



PRESS INFORMATION

RAOUL DE KEYSER. ŒUVRE

PRESS PREVIEW | 04 APRIL 2019, 11.00 A.M.

OPENING | 04 APRIL 2019, 7.00 P.M.

DURATION OF EXHIBITION | 05 APRIL – 08 SEPTEMBER 2019

The exhibition of works by the Belgian painter Raoul De Keyser (1930–2012) unites more than 100 paintings from all phases of his career, some of which have seldom or never been shown before. The exhibits are from the artist's estate as well as around forty public and private art collections in Europe, China, Japan and the USA.

At first glance, Raoul De Keyser's biography seems unspectacular: the artist was born in Deinze near Ghent in Belgium where he also died at the age of 82. He had his first solo exhibition when he was 35 and did not receive international recognition until he was over 60, following his participation at documenta IX 1992 in Kassel. The retrospective at the Pinakothek der Moderne is the first museum exhibition in Germany since the artist's death in 2012.

The astonishingly broad spectrum of his œuvre and his open approach to painting contrast with the artist's close attachment to his native town. Raoul De Keyser did not see a picture as an isolated entity. For him, every picture was intrinsically linked to works that already existed and exerted an influence on those created later.

The conscious orientation on his immediate surroundings can already be clearly seen in De Keyser's early work: among his motifs of choice are the white chalk lines on a football pitch, the tender, hanging branches of the tall tree that he could see from his studio, the handle on a window frame, his dog 'Baron' and a garden hose.

De Keyser analysed his pictorial inventions from different angles time and again, varying them, fragmenting them or adding new levels. Concrete motifs are often lost to abstraction that in turn generates surprising associative spaces. As a result, the artistic work of Raoul De Keyser, in all its phases, is primarily one thing – a declaration of love to painting. At no point in time does the artist question the importance of this medium.

In his unerring search for the essential in what is seen, Raoul De Keyser – like the German painter Palermo, 13 years his junior – is a representative of late modernism. However, right to the very end, his work exudes a striking playfulness and dry humour. The ease with which Raoul De Keyser frequently defies the conventions of art history is one of the reasons he is so highly esteemed as a 'painters' painter' who continues to inspire following generations of artists to this day. At the same time it is important to present Raoul De Keyser to a wider, art-interested public.



**SAMMLUNG MODERNE KUNST
IN DER PINAKOTHEK DER MODERNE**



The exhibition at the Pinakothek der Moderne has been devised in cooperation with the Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst (S.M.A.K.) in Ghent. Within the context of this joint project, the first monograph on Raoul De Keyser since his death has been published with texts by Martin Germann, Steven Jacobs, Luk Lambrecht, Bernhart Schwenk and Philippe Van Cauteren, artists' statements by Tomma Abts, Maria Eichhorn, Werner Feiersinger, Suzan Frecon, Mary Heilmann, Thomas Scheibitz, James Welling, among others, and a chronology by Wouter De Vleeschouwer, Hilde D'haeyere, Inge Ketelers and Steven Jacobs which includes archival material that has not been published before (240 pages, Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther König, Cologne, price: 39.90 euros).

Curator: Bernhart Schwenk

The exhibition is being supported by PIN. Freunde der Pinakothek der Moderne e.V.

Media partner



Press images are available at www.pinakothek.de/presse.

PRESS DEPARTMENT AT THE PINAKOTHEKEN

Tine Nehler M.A.

Head of Press Department

Pinakotheken | Pinakothek der Moderne | Bayerische Staatsgemäldesammlungen

T +49 (0)89 23805-253

presse@pinakothek.de

www.pinakothek.de/presse

www.pinakothek-der-moderne.de/presse