

t o m a s s c h m i t : „rauschebaum und zeisigkeit“

[cardboard box 24x32x1,5 cm, label on the lid, in the lid numbered, dated, signed; 17 drawings 21,5x30,5 cm, pencil and colour pencils; 1979; edition of 25/11 copies]

after „sch/8“ (1971), „2t sch8l“, „die quadratur des kreises“, „nvex & ncav & co“, „fünfte schachtel“, and „utopia“ – and before „pellkarto/ffel/n“ and „über das gewinnen von blumentöpfen“ (1995) – this is the seventh of my nine hundredmark-editions. and that is with me: a box of (in this case:) 17 drawings in an edition of (in this case:) 27 copies. that is, each of the 17 drawings is done 27 times. not, that i would make a drawing and then copy it 26 times! there are certain as well head- as hand- techniques that guarantee the same degree of originality to each. or the other way round: a drawing that is to be done 20 (lowest edition) to 32 (highest) times, must be conceived clear and slender, and that’s just good for most of my pieces. – the above is true as for the first six editions, most of this one, and great parts of the ninth. sheets 1, 2, and 17 of this one break up this praxis in a massive way, so that i made the eighth, sort of horrified, quite different: no drawing-in-edition, just different drawings.... -- hallo guinness book: for these 9 editions i produced three thousand and nine hundred and thirty-eight (in words: 3.938) original drawings and objects! the title: what it says is something like „rushing tree and siskinity“.

what it means is something like „spanish embrace and tiny crime“ or „sparrow trace and tiger slime“ – „spaniel race and tipsy dime“ – „sparkling face and tinder lime“ – „spade place and tidal clime“ – „spare grace and titanic prime“ – „spatter pace and tilt sublime“ – „span lace and titmouse grime“ – etc....

i mean, there is something in it, really IN IT, as well in spa|||||||||||||ace as in ti|||||||||||||ime !

sheet by sheet:

1 and 2 introduce the tree as sign for space und the birds as sign for time (sheet 15 at the latest shows, that it also would work the other way round...) – as juicy as possible in view of the dryness of the coming. two little reference jokes: space is involved in 1, in that i made it from all sorts of positions, apart from sitting at my table: standing on the chair above it, crouching blind under it, moving around it, etc.; and time is involved in 2, in that i always after one bird drew something else before i drew the next one.

3: the pencil strokes between the red bars. in the time section, below: one stroke after the other from left to right. in the space section, above: the first stroke in the middle of the field, the next two strokes in the middles of the now two fields, the next four strokes in the middles of the now four fields, etc. etc..

4: „the siskin is a feature of the tree, the tree is a feature of the siskin.“ – the hatching was done before the outline.

5: there are not many among my pieces which i r e a l l y like ! ...

6: a german for-the-child motto: „scissor, knife, fork, and a light / are not for small children quite“: by scissor from plane to line -- by knife from space to plane -- by what FROM WHAT to space???

7: all directions and though one, one direction and though all. some arrows and a decisive one.

8: „small system with big radius, big system with small radius“. how about: instead of infinitely many points around 1 centre, infinitely many centres around one point?, in one point?... well well–

9: „geschichte“ (in german the word for history and story): the completeness of the existence of what-ever-it-is?

10: two groups of points; 11: two groups of lines; 12: one line as group of two.

13: here one has to know, and so i have to say: in german, at least in week-day german, „peacock“ and „V“ sound absolutely the same. the peacock is in the drawing, the v is the central point of the other piece.

14: even clearer still than 5?!...

15: finally!: the fly flying for space und the fly sitting for time.

16: two symbols emancipated and contenting instead of...

17: i call it kontiki. you have your own dream. that’s alright. t.s., 1987/14.7.2003