

Thomas Schnur

Book and exhibition "21 Common Things"

01 Green Plastic Watering Can

A green watering can triggers memories of my visits to a cemetery together with my grandmother when I was a child. A cemetery is a meeting place for her, and she used to go there twice a week to tend the grave and water the flowers. I remember the mass of watering cans hanging from a rack for use by visitors. Usually, there were far more watering cans than needed, except on religious holidays when they were all in use. As a child, and even today, I enjoy looking at the bright green color, in contrast to the grey natural stones that were forming the boundaries of the cemetery. The contrast between an industrial product and surrounding nature. I also remember that I loved to transport water from the water station to the grave: the first sensation was to fill the water in. Because the tap was four times bigger than at home, and to activate the water flow I had to jump on a black rubber button. Then I filled in the water, and the watering can, very lightweight at the beginning, increasingly became heavier corresponding to the amount of water I filled in. Today, the watering cans at the cemetery are no longer green: their color is yellow with 'cemetery' engraved on them, so they would no longer be stolen.