



*Friends in a Field: Conversations with Raoul De Keyser*

17.12.2022 – 21.5.2023

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Mu.ZEE is thrilled to announce *Friends in a Field: Conversations with Raoul De Keyser*, a group exhibition built around the work of the late Belgian artist Raoul De Keyser.

Over the course of his nearly five-decade career, Raoul De Keyser (1930–2012) operated in an aesthetic territory that bridged the concrete mysteries of the everyday and the intangible world of abstraction. Developing an artistic practice that celebrated the ephemeral and the transitory as well as the most mundane aspects of life, the artist playfully created a painterly oeuvre inhabited by daydreams. Deriving his at times indefinable forms from the world around us, or alternately constructing a painterly lexicon from chance encounters, errors, and unintended consequences, De Keyser produced works whose depth belies their apparent simplicity.

*Friends in a Field: Conversations with Raoul De Keyser* takes the artist's radical approach to an abstract painterly practice based on his own everyday experience as the beginning of a conversation with a diverse group of artists—both living and dead—whose work in different ways shares a similar openness. The connections between them are derived neither from an anxiety of influence nor from a slavish formal homology but rather from a shared sensibility and attentiveness to the fragile intangibility of the world. In their paintings, sculptures, and works on paper, these artists join De Keyser in translating what they see into material forms that present the world back to us as a kind of abstract visual poetry.

*Friends in a Field* brings together 40 paintings, 15 works on paper and 6 sculptures spanning seven decades by the fourteen artists on view. Whether in the intimately awkward yet full-throated embrace of abstract form in Amy Sillman's paintings, the impulsive gestural brushstrokes and biomorphic forms of the legendary mid-century gallerist and artist Betty Parsons, or the mysterious papier-mâché sculptural forms of Vincent Fecteau which oscillate between the architectural and the organic, each of the artists in this exhibition demonstrate an empathetic affinity with De Keyser's poetic vision.

Artists: **Richard Aldrich, Forrest Bess, Matt Connors, René Daniëls, Raoul De Keyser, Vincent Fecteau, Maysha Mohamedi, Rebecca Morris, Betty Parsons, Amy Sillman, Ricky Swallow, Patricia Treib, Luc Tuymans, and Lesley Vance.**

*Friends in a Field: Conversations with Raoul De Keyser* is curated by Los Angeles-based curators Hanneke Skerath and Douglas Fogle in collaboration with Mu.ZEE curator Ilse Roosens.

A publication designed by Purtil Family Business will be published by Mu.ZEE and Gregory R. Miller & Co. in Spring of 2023. The fully illustrated catalogue will include essays by the curators along with a broad selection of additional works by each of the artists in order to expand these conversations beyond of the confines of the exhibition.

### Exhibition curators

**Douglas Fogle** is an independent curator and writer based in Los Angeles. He is cofounder of the curatorial office STUDIO LBV and is currently Curator-in-Residence at Anderson Ranch Art Center in Aspen. His most recent exhibitions include *Reading a Wave* and *Masaomi Yasunaga: Intersection of Dreams* at Palomar, Pognana, Italy (2022); *Luisa Lambri: Autoritratto*, Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea, Milan (2021); *Shio Kusaka*, Neutra VDL Studio and Residences, Los Angeles (2020); *Mike Kelley: Fortress of Solitude* for NEON Foundation at the Museum of Cycladic Art, Athens (2017–18); and *Andy Warhol: Dark Star*, Museo Jumex, Mexico City (2017). Fogle has held curatorial positions at a number of institutions, including the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, where he was Deputy Director, Exhibitions and Programs and Chief Curator (2009–12); the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, where he was curator of contemporary art and organized *Life on Mars, The 55th Carnegie International* (2008); and Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, where he was a curator in the Visual Arts Department and curated a number of exhibitions including *The Last Picture Show: Artists Using Photography, 1962–1984* (2003) and *Painting at the Edge of the World* (2001). He has also contributed essays to numerous artist monographs and recently co-authored *Making Strange: The Chara Schreyer Collection* with Hanneke Skerath. His current curatorial projects include *Thomas Demand: The Stutter of History* which opened at UCCA Edge, Shanghai in Spring 2022 and will open at Jeu de Paume in Paris in February 2023, as well as forthcoming projects with Leonor Antunes in Los Angeles and Marlene Dumas in Athens.

**Hanneke Skerath** is an independent curator based in Los Angeles and co-founder of the curatorial office STUDIO LBV. She has co-organized a wide range of curatorial projects and publications such as *Reading a Wave* and *Masaomi Yasunaga: Intersection of Dreams* at Palomar, Pognana, Italy (2022); *Luisa Lambri: Linee/Lines* at Thomas Dane Gallery, Naples (2021); *Shio Kusaka* (2020) and *BLESS: Neutra Dasein* (2018) at the Neutra VDL Studio and Residences in Los Angeles; *Signals* at Marc Selwyn Gallery, Los Angeles (2018); and *Concrete Islands* at Kayne Griffin Corcoran Gallery, Los Angeles (2015). She has also edited catalogues such as *Fausto Melotti* (2016); *Making Strange: The Chara Schreyer Collection* (2021); *Shio Kusaka* (2021) and is working on a forthcoming monograph devoted to the work of Magdalena Suarez Frimkess as well as projects with Leonor Antunes and Marlene Dumas.