

RRFA 01: Robert Rauschenberg papers

Interviews: Gercke, Hans / Questions on the Color Blue / Heidelberger Kunstverein, 1988

Robert Rauschenberg

P.O. Box 54, Captiva, Florida 33924

August 2, 1988

Mr. Andreas Bee
Moltkestrabe 27
D-6900 Heidelberg
West Germany

Dear Mr. Bee,

In response to Mr. Hans Gercke's letter of July 14 regarding the planned exhibition and catalog tracing the path of "The Color Blue," Mr. Rauschenberg has answered the questions posed:

1. What significance does the color blue have for you?

RR: Space.

2. Which work of art or artist do you think of in connection with "blue"?

RR: Picasso.

3. What is in your opinion the "bluest" blue?

RR: Lapislazuli.

4. The work of art relating to the theme "blue" that means most to you?

RR: Yves Klein.

Cordially,

Bradley J. Fray
Ms. Bradley J. Fray
Assistant to
Robert Rauschenberg

Mr. Robert Rauschenberg
381 Lafayette Street
New York, N.Y. 10003

USA

7/14/88 ge-db

"Someone might consider writing a monograph on the color blue."
(R. M. Rilke)

Dear Mr. Rauschenberg,

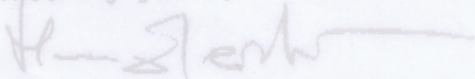
the Heidelberger Kunstverein has decided to translate this idea of Rilke's into action, for the occasion of the inauguration of its new building in the summer of 1989. It is therefore our plan to trace the path of "The Color Blue" (our working title) through art and art history, beginning with the Middle Age, and, as far as possible, to present the results in a large-scale exhibition. Chief emphasis will be placed on the art of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Thus we are not primarily interested in putting together as varied as possible a collection of works of art that are blue; instead, we would much rather prod people into giving this heretofore too little illuminated phenomenon some thought. Our goal is to apprehend the meaning of the color blue in each individual work of art, and also to follow the artist's intentions as much as possible. Thus, in addition to comprehensive observations, it will important to discuss the relevance to our theme in each individual instance.

I am preparing the exhibition personally. The extensive exhibition catalogue is to include among other things an "Appendix", for which Andreas Bee and Christmut Präger are responsible. In this separate section, in the form of a collection of quotations, we would like to give as wide a survey as possible of the opinions of contemporary artists and people familiar with art.

We would be pleased if you would support our project with a discursive contribution of whatever nature. The enclosed questionnaire may serve as a loose, repeat: loose guideline. All advice or indications of any sort will be welcome.

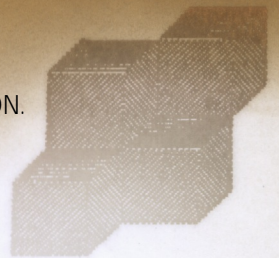
Sincerely yours,



Hans Gercke

-Director-

P.S.: Please send your contribution to one of the following addresses:
Andreas Bee, Moltkestraße 27, D-6900 Heidelberg
Christmut Präger, Kaiserstraße 66, D-6900 Heidelberg



- 1 What significance does the color blue have for you?
- 2 Which work of art or artist do you think of in connection with "blue"?
- 3 What is in your opinion the "bluest" blue?
- 4 The work of art relating to the theme "blue" that means most to you?

1 Space

2 Picasso

3 Lappis (SP?)

4 ~~five~~ Klein