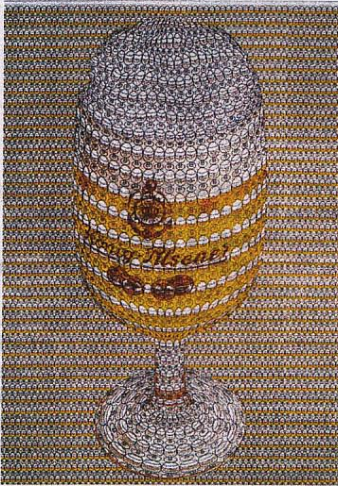


**BELGIUM - BRUSSELS  
WIELS**

**Thomas Bayrle**

February 9 - May 12



Born in Berlin in 1937, Thomas Bayrle has been one of the most important figures – and one of the most original – in the development of German art after World War II, and along with Gerard Richter and Sigmar Polke, is considered a founder of the German Pop movement. One should also keep in mind that from 1975

to 2002, Bayrle had the chance to contribute – as a teacher – to training several generations of artists, both German and international, at the Städelschule in Frankfurt, a hub of creativity through which some of the most brilliant artistic minds of the last few decades have passed. All of this by way of saying that despite his enormous influence – which is far from nearing its end – Thomas Bayrle is a figure still relatively unfamiliar to the general public, who has continued to linger in a dimension of intense, conscious laterality, the same position shared by other great artists close to him such as Charlotte Posenenske or Peter Roehr, and that's anything but unfortunate.

The show at WIELS offers visitors the artist's first retrospective in Belgium and his most complete ever, centered on the need to put Bayrle's work into a context which also includes the history within which it developed, allowing visitors to observe how in some particularly felicitous cases, art truly becomes a question of encounters and epiphanies, a tool that can be pivotal in helping us understand the changes of history and the evolution in our way of thinking.

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