

## OUT OF SERVICE 2020 - new paintings by Alex Spremberg

Making a painting is closely connected with choosing an appropriate ground/surface. Traditionally, images were painted on walls (fresco), then wood and later canvas. The move from fixed to portable grounds unmoored them from their original site. The spatial dislocation resulted in the liberation from a rigid context. However, it also placed them in a “nowhere space” without a relation to the world around them. From then on, paintings were only situated in time and within a historical context. That led them to be disengaged from daily life and eventually perceived as elitist.

Since I began investigating the conditions of painting, I have tried to incorporate materials and objects from our environment into the conversation of art. Objects such as matchboxes, cardboard boxes, newspapers, shopping trolleys, records and record covers, photographs and magazine pages have all served as surfaces for painting. To paint on quotidian items is different than painting on an empty canvas. Some information is already present and has to be related to or incorporated into the work.

In this new series of paintings “Out of Service”, trays and tablets have been utilised to function as painting grounds. Ordinarily, they are used to serve food and drinks and are usually made from a variety of materials such as wood, metal, plastic, ceramic or porcelain. Often they have been decorated with images, patterns or other visual marks that are not related to their function. By painting over the already existing marks and displaying them on the wall like paintings, the emphasis has shifted. The once functional objects can now be considered in a visual context.

Service is a concept that has several meanings. It is derived from the Latin *servitium*, meaning slavery, and from *servus* meaning ‘slave’. The slave serves the master. Besides the serving of food and drinks, the term is used within the context of charity, assistance and devotion. People can serve in the armed services, or they can serve a jail sentence, or they can attend a funeral service. A car needs servicing. A court issues a summons that can be served. It is also used as a term in the game of tennis if my memory serves me right.

*“I am interested in showing and finding out where paintings can appear in our everyday life. A painting isn’t supposed to be on a wall, or locked in a room. They can be anywhere. It doesn’t have a fixed location—traditionally, it’s only in the last 200 or 300 years that we began to carry paintings around, selling them and hanging them in different locations, which I think is also great.*

*But a painting can be on a rock, in a church, or on the side of a house. It can be on stamps, or in books—basically anywhere. (Katharina Grosse, artnet.com Kate Brown12. Aug.2020)*



new paintings by  
**ALEX SPREMBERG**

SEPT 26TH TO NOV 21ST 2020  
OFFICIAL OPENING  
OCTOBER 3RD 5:30 PM

**BETWEEN THE EYE AND THE HEART  
LOST EDEN CREATIVE**

58 MCLARTY ST DWELLINGUP PH 041995586: