

GITTE SCHÄFER

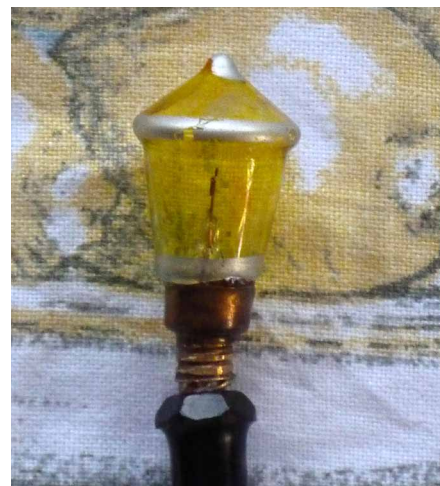
THE BLACKBIRD, A PIECE IN 5 SCENIC DESIGNS

25 January to 2 March 2014

KMD - Kunsthalle Marcel Duchamp

Place d'Armes | Quai de l'Indépendance

CH-1096 Cully



Simmental, 7 January 2014

Dear Caroline and Stefan,

The exhibition is called *The Blackbird, a Piece in Five Scenic Designs*. I'd like to fill each of the openings of KMD with a stage set. Found objects – a saucer, a place mat, lottery tickets, an ink drawing by my grandmother and a Dutch landscape woven into an embroidered picture by the stitches of a woollen thread – serve as the backdrop to a diorama with “actors” additionally present or placed in front.

East: 1st Act - The Hunter

An idyllic blue-and-white landscape on the saucer of an English tea set: rural gentility, a hunter with his dog carrying in its mouth the pheasant that his master has shot. Blue and white symbolise good favour and friendship.

South: 2nd Act - Mistaken Identity

Detail of a cotton place mat, an intimated room, a bowl of lemons: in front of them a lantern made with a lightbulb and a cigarette holder. In Jewish culture the lemon symbolises the human heart, and in the Middle Ages it provided protection from witchcraft. Light-blue and yellow stand for the joy of life.

West: 3rd Act - Chance; or the Forces Inherent in Stone

A quartz crystal in front of Musikgesellschaft Erlenbach lottery tickets. The crystal contains all creative potential within itself. Pink stands for a delicate nature and purity of disposition.

North: 4th Act - The Windmill

A knitted Dutch landscape with a windmill, accompanied by a Christmas crib donkey as a performer. In Greek mythology, the ass is the companion of the God of immortal vitality. Violet stands for perseverance and resolve. Green symbolises nature, hope, immortality and happiness. The English word *mill* stems from the late Latin *molina*. The Ancient Greek *mýllein* meant *to grind, press the lips together* or, figuratively, *sexual intercourse*. The related *myllós* designated the female genitals.

The windmill, which symbolises the harvest of the fruits of human labour, is also a storehouse for seed and can represent the feminine or the mother in dreams.

Heavenwards: 5th Act - The Harvest

Rural peasant life in contre-jour: a fine, silhouette-like ink drawing by my grandmother Paula. Peasants shouldering their scythes and rakes return home from the fields.

The Blackbird, a Piece in Five Scenic Designs, is a visualised dream about the ambiguous metaphors in relations between things.

Kind regards

Gitte