

THE LARGE GLASS

Bethan Huws and the Kamm Collection

November 30 to the end of February 2014



Installationsansicht, 2008

The acclaimed British artist Bethan Huws (b. 1961) will present a combination of works from various phases of her own oeuvre and selected works from the Kamm Collection Foundation. Seen through the eyes of the artist, new aspects of the collection will be made visible. With her characteristic openness and precision she will continue the series of contemporary artists like Richard Tuttle, Pavel Pepperstein or Christoph Rütimann who have worked with the Kunsthau collection.

Her open and precise play with correspondences and analogies promises to be especially illuminating because the art of the early twentieth century plays an important role for Bethan Huws. Intensively and accurately, she sets her artistic sights particularly on the work of Marcel Duchamp.

Huws's oeuvre is highly versatile and includes works on paper as well as sculptural and three-dimensional objects, text works, and also films. Aesthetically and in terms of content, it is a highly complex and yet coherent body of work, not confined to any particular genre, but distinguished by extremely poetic and sensual elements. Often there are open or hidden references to her own biography, to the role of the artist in society, or to the difficulties of translation – the artist's native language is Welsh, and English her first foreign language.

Especially for the exhibition, the artist will execute a large-scale work which – in terms of material and color alike – will respond to a glass vessel created around one hundred years ago by the Austrian Josef Hoffmann during the golden age of Viennese Modernism. Huws's piece will reinterpret that work and point out the topical relevance of Hoffmann as a designer. At the same time, taking the form of a "large glass" it will also refer to Duchamp's magnum opus of the same name.

Bethan Huws is thus continuing a series of newly executed works referring to older works from the Kunsthau Zug, so that a collection about the collection is gradually taking shape.

Curator: Marco Obrist