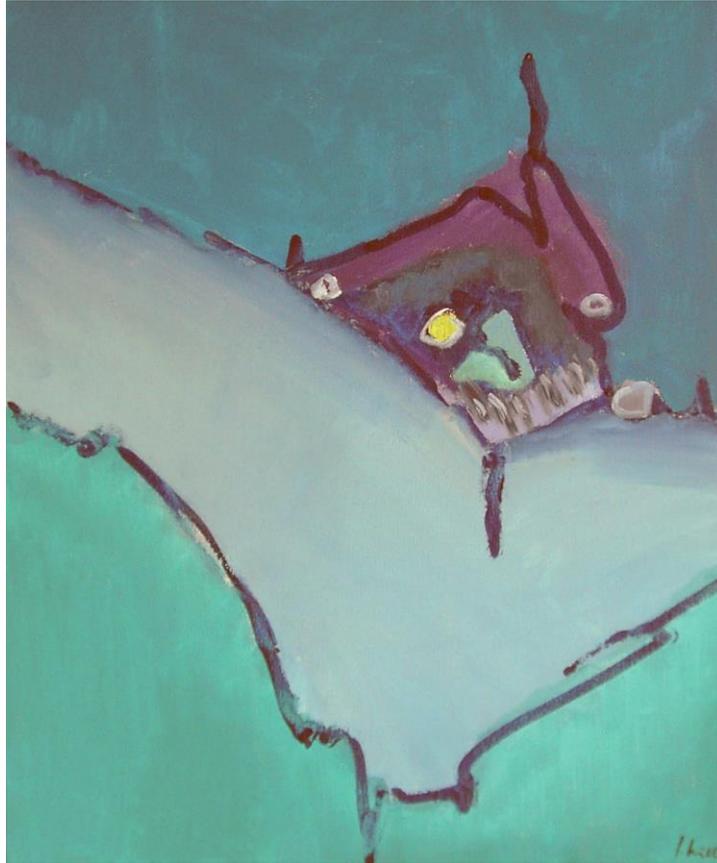


SEPTEMBER 2017

Who is afraid of...



Acrylics 50 x 60 cm

Who is afraid of climate change, poisoned eggs, fine dust load, dying forests, headscarves or free thinkers? Who is really so concerned about these things that he could not sleep calmly at night? Even sincere and convinced protesters are probably more interested in the event itself than in its goal. There is action in a protest rally without something ever going to change. At least the raging people's soul finds a valve to let off a bit of steam. Perhaps one should be more likely afraid of the people who want to scare us and of the ones who make profit of our fears, but also of the ones who want to save us.

Who's afraid of the bogeyman? A childhood's game that today can have a different meaning: Who is afraid of the stranger? Why at all? Where is the scary bit? Probably only because the colour of his skin is different, because he speaks a different language? At the time at Sunday school there was this little African figure, a curly head, painted black, sticking out of a white coat which if you threw some money into the collecting box, nodded in prayers. But this little black thing was not the bogeyman, it was the 'goodness' from Sunday school, the 'other one' was the 'evil', the bogeyman who tried to catch us.

Another game from those days: First we sang 'We are coming from the black land and black are our ears, Master give us work otherwise lost we will be!' and then we mimed it all. At this time the fear of unemployment was the huge fear of poverty, misery and starvation.

Today, who is afraid of unemployment, poverty, hunger? This fear is still here. Existential fears of the super rich included.

Who is afraid of boredom? Nowadays maybe the most common fear. Entertaining industry, endless streams of tourists, senseless shopping, are some signs of our boredom.

Who is afraid of the presence? of terrorism? of the neighbours? This string of questions seems to be endless. Therefore only this last one:

Who is afraid of modern art?