

THE BACKWARD GLANCE CAN BE A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE

Von Bartha, Basel

5 September – 7 November 2020

Opening Day: 5 September, 12 – 6pm



(L-R) Camille Graeser, *Zweimal komplementär 1:4*, 1965. Photo by Ben Koechlin; Theo van Doesburg, *Still Life*, 1916. Photo by Andreas Zimmermann; Landon Metz, *Untitled*, 2019. Photo by Ben Koechlin. Images courtesy the artists & von Bartha.

Von Bartha is pleased to present a group exhibition, *The Backward Glance can be a Glimpse into the Future*, 5 September – 7 November 2020. Von Bartha celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2020 and this exhibition centres on the subject of the gallery's 50-year history. The show will be on view in the gallery's Basel space and curated by Swiss curator Beat Wismer. By staging outstanding works from the past hundred years, the exhibition will offer reflection on this milestone moment in von Bartha's history and look ahead to the future, incorporating works by 45 leading artists including modern artists Camille Graeser, Yves Laloy, Jean Tinguely and contemporary artists Anna Dickinson, Terry Haggerty, and Sarah Oppenheimer.

After 50 successful years, von Bartha is transitioning from the founding generation to the next. The exhibition title highlights this decisive moment, of both reflecting on the past whilst facing ahead to the future. The arc of the exhibition is far-reaching: from contemporary, rigorously conceptual works, to the pioneers of Constructivism from the early 20th century. The exhibition will present works that seem incredibly contemporary, despite being made much earlier, adjacent to recently created works of which many have benefited from and developed the potentials of classical modernism.

Stefan von Bartha, Director, commented: *"Fifty years after the gallery first opened its doors, we are delighted to present this group exhibition mapping the most important elements of our history alongside contemporary artists from our programme. For this special exhibition, it was clear that we needed to work with a curator that has extensive knowledge of the contemporary art scene but at the same time, understands the classics within the gallery programme. We found a perfect match in Beat Wismer, and his incredible achievements for both fields within the museum scene make him a great partner in preparing this exhibition. I was actually really flattered that he was excited to join the process and it has been a joyful and interesting experience working together."*

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Beat Wismer, Curator, said: *“Bringing together exceptional works by over forty artists in one exhibition - across four generations, and with works created over the course of an entire century - is a unique opportunity. The exhibition could be compared to a polyphonic conversation - ambitious and serious, but also sensorial. When situated together, it becomes clear how much the selected works have to say to each other, especially when they consider the “where do we go?” and the “where do we come from?” of art in general, in particular within the context of von Bartha’s programme. The careful staging of the exhibition in von Bartha’s spectacular gallery space is intensified further by the striking exhibition architecture which was designed specifically for the show.”*

The gallery’s space, located in a former garage, will play an important role in the staging of *The Backward Glance can be a Glimpse into the Future*. The exhibition’s architecture draws on this, as well as the various strands that make up the show’s polyphonic narrative, incorporating paintings, sculptures, objects, photographs, videos, and text works. The exhibition is built around the idea of the symposium: in both its contemporary sense of a conference, participating in an open artistic conversation, as well as seeking to evoke the symposium’s original meaning; a convivial gathering appropriate to a festive occasion. The exhibition will present diverse works within a framework which encourages conversation about art: about what it was, what has become of its modern ideas and which paths it could take—especially now, in this very extraordinary time.

Additionally, to mark its 50th anniversary, von Bartha will produce a publication entitled *Est. 1970*, highlighting the gallery’s most important moments from the beginning in 1970 until today. A selection of the most memorable artworks and exhibitions will be accompanied by never-before published archival material, texts written by the von Bartha family, along with essays by art critic Hans-Joachim Müller and curator Dr. David Iselin.

Notes to Editors

List of artists in *The Backward Glance can be a Glimpse into the Future*

Marina Adams	Terry Haggerty	Aurélie Nemours
Ricardo Alcaide	Mary Heilmann	Karim Noureldin
Christian Andersson	Auguste Herbin	Sarah Oppenheimer
Olle Baertling	Enio Iommi	Carmelo Arden Quin
Marion Baruch	Iman Issa	Boris Rebetez
Andrew Bick	Konrad Klapheck	Francisco Sierra
Martin Blaszko	Imi Knoebel	Florian Slotawa
Sándor Bortnyik	Gyula Kosice	Barbara Stauffacher Solomon
Lygia Clark	Yves Laloy	Sophie Taeuber-Arp
Anna Dickinson	Verena LoewensbergRichard	Jean Tinguely
Theo van Doesburg	Paul Lohse	Georges Vantongerloo
Viking Eggeling	Mike Meiré	Mary Vieira
Camille Graeser	Landon Metz	Claudia Wieser
Julia Gruner	László Moholy-Nagy	John Wood & Paul Harrison
Gerhard von Graevenitz	François Morellet	Beat Zoderer

Exhibition Facts:

Title: *The Backward Glance can be a Glimpse into the Future*

Exhibition dates: 5 September – 7 November 2020

Opening Day: 5 September, 12 – 6pm

Address: von Bartha, Kannenfeldplatz 6, CH-4056, Basel

Telephone: + 41 61 322 1000

Opening Hours: Tuesday to Friday 2-6 pm, Saturday 11 am – 4 pm or by appointment

Twitter: @vonbartha

Facebook: galleryvonbartha

Instagram: @vonbartha

***The Backward Glance can be a Glimpse into the Future* will also be available to view through von Bartha's online viewing room via www.vonbartha.com**

About von Bartha

Initially co-founded in 1970 by Margareta and Miklos von Bartha who remain a contributing force in its strategic direction, the family-run gallery has been under the direction of Stefan von Bartha since 2008. Together, the two generations maintain an unparalleled level of expertise. Von Bartha is a trusted destination for its audiences and a place to gain knowledge of the artists and the specialist areas that they represent.

Von Bartha presents a cutting-edge contemporary programme, representing an international roster of artists working across a diverse range of media including Superflex, Terry Haggerty, John Wood & Paul Harrison, Anna Dickinson, Sarah Oppenheimer, and Felipe Mujica amongst others. The gallery nurtures new generations of artists, whilst supporting the continually evolving practice of their established artists. As one of the longest-running international contemporary art galleries, von Bartha continues to support the careers of influential artists such as Camille Graeser, Fritz Glarner and Olle Baertling. It facilitates discovery across the generations, and has a track record of fostering the careers of some of the leading artists of the 20th Century with a focus on Constructivism; Concrete art; and Op art.

Located in Basel, one of the world's most important centres for the display of art, and S-chanf, in the heart of the Swiss Alps, von Bartha brings together international and local art audiences across these two locations. Von Bartha creates a unique platform of events and programming including salons, openings, and exhibitions beyond the walls of the gallery, inspiring and informing audiences by making new connections and offering a fresh perspective. Von Bartha publishes books, exhibition catalogues and its own online magazine "Stories" featuring interviews, essays and insights to the gallery's work and programme. Read more at www.vonbartha.com/stories

For more information about artists in the von Bartha gallery programme, please visit: www.vonbartha.com/artists

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