

Kannenfeldplatz 6
CH-4056 BASEL
+41 61 322 10 00

Pasteursvej 8
DK-1799 COPENHAGEN
+45 31 66 86 96

info@vonbartha.com
vonbartha.com

MARIANNE EIGENHEER
von Bartha, Basel
February 4 – March 25, 2023



From left to right: Marianne Eigenheer, *Rosa Dame*, 1974 / Marianne Eigenheer, *untitled*, undated (probably 1984), Acrylic on cotton / Marianne Eigenheer, *untitled*, undated, pencil, colored pencil and crayon on paper.

Press Preview February 3, 2023, from 11 am. Please RSVP.

Opening February 3, 2023, 6–8 pm

Marianne Eigenheer (1945–2018) was, and still is, a discovery. Much of her work was overlooked or remained untouched in the studio on Birsigstrasse in Basel. It resembles that of a driven woman, a restless spirit, whose work needs to be sorted and revisited, unfortunately without the multi-talented pianist, composer, and painter, who died in 2018 and once stated: „Of course, even at the millionth attempt, I will not succeed in getting to everything I want to express, but since every minute of life is again so full of new impressions, I never run out of enthusiasm.“

This palpable passion and suffering in the works and the immediate experience in front of them, is the common thread of the exhibition with unpublished large-format paintings, small as well as exuberant drawings, and other photographic and sculptural works. The selection is intended to sharpen the views on her diverse oeuvre, which is difficult to divide into groups, styles, or epochs. Contemporaries, as well as the artist herself, struggled for their part with the classification and sometimes even with the understanding of her paintings. „I don't know if they really understood me, which also caused me to fly back into the forest. (...) Postmodernism was the trend, even for women. It seemed to be going better if you didn't look closely at the price of the adaptation that artists were willing to pay for it.“ Von Bartha has been working with the Lucerne-born artist since 2017 and now ventures to shed some light on the darkness of the forest.

The new, most comprehensive publication to date „A Lifelong Search Along the Lines“, follows the intention of unveiling and mediating Eigenheer's richly varied oeuvre. It is published in the context of the exhibition by Black Dog Press, in collaboration with the artist's estate, with contributions by Jonathan Bragdon, Max Dax, Claus Donau, Klaus Honnef, Matylda Krzykowski, Nadine Wietlisbach, as well as essays and texts by Marianne Eigenheer - generously illustrated with color photographs of the artist's works.

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The catalog is another step in living up to the promise von Bartha made to the artist before her untimely passing: to work together on the future and give her the stage and recognition she deserves.

Marianne Eigenheer (* April 20, 1945, in Lucerne; † January 15, 2018, in Basel) lived and worked in Basel and London. She was a lecturer and art professor at various art schools in Frankfurt/Main, Offenbach, Stuttgart, and Edinburgh, and had institutional solo exhibitions at Kunstmuseum Luzern (1977); Kunstverein Bonn (1983); Meguro Museum of Art, Tokyo (1987); Swiss Institute, New York (1988); Kunstverein Freiburg (1992); Perth Institute of Contemporary Art (1997); and Limlip Museum, Gongju, South-Korea (2005), among others.

About von Bartha

With its gallery at Kannenfeldplatz in Basel, von Bartha promotes contemporary artists such as Olaf Breuning, Athene Galiciadis, Landon Metz, Felipe Mujica, Francisco Sierra, Claudia Wieser, and others, while supporting the further development of the artistic practices of its established artists such as Marina Adams, Anna Dickinson, Imi Knoebel, Ursula Reuter Christiansen, Barbara Stauffacher Solomon, Superflex et al.. In 2021, von Bartha opened a new location at Kridttårnet (Eng: Limestone Lighthouse), an iconic and historic building in Copenhagen.

Founded in 1970 by Margareta and Miklos von Bartha, and now run by second-generation Stefan von Bartha, the gallery continues to oversee the careers of founding artists such as Camille Graeser, Fritz Glarner, and Olle Baertling, as well as the late Marianne Eigenheer, Barry Flanagan, and Gerhard von Graevenitz.

New formats launched by von Bartha include „Insight,“ a satellite exhibition at Basel’s Volkshaus, the „Imaginary Collection“ with curated presentations in collectors’ private spaces, and the online format „Stories“ with interviews, essays, and insights into the gallery’s work, available at vonbartha.com/stories.

Press contact

Claudio Vogt, claudio@vonbartha.com, +41 61 322 10 00

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