

SUZANNE LAFONT

*Sketches*

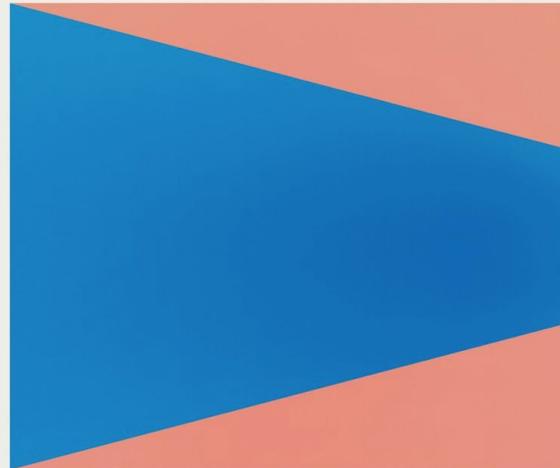
14 November 2020 - 28 February 2021

Opening 14 November, 5-9pm

Press release



gust of wind



beside a color field

Suzanne Lafont, *Action, Painting*, strip #13, 2020.

Erna Hecey is delighted to host a solo exhibition by Suzanne Lafont entitled *Sketches*, from 14 November 2020 to 28 February 2021.

The exhibition will present an ensemble of images from various corpora the artist has been working on since the early 1990s. Taken from the *réserve*, a collection of items characterised by their momentary inactivity, the selected images will be arranged specifically to create a new situation: the

exhibition. The theatrical model will provide the framework for their reactivation. *Sketches* can be understood as 'skits' but also 'rough outlines' or 'drafts'.

"A situation is dependent on the interplay of the elements". As this quote illustrates, Suzanne Lafont's photography has developed through montage: the work (or the exhibition or book) is an arrangement, possibly fleeting, of intermittent elements. The elements are photographic images – of different sizes and on a variety of media – and words. Her practice of montage has led her to experiment with methods as diverse as superimposition, undulation, echo, disjunction, grids and spatialisation. The process she has adopted for this exhibition is the constellation. Guided by the gallery space, the theme continues with an arrangement that appears to slide, fold and unfold, inviting the visitor to drift from stage to backstage.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a bilingual booklet (French/English) published by Erna Hecey Gallery that includes texts by the artist, reproductions and a leaflet. The second publication of a series presenting the gallery's activities, its graphic design was directed by Phil Barber (Amsterdam).

---

### Biography

Suzanne Lafont (born in Nîmes in 1949, lives in Brussels and Paris) is well known for her conceptual work on images and narrative compositions of theatrical scenes. She turned to the visual arts following literary and philosophical studies, questioning the cultural processes of image construction. Her more recent works delve into the fictional aspect of images and explore the ludic potential of illusion.

Since the 1980s, she has participated in numerous collective exhibitions worldwide, including: *La photographie en France, 1950–2000*, Maison européenne de la photographie, Paris (2011) – *elles@centrepompidou*, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris (2009) – *Street & Studio: An Urban History of Photography*, Tate Modern, London (2008) / Museum Folkwang, Essen (2009) – *Universal Archive*, Macba, Barcelona (2008) – *REAL. Portrait from a corporate collector of DZ Bank*, Städel Museum, Frankfurt (2008) – *Ghost in the Shell: Photography and the Human Soul, 1850–2000*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles (1999) – *documenta X*, Kassel (1997) – *Hall of Mirrors: Art and Film since 1945*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (1996) – *documenta IX*, Kassel (1992).

Her work has been presented in several solo exhibitions, including: *Nouvelles Espèces de compagnie. Roman*, Galerie des Beaux-Arts, Bordeaux (2019, catalogue) – *Situations*, Carré d'art-Musée d'art contemporain, Nîmes (2015, catalogue) – *Situation Comedy*, MUDAM, Luxembourg (2011, catalogue) – Pinacoteca do Estado, São Paulo (2005) – Musée d'art contemporain de Marseille (1999) – Galerie nationale du Jeu de Paume, Paris (1992, catalogue) – Museum of Modern Art, New York (1992) – Centre genevois de gravure contemporaine, Genève (1991).

Other monographic books include: *Suzanne Lafont. Appelé par son nom*, Actes Sud (2003) – *Suzanne Lafont. Lectures*, Actes Sud (2001) – *Suzanne Lafont*, Éditions Hazan (1998) txt. Suzanne Lafont, Paul Sztulman.

*Index* marked the beginning of Suzanne Lafont's collaboration with Erna Hecey Gallery in Brussels (2008). The exhibition was followed, in 2010, by the display in the Brussels gallery of *Situation Comedy. From General Idea's Pamphlet 'Manipulating the Self'*. At Paris Photo in 2015, Erna Hecey dedicated a solo show to Lafont, centered around *Index* and *Situation Comedy*.