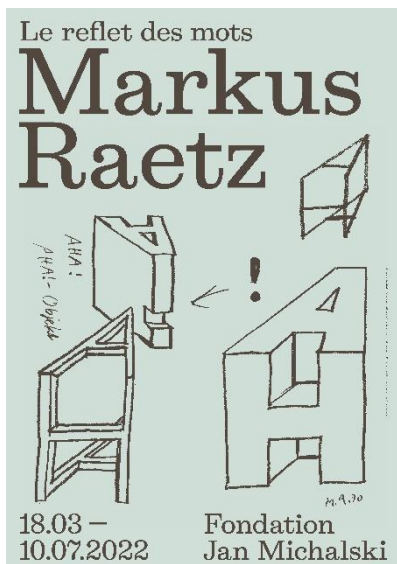


Exhibition at the Jan Michalski Foundation
for Writing and Literature:

Markus Raetz | Le reflet des mots

18 March - 10 July 2022



Language is one of three parameters in the art of Markus Raetz (Bern, 1941–2020). His work is constantly seizing on and sizing up words, pushing them further, exploring their interconnections within several languages, and embodying them in eloquent visual forms – eloquent, too, in the etymological sense of “speaking out.” In this brilliant artist’s output, language is a singular source of inspiration as well as matter for an inventiveness that is bound up with both its translation into images and Raetz’s craftsmanship, the other two elements at the beating heart of his body of work. Raetz’s

reflection on words and language generally is both playful and systematic, deep and done with a twinkle in the artist’s eye, personal and implying the participation of others. As the viewer looks on, one and the same stationary object embodies a *no* and a *yes*; seen from the left, above, and the right, a little brass object collectively exclaims *AHA*; the *ich* (I) at the head of a body floating in space is transformed into a *wir* (we) at the other end. This message counts in the artist’s thinking. He knows what we owe others and emphasizes exchange and sharing. Time to fire up our imaginations! “One’s own movement is important. I give the viewer responsibility – or free play, room to manoeuvre. I want to give them certainty, like a fine instrument,” the artist once declared.

Through the sculptures, drawings, prints, and sketchbooks on display, the exhibition makes clear one of the forces at work in Raetz’s artmaking. That is, it shows what happens when words become forms and activate our perception. We are truly given to read and see plays on words, homophones, phrases whose terms make sense in two distinct languages, the unlikeliest forms of writing that are perfectly decipherable all the same, figurative illustrations that are literal, and virtuoso three-dimensional objects with surprising reversals of meaning. “There is no meaning without interpretation. If you don’t interpret, there is only a formless mass,” Raetz maintained, reinforcing our ability to discriminate.

Guest exhibition curator

Rainer Michael Mason

Featured artworks

Succession Markus Raetz, Bern – Private collections

Exhibition

18 March - 10 July 2022

Hours

Tuesday to Friday, 2 pm – 6 pm

Saturday and Sunday, 11 am – 6 pm

Admission CHF 8.- (full price) | CHF 5.- (students, retirees, unemployed, groups, disabled persons) | Free for children and teens under 18 and residents of Montricher. Free admission the first Sunday of each month

Show opening

Thursday 17 March at 6:30 pm

Free admission | Reservation is a must – sign up online at our website

Contact

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