Paris (FR); Collection Yvon Lambert, Avignon (FR); Nouveau Musée National de Monaco (MC); New York Public Library, NYC (USA); Michalski Foundation, Montricher, Switzerland; Foundation Otazu, Pamplona (ES); Sammlung zeitgenössischer Kunst der BRD, Bonn (DE).



1. **XXXIX**, 2016  
White metal stick  
190x0.8x0.8 cm  
Steel pole leaning against a wall, powder coated

2. **LXXXI**, 2022  
Wooden sphere in metal box  
188 g, ø 4.5 cm / 37x27x35 cm  
Found wooden sphere inside closed brushed metal cuboid

3. **XCV**, 2023  
Metal plate  
22x3x1.5 cm  
Object installed vertically on a wall

4. **C**, 2023  
100 metal spheres  
4348 g, ø 6 – 28 mm  
Group of one-hundred objects

5. **VIII**, 2012  
Metal stick, burnished, erected in a vertical position  
225x0.8x0.8 cm  
Metal rod placed perpendicular to the floor

6. **XIII**, 2012  
Cast iron sphere  
2261 g, ø 8.2 cm  
Sphere placed in a corner

7. **LXIV**, 2021  
Wooden sphere  
682 g, ø 11.3 cm  
A sphere that is not considered a work

8. **LXXI**, 2021  
3 bronze objects, hand beaten  
12 cm, ø 30 cm / 16 cm, ø 38 cm / 9 cm, ø 24 cm  
Each object represents one-third of a complete sphere

9. **LXI**, 2020  
Wooden sphere  
612 g, ø 11.7 cm  
The object can only be acquired as a gift to another person. A certificate includes the names of both the buyer and the recipient

10. **LXV**, 2021  
Wooden sphere  
168 g, ø 7.4 cm  
A sphere that traveled the globe. In 2017, an object was shipped from Berlin to Sale, a small town 200 km west of Melbourne, Australia. It continued its journey to Los Angeles, crossed the Atlantic and returned to Berlin. The entire trip spanned a duration of approx. five months. Organised with the support of Anne Albrecht (USA) and Leon Firth (AUS)

11. **LXIX**, 2021  
Wooden sphere  
17.7 kg, ø 35 cm  
The object's weight equals that of an average coyote

12. **LXXXVI**, 2022  
Cast iron sphere wrapped in fabric  
7200 g, ø 12.8 cm  
Antique fabric purchased from a market in Tokyo in 2019

13. **XXXIV**, 2015  
Cast iron sphere  
2229 g, ø 8.2 cm  
Placed in immediate vicinity to another artwork

14. **LIV**, 2020  
Wooden sphere  
321 g, ø 9.5 cm  
An object that takes on the name of its surrounding

15. **LXXXIV**, 2022  
Wooden sphere  
3024 g, ø 16.6 cm  
Object titled "Sunrise"

16. **XCI**, 2022  
Black sphere  
295 g, ø 9.9 cm  
Wooden sphere painted with the darkest black paint available, currently Musou Black, produced in Ageo-City, Saitama-Prefecture, Japan

17. **LXIII**, 2021  
Cast iron sphere  
3636 g, ø 10.2 cm  
Placed in complete darkness

18. **LXXV**, 2022  
Metal sphere  
2262 g, ø 8.1 cm  
The object's weight equals that of an average mallard couple

19. **CI**, 2023  
Wooden sphere  
938 g, ø 12.6 cm  
The sphere is jointly owned by two individuals in an equitable partnership, ensuring an equal stake for both parties. While one of the individuals has the option to sell their share of the sphere, the other will maintain partial ownership throughout the process

20. **XCII**, 2022  
Stone sphere  
466 g, ø 6.9 cm  
The sphere serves as a paperweight

21. **XCIV**, 2023  
Cast iron sphere  
64 g, ø 2.6 cm  
(witness)

22. **LIX**, 2020  
Found cast iron sphere, metal tripod, wire, burnished  
57x57x54 cm, ø 6 cm  
Metal object suspended from a tripod stand

23. **LXX**, 2021  
A hole in a wall  
ø 1 cm, depth 10 cm

24. **LXXVII**, 2021  
Cast iron sphere on burnished metal table  
260 g, ø 5 cm / 22.1x13.6x10.2 cm  
Sphere positioned at the center on the table

25. **LXXIII**, 2021  
Cast iron sphere under burnished metal table  
260 g, ø 5 cm / 22.1x13.6x10.2 cm  
Sphere positioned at the center under the table

26. **CIV**, 2023  
Wooden spheres in box, metal box  
Spheres 280 g, ø 9.8 cm each  
Box 41x29x11.8 cm  
Nine antique wooden spheres gathered in a partly brushed, partly burnished metal box

27. **XLI**, 2016  
Polished metal stick, concrete pieces  
110 cm, ø 1.1 cm  
Hand-polished steel stick, two concrete stands. Installed on a wall or placed on the floor

28. **LXXII**, 2021  
Rusted iron sphere on burnished metal table  
5300 g, ø 11.7 cm / 55x55x7 cm

29. **XC**, 2022  
7 Japanese ukidamas  
66 g, ø 6 cm / 231 g, ø 10.1 cm / 291 g, ø 10.4 cm / 803 g, ø 17.1 cm / 147 g, ø 8.6 cm / 144 g, ø 8.5 cm / 177 g, ø 8.4 cm  
Glass spheres found over a period of several years at beaches around Point Hope, Alaska, acquired in 2014

30. **CII**, 2023  
Metal plate  
27x9x1.2 cm  
Installed vertically on a wall

31. **LXXVI**, 2022  
3 wooden spheres  
586 g, ø 9.7 cm / 592 g, ø 9.8 cm / 585 g, ø 9.8 cm  
Three spheres arranged on the floor in a configuration where each sphere touches the other two

32. **LXXX**, 2022  
4 glass spheres  
1255 g, ø 10 cm / 1218 g, ø 10 cm / 1272 g, ø 10 cm / 1270 g, ø 10 cm  
Positioned in the four corners of the office of Galeria Vera Cortes

33. **CIII**, 2023  
Blue-coloured ukidama  
242 g, ø 7 cm  
In July 2009, the owner of Funayuki, a ryokan situated on an island off Yakushima, Japan, gave me an ukidama as a farewell gift. This glass sphere was released on 19th of September 2023 into the River Tejo in Lisbon, Portugal

34. **LXXXII**, 2022  
This object solely exists as its number (LXXXII). It has no other form or representation.