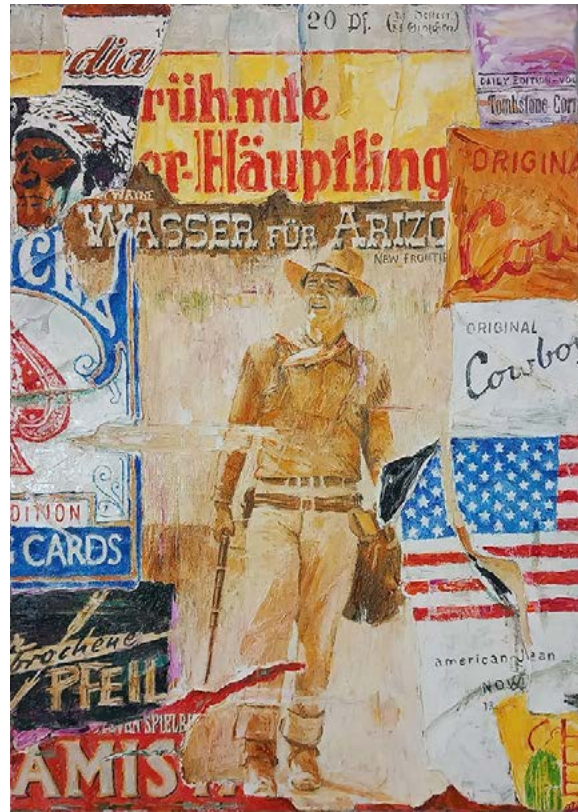




Mauer IV, Element minus 53, The Last Drop From His Stetson



Mauer IV, Element minus 52, Wasser für Arizona.

„Wasser für Arizona“ is the German title of the John Wayne movie „The New Frontier“. „New Frontier“ fits well with President „John F. Kennedys New Frontier campaign and with the „New Frontier“ Comics series, or with the „Frontier Marshall“ - all these motifs I quote in the previous Elements.

Funny thing is, that the front cover of my dvd of the movie „Wasser für Arizona“ (The New Frontier) shows John Wayne as Hondo. Hondo is a completely different movie, from the year 1953, whereas New Frontier is from 1935. This is strange and misleading!

I picked up that motif anyway, because the title „Wasser für Arizona“ (water for Arizona) is just great and John Wayne walking tall fits perfect with the Marlboro Man in Element minus 49 and with Gary Cooper in Element minus 50.

The movie „Wasser für Arizona“ is about the fight of honest farmers against bad capitalists and tycoons at the beginning of the 20th century. The good old days of the Wild West are gone and the values of the West, like freedom, brotherhood and bravery, are under pressure, because of progress, greed and the hunger for profit and dollars.

Another famous Arizona Western is „Broken Arrow“ from 1950. It's based on the 1947 novel „Bloodbrother“ by Elliott Arnold. The historical background is the peace treaty from 1870 (1872) between US government and Apache tribes. The friendship between Cochise, the famous Indian Chief, and the US Scout Tom Jeffords is an important part of the story.

On the painting I quote the German title of the movie, which is „Der gebrochene Pfeil“.

Famous Indian Chiefs is in German „Berühmte Indianer Häuptlinge“. I placed this pulp booklet, that I've found in Berlin on the fleemarket, right on top of John Wayne.

And there's another legend, that fits perfect into my chain of associations. Rumors say that a young Marion Morrison (John Wayne) was working as a prop boy in Hollywood on the set of John Ford and met Wyatt Earp, who in his old days was a consultant for Western Movies.

This leads to the upper right corner of Element minus 52, where we see a fragment of a newspaper. It's the 10.27th 1881 frontpage of The Tombstone Epitaph with a report about the shootout at the O.K. Corral (Oct. 26th 1881) between the Earp brothers and Doc Holliday against the Clantons and members of a gang of out-laws called „Cowboys“. But Cowboy is the name of a jeans brand too. I found this label in a jeans and workwear store in Manhattan.

The Earps - even though they were Marshals - owned saloons and were gamblers. Doc Holliday was a professional gambler too. At that time the most popular card game was "Faro". That's why I quote a deck of cards, Bicycle Faro Edition.

This card game has its origins in France in the 17th century and was originally called Pharao. The short name Faro took over, when it became popular in Britain and in the States. Pharao was the title for the divine monarchs of ancient Egypt. Cleopatra was the last Pharao of Egypt. Now it's the name of a cigarette brand, which I quote on Element minus 53.

Below John Wayne I've placed the Steven Spielbergs movie „Amistad“. The movie is about the famous story of the rebellion on the slaveship Amistad. Wikipedia Quote: „United States v. Schooner Amistad, 40 U.S. (15 Pet.) 518 (1841), was a United States Supreme Court case resulting from the rebellion of Africans on board the Spanish schooner La Amistad in 1839.[1] It was an unusual freedom suit that involved international diplomacy as well as United States law.“

On Element minus 49 I quoted a biography about John Quincy Adams, the 6th president of the US. I did that, because JFK wrote about him in his book „Profiles in Courage“ (see Element minus 48).

John Quincy Adams plays an important role in the story of the Amistad. His speech, as lawyer he was defending the case of the slaves, in front of the Supreme court, is a flaming appeal for the universality of human rights and the American constitution. Adams convinced the Supreme Court to set the slaves free. Freiheit is the German Word for freedom. So I placed the German newspaper „Freiheit“ right next to the Amistad on the succeeding next Element (minus 53). „Freiheit“ was the name of the newspaper of the USPD (independent social democratic party of Germany) in the Weimarer Republik.

In the center of Element minus 53 we find a Stetson ad „The Last Drop From His Stetson“.

Years ago I've found this ad in a Western store on Broadway, Manhattan and it fits perfect to the German title of the John Wayne movie: "Wasser für Arizona" (Water for Arizona). And isn't water getting increasingly scarce in Arizona nowadays?... (On Element minus 54, which is still in progress, I quote James Baldwin „The Fire Next Time“. The title of his essay goes back to a gospel: „God gave us the Rainbow sign. No more water, the fire next time)

Right next to the Bicycle Faro cards, I've placed a rent a bicycle sign. Motorcycles are two wheel vehicles too, and so Indian Motorcycles come to my mind, more so because the Indian Chief on that metal sign (I bought it years ago in San Francisco) matches with „Berühmte Indianer Häuptlinge.“ Within my research I've read a book, that I quote on the upper left side of the painting. It's a biography and a great book: „Doc Holliday - the life and legend“ by Gary Roberts.



Element minus 53
THE LAST DROP FROM HIS STETSON

Element minus 52
WASSER FÜR ARIZONA

Element minus 51
THE TOMBSTONE EPITAPH

Element minus 50
FRONTIER MARSHAL

Element minus 49
FRONTIER STORIES

Element minus 48
ZIVILCOURAGE