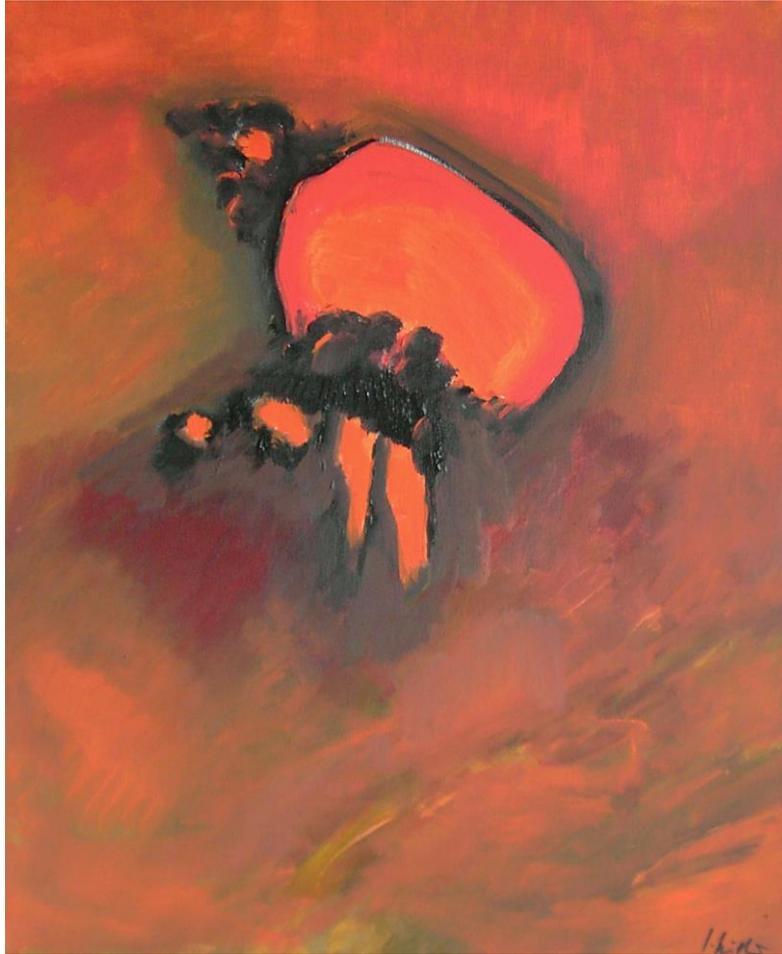


AUGUST 2019

AUGUST 20th



A date in the calendar, a day like any other day, not even marked in red.

But to me it always felt like an important day, my birthday.

As a child I even took a certain pride in being born into the world population exactly on that day. It was my day as nobody else in our small village celebrated his cradle party on August 20. Where at that time in our circles one did not celebrate either children's parties nor big fetes, one had other problems. One could choose the birthday meal from normal daily menus, presents one got at Christmas, and yet the day had its special magic.

I still remember that once as a child I checked in January on the new wall calendar if one maybe had forgotten about the important day, only to find out that it was even marked in red. A Sunday, yes, nothing but right, after all...

Usually it had been a warm even hot day. The egg plums were ripe and the first butter pears got gouged by wasps and hornets.

Every year on the Sunday after my birthday kermis was hold in the village; this also had to hold inner correlations, and one just had to accept that in that week the school holidays were over and the rules of daily school life had to be followed again. But it still diminished the joy slightly; even if

one is entitled to choose the morning song on that particular morning, it was only a small consolation.

The more the intellectual abilities developed the more the importance of that day got lost. One only counted the even numbers.

Looking for a job on my 20th birthday, bringing my class on the school trip on my 30th, on my 40th friends dragged me to the sea and I experienced the sunburn of my life...

... the 80th I nearly forgot.

The day somehow lost its magic. Meanwhile I also know that this day is other people's birthday, too, (all nice people) and that all the global political or catastrophic events on that day have nothing to do with me, that kermis always takes place on the 4th Sunday in August and that the pear tree meanwhile has fallen victim to a road extension.