

Thomas Bayrle Until 12 May

All-In-One
WIELS Contemporary Art Centre, Brussels
www.wiels.org

Quote: 'You let things fall, from one hierarchy to another, and then you put them together again. The world is not a fixed image. It is always necessary to blow up the universe of things, or to reduce it to a grain of sand or into molecule clouds in order to reconstruct it in the imagination.'

Description: This exhibition offers an occasion to discover (or rediscover) Thomas Bayrle's 40-year career. A pioneering figure of European Pop Art, Bayrle has only recently started to get the recognition he has long merited. Over the years, he has realized a coherent yet tremendously varied body of work. Characterized by the obsessive repetition of tiny images, Bayrle's artistic production is rooted in his commitment to the political, social and cultural aspects of collectivism and the dangers of uniformity. With a clever use of mass imagery endlessly repeated, his works are often humorous. But this quality goes hand in hand with an anxiety about conformism, especially in regard to religion and sex. Although highly patterned, the pieces are never purely decorative – a strong vein of social criticism runs through his oeuvre.

