

FRÉDÉRIQUE HUTTER

ART CONCEPT

ANDREA HELLER

échos

with Feipel&Bechameil and Christoph Hefti

8 - 24 September 2023

Opening, 7 September 6 - 9 pm

FRÉDÉRIQUE HUTTER art concept is pleased to present Andrea Heller for the second time in an exhibition at Trittligasse 4, in the heart of Zurich's old town.

In her solo show titled **échos** Andrea Heller showcases new paper works alongside glass sculptures from her *Receptors* series. Moreover, the *Omni* lamps, developed over recent years through glass experimentation, will make their debut. These objects inspired the inclusion of two other positions from captivating artists: Christoph Hefti (Zurich/Brussels) and Feipel&Bechameil (Brussels). Their distinct artistic styles oscillate with Heller's, highlighting not only the experimental approach in dealing with materials, but also shared themes are echoing cross-connections, ranging from protection/shelter to displacement/deconstruction in relation to space and landscape.

Andrea Heller is interested in forms and appearances in nature that become visible through the influence of man - the most important factor influencing the various processes of the earth. The metaphorical implications of her abstract forms, which can be read as architectural structures or landscapes, as well as fragmentary bodies, beckons us to reflect and contemplate existence's fragility and its inherent volatility. Imagine a melted glass yielding under its own weight, a crystalline form that might either be a massive and extravagant architectural fantasy or a microscopic cellular shape, or ink that bleeds over a seemingly impermeable boundary — these all serve as metaphors for societal structures. Heller's latest glass series, *Receptors* (2023), speaks to the subtle internal processes of sensory perception. These processes, often overlooked in daily life, significantly mold our emotions and decisions. Aesthetically, the sculptures are reminiscent of buds that have one or more openings fostering communication between the external and internal worlds. If perceived as sensory buds or receptor cells, they symbolize the mediums receiving varied stimuli.

Feipel & Bechameil (Martine Feipel & Jean Bechameil) the artist duo, hailing from Luxembourg and active in the European art scene. Since 2008 they have crafted a body of work that is characterized by the richness of their visual vocabulary and their socially conscious questioning of the contemporary world. Their ceramic sculptures from the *Shelters* series (2021/23) were initially designed for the façade of the Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature in Paris, conceived as nests for swifts (*Apus Apus*). This highly evolved bird lives its entire life airborne, sleeping while in flight and only settling when breeding. The swift has sadly become an unintended casualty of modern city architecture, losing the nooks once provided by older buildings to the unyielding concrete façades of contemporary design. In a successful synthesis of modernist, geometric forms and organic, primitive arts, the artists then redesigned these living spaces. The *Rebels* series (2022) establish a link between the *Shelters* series and the public art project *Les Brutalistes*. The subsequent *Rebels* series (2022) establish a connection between the *Shelters* collection and the public art venture, *Les Brutalistes*. While maintaining a consistent aesthetic, the contours and geometric patterns in *Rebels* not only echo architectural elements but also exude distinct personalities. These semi-abstract, semi-figurative contemporary figures, drawing inspiration from Greek, ancient, and primitive art, stand at the nexus of various cultures and epochs.

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Christoph Hefti's passion of knotted carpets took him to Nepal, where he designs and develops his own series of hand-knotted carpets. He values direct collaboration with local artisans, drawing enrichment from the interchange of thematic content and its textile manifestation. Inspired by the mystical and spiritual tradition of storytelling rugs, he narrates his very personal yet worldly themes. For example, a volcanic landscape becomes the main character of the *Volcano* carpet (2022, knotted wool, hemp and silk, 326 x 248 cm). Christoph Hefti comments: *"The volcanoes are active, but they do not erupt. They are arranged in such a way that in each case the foot of the crater defines the beginning and the end of the carpet, while the lava flows as long red yarn threads of silk and wool on the floor towards the viewers. Despite its menacing nature, the scene exudes tranquillity and mystique. The ambiguity reigns—is this the world's commencement or its culmination? The volcanoes are presented across various times of day: daylight, nighttime, and dawn, capturing the day's full cycle in one scene. Concealed beneath the lava and at the carpet's edges are small, ambiguous beings, leaving one to ponder if they signify the world's genesis or its end. The two are so far apart that they are probably unaware of each other's existence. The viewer is stared at from the landscape and observed without knowing it."* Hefti continues to illustrate his thematic depth with other carpets in the exhibit. He describes *Animal Foot* (2022, hand-knotted wool, silk, and hemp, 180 x 154 cm) as, *"The clawed foot or paws of an ambiguous creature. Its fur or feathers trail into thick, undyed woolen strands."*

The three positions are expanded by the furniture of the young Finnish design collective Alkeis. Heinz Cafilisch from the design gallery OKRO (Chur) has curated the furnishings for the exhibition at the invitation of Andrea Heller and Frédérique Hutter.

Biography

Andrea Heller (*1975 Zurich, lives and works in Evilard and Biel, Switzerland)

After training as a graphic artist in Zurich, Andrea Heller studied fine arts at the HfBK in Hamburg and at the zhdk in Zurich from 1998 to 2003. Since 1999, she has exhibited nationally and internationally, including solo exhibitions such as Parafin, London (2023), Kunsthau Centre d'art Pasquart, Biel/Bienne (2019), Museum Franz Gertsch, Burgdorf (2015) or Helmhaus Zurich (2012).

Her work has been awarded a studio by the Binz 39 Foundation, a working grant by the Canton of Zurich, a studio by the City of Zurich at the Cité des Arts in Paris, the Prix Anderfuhren, the Prix Maude Mottier and various production or project contributions, including in 2019 by the Pro Helvetia Foundation and by the Sélection d'Artists of the Binding Foundation.

She has published several small books with Nieves and Artspeak. Her first monographic artist's book "Roots are the Trees of Potatoes" was published in 2012 by Edition Patrick Frey, Zurich. In 2015 the monograph "Paradoxie des Haufens" was published by Modo Verlag, Freiburg i.B., to accompany the exhibition at the Museum Franz Gertsch, and in 2019 the catalogue of the Kunsthau Centre d'art Pasquart, Biel/Bienne, was published by Verlag für Moderne Kunst, Vienna.

She lived in Paris from 2010 to 2014 before moving to Biel/Bienne, where she now lives with her family. Her works are represented in various private and public collections in Switzerland and abroad.

Martine Feipel & Jean Bechameil (*1975, Luxembourg / *1964, Paris, live and work in Brussels, Belgium)

Martine Feipel studied Fine Arts at the Universität der Künste in Berlin and at Central Saint Martins College of Arts & Design in London. Jean Bechameil studied at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris and at the Willem de Kooning Academy in Rotterdam. He has also worked on a number of film set designs and was involved in designing the sets for several films by Lars von Trier. Martine Feipel & Jean Bechameil were selected in 2011 to represent Luxembourg at the 54. Venice Biennale, and have also been invited to numerous international exhibitions and cultural events, including the Kunstmuseum in Bonn, the Pavillon de l'Arsenal in Paris (2014); la Triennale de Beaufort, Belgium (2012); Casino Luxembourg (2017); HAB galerie, Nantes

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(2020); Museum Voorlinden, Netherlands (2020); Biennale Saint-Paul de Vence (2021); Biennale d'Anglet (2021); Hermès' new boutique display, Tokyo (2019), Luxembourg (2021); Zidoun-Bossuyt Gallery Dubai (2022); Mudam, Luxembourg (2022). Martine Feipel & Jean Bechameil have recently created a work for the Bibliothèque Nationale du Luxembourg. They were recently selected to create a work for the Canal Parc Technologique metro station on the new line in Toulouse, France. Their installation *L'immortelle* is currently on display as part of the Grandeur Nature exhibition at the Château de Fontainebleau and the Châteauvert Art Centre is dedicating a solo exhibition to them.

Christoph Hefti (*1967 Lausanne, lives and works in Zurich and Brussels) studied fashion and textiles at the Zurich University of the Arts and at Central St. Martin's, London. After his studies, he began designing for Jean-Paul Gaultier in Paris and Dries Van Noten in Antwerp. For almost ten years he has dedicated himself to textiles, carpets and ceramics as a freelance artist. He was shown at Design Miami at Art Basel by Galerie Maniera from Brussels, which has represented him since 2013. Important exhibitions have included Dries Van Noten in Los Angeles, Joyce in Hong Kong and Peter Kilchmann in Zurich and Paris. Während der Ausstellung finden folgende Events statt:

Thu, 7 September 2023, 6 - 9 pm

Opening

Sat, 9 September 2023, 4 - 5 pm

Artist Walk with Heller, Hefti, Feipel & Bechameil. **From 5 pm** presentation by Christoph Hefti about the origin of his handmade rugs in Nepal.

Thu, 14 September 2023 6 - 8 pm

OKRO, Design & Craft presents a series of avant-garde designs in collaboration with the new Finnish label Alkeis. Founder Timo Haanpää will give a short talk at 19h and introduce internationally renowned designers Yrjö Kukkapuro & Ville Kokkonen. (rsvp: bonjour@frederiquehutter.ch)

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