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The 6th season of the Artist’s Institute: Thomas Bayrle

February 27 2013
6:12 PM

Receiving a newsletter or a tweet like “The sixth season at The Artist’s Institute is dedicated to Thomas Bayrle” has the power to hit you like something announcing a new era’s advent. Anthony Huberman’s goal as director to structure the program as a sequence of “seasons,” devoting each of these to the inquiry of a single artist’s practice results in offering to a New York audience a daring blend of entainment and study, pace and laxness that seems far from the gasping schedules of most of art institutions nowadays. To that end, the Artist’s Institute has proven to be a platform where art speculates about art, without inexorably stressing the canonical formats of cultural production and circulation. The “season” focusing on Thomas Bayrle will last until next July. “[Bayrle’s] work tries to locate where the individual stops and the ornament begins”, the season’s bulletin reads; “cells and bodies, people and icons, threads and woven fabric, cars and traffic, prayers and religion, image and pattern, sex and porn.” Over the course of the next months, the artist will accumulate new pieces in the exhibition space, leading to a reconfiguration of the display. Meanwhile, a wide range of art practitioners—including Andrei Koschmieder, Lena Henke, Erik & Harald Thys, Jordan Wolfson, among others—has been invited to pay homage to Bayrle. A survey of the artist’s work is running in parallel at WIELS, in Brussels, until May 12. (Michele D’Aurizio)