

Silvie & Chérif Defraoui
ROOMS (Lieux de mémoire VI) 1976–2003

October 25–December 18, 2013

Galerie Susanna Kulli, Dienerstrasse 21, CH-8004 Zürich
Tel +41 43 243 33 34, Fax +41 43 243 33 35
Hours: Tue– Fri 1–6pm, Sat 11am–4pm
www.susannakulli.ch

Opening Thursday, October 24, 2013 starting at 6pm

Gallery Weekend Zurich

Saturday and Sunday, October 26–27, 11am–5pm

*“One who comes upon a river may have to build a bridge to cross it; but after crossing it, he need not take the bridge with him.” Chérif Defraoui, *Ecrits, Genf, 1995, S.151**

From its beginnings in 1975 to the present, the work of Silvie & Chérif Defraoui has engendered a historical and artistic body that forms an integral element of what we call, with a generalizing term, the art of the 1970s.

Their multifaceted oeuvre from this period presents unexpected artistic forms, often involving materials and themes, objects and techniques, that were unheard of at the time. The entire series, which brought the Defraouis international renown, is collectively titled *Archives du Futur*. All pieces relate to this key concept, which synthesizes or questions a totality of space and time.

With *Rooms (Lieux de mémoire VI)* (1976–2003), Galerie Susanna Kulli now revisits a set of works Silvie & Chérif Defraoui created together in the 1970s.

In these large-format photographs, a superimposition takes place on the level of image, architecture, and writing: “The order of architecture determines the narrative, and the projections that build up in the place restore to it a diaphanous and contradictory memory. In the painted words, space fades into the photographic image,” the artists write.

Mounted beneath each picture is a framed pair of words typeset in capital letters that complements it; additional words, written in brushstrokes, are visible in the photographs. Such combinations of text and image were widespread in 1970s photo art; “here they serve to activate a complex process of reflection and integration. ‘Ut pictura poesis’—the ancient contest between the arts seems to have erupted afresh in *Rooms*.” (Konrad Bitterli in the catalogue accompanying the exhibition of Silvie Defraoui’s art at the Kunstmuseum St. Gallen, 2004)

Silvie Defraoui, b. 1935, lives and works in Vufflens-le-Château and Corbera de Llobregat; Chérif Defraoui (1932 – 1994)

Created in 1974, her “Mixed Media Studio,” the “Atelier des médias mixtes” at the École supérieure d’art visuel (ESAV), Geneva, introduced students to wide-ranging perspectives beyond the familiar structures of art education.

We are also proud to present a newly published book: Silvie Defraoui & Hans Rudolf Reust, “Les formes du récit II” (Im Rahmen der Ausstellung / On the occasion of the exhibition, Edition Galerie Susanna Kulli), 2013.