

PRESS RELEASE



GALERIE ART CRU BERLIN · ORANIENBURGER STRASSE 27 · 10117 BERLIN-MITTE
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BLACK HOLES AND BLACK FRIDAY (2 BUT NOT 2) ANTHONY STEVENS

Vernissage: Thursday, 06.04.2017, 7 pm
Exhibition: 07.04. – 27.05.2017
Opening Hours: Tue–Saturday, 12–6 pm
Galerie ART CRU Berlin, Oranienburger Str. 27, 10117 Berlin-Mitte, Germany
Introduction: Dr. Hansdieter Erbsmehl
Art historian

Galerie ART CRU Berlin shows works by UK based textile artist **Anthony Stevens**. Using delicate embroidery on scrap fabrics and other materials, the artist creates raw and playful images.

As a child, Anthony Stevens was already surrounded by textiles. Years later, he decided to use a needle and thread as his form of creative expression. His work is made distinct by figurative and comic style portrayals that are embroidered on his chosen fabric and partly sewn together with many layers, out of many different pieces of fabric.

His visual perceptions are playful and full of subtext that can be deciphered by the written comments that compliment the figures. The artist, who has studied Nichiren Buddhism, explains that he sees the images in his mind's eye while chanting the mantra, "Nam Myoho Renge Kyo." Roughly translated, the meaning is: "I devote myself to the supreme law of the universe." During his embroidery work process, the motives develop several levels of meaning. They convey worldly wisdoms or formulated criticism, e.g. consumer behavior in "Black Friday." In the visual world of Anthony Stevens one can find the amusing, the wondering, and the threatening, as in the recurring motives of a dog, a crowned bird, of penises or combat boots and hand grenades in "Brute Force."

As work material the artist quite intentionally chooses scraps of fabric or stripes and sees himself in the position to find potential in what may seem useless or beyond repair. With this decision, the autodidact sees a very important parallel to his own partly traumatic life and experiences, which he realizes in his works, and describes as "dancing with (his) inner dynamics" - always in search of a constructive rhythm.

Anthony Stevens' works have been shown in numerous group and solo exhibitions in et al. Frankfurt, Brighton and London.

Trägerverein:
PS-Art e.V. Berlin
Oranienburger Straße 27
10117 Berlin-Mitte

Vorstand:
Alexandra von Gersdorff-Bultmann
Ralph Stabbert
Wolfram Voigtländer

Spendenkonto:
Bank für Sozialwirtschaft
IBAN: DE42100205000001082600
BIC: BFSWDE33BER

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Galerie ART CRU Berlin is Berlin's only gallery for so-called Outsider Art since 2008. The term (introduced in 1945 by painter Jean Dubuffet as "Art Brut") refers to art by people with psychiatric disorders or mental disabilities. We are convinced that the particular perceptions these artists have allow them to create art of high authenticity. With our exhibitions we present works by "outsiders" as a crucial part of contemporary art and aim to foster discourse within the established art world. Being located at the Kunsthof on Oranienburger Straße, the gallery presents works by people with disabilities right in the centre of Berlin's art scene. Galerie ART CRU Berlin is backed by the non-profit federation PS-Art e.V. Berlin – a network of different institutions.

For its five-year jubilee the gallery published a chronicle comprising all exhibition catalogues from 2008-13. In 2014 we took part at the *Outsider Art Fair* in *Paris*, the world's leading fair in this field. The same year saw the nomination of five artists from the network of PS-Art e.V. Berlin for the international art prize *euward*.

For further information and images please contact us:

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For printable image material please contact: galerie@art-cru.de



Modern Man, mixed textiles
hand embroidery, acrylics, 33x28,



Brute Force, mixed textiles,
hand embroidery, acrylics, 72x75



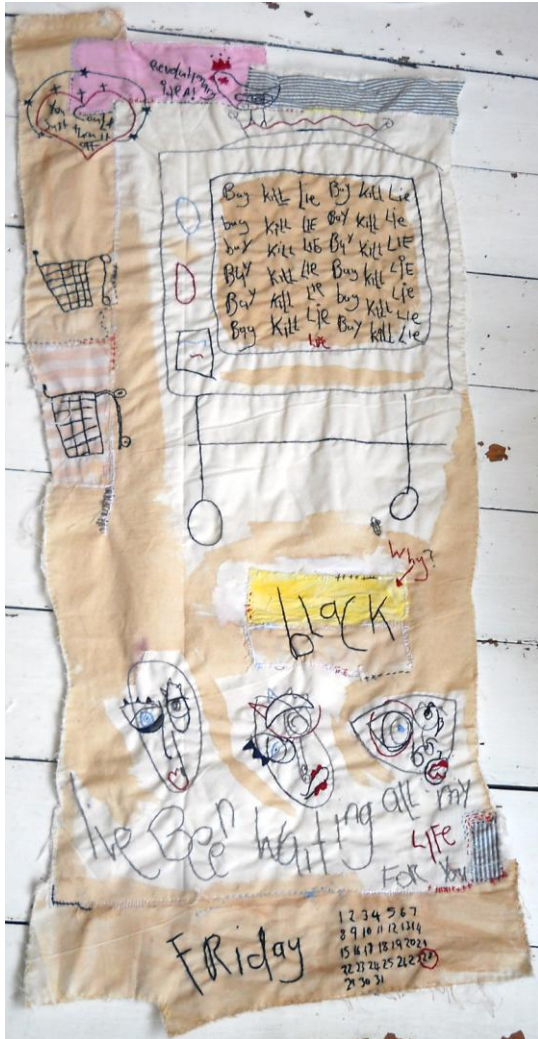
Wake Up!!!, mixed textiles, hand embroidery, black ink, 24x69

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Black Friday, mixed textiles, tea,
hand embroidery, acrylic, 106x43



Is it cooked yet, mixed textiles,
hand embroidery, acrylic, 28x30

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