

**A Blind Man in His Garden**

Curated by Kris Dittel and Emma Panza

On view: 15 June – 27 September 2015  
LUMA/Westbau Löwenbräukunst, Zurich

**A Blind Man in His Garden** is the fourth in a series of pilot exhibitions organized by POOL, featuring works from the collections of Maja Hoffmann and Michael Ringier. The exhibition will be curated by de Appel alumni Kris Dittel (b. 1983, Slovakia) and Emma Panza (b. 1985, Italy) and mentored by Lorenzo Benedetti, Director at de Appel arts center, Amsterdam.

How to deal with the impossibility of experiencing an artwork or constellation of artworks to its fullest? If our understanding of it is always fragmented, reduced to factual information, or a compressed image in a database, a newspaper, lessons learnt and forgotten, can we still allow our sensations and intuitions to take over our imagination?

*A Blind Man in His Garden* is an exhibition that emphasizes subjective narratives, and puts forward a reading of an artwork, or exhibition, based on personal associations, previous knowledge and encounters. The title of the exhibition also refers to Joel Sternfeld's photograph, *A Blind Man in His Garden, Homer, Alaska*, which suggests that there is a potential of artworks to trigger single or multiple narratives. By shifting the attention away from the visual experience of a lush rural landscape towards the imagination of vivid sensations, probably felt by the depicted man, the artwork encompasses numerous possibilities to experience it beyond its visual qualities. *A Blind Man in His Garden* is a fable with an open ending, a hidden path inside a network of mystical déjà vus, where the garden eventually becomes a place where any act of imagination can find a space beyond its visual connotation.

**Featuring works by**

Eija-Liisa Ahtila, Pawel Althamer, Danai Anesiadou, Richard Artschwager, Melchiorre Bega, Walead Beshty, Monica Bonvicini, Mark Bradford, Maurizio Cattelan, Valentin Carron, Spartacus Chetwynd, Silvie Defraoui, Trisha Donnelly, Urs Fischer, Peter Fischli/David Weiss, Sylvie Fleury, Katharina Grosse, Thomas Hirschhorn, Jenny Holzer, Mike Kelley, Ragnar Kjartansson, Jorge Pardo, Philippe Parreno, Seth Price, De Rijke/De Rooij, Wilhelm Sasnal, Jim Shaw, Slavs and Tatars, Christopher Williams

With contributions by Dina Danish and Styrmir Örn Gumundsson

**Friday 29 May**

9.00 – 10.00 Press preview

A conversation with Kris Dittel and Emma Panza (curators), their mentor Lorenzo Benedetti (Director and Curator at de Appel arts center, Amsterdam) and Beatrix Ruf (Director, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam)

**Sunday 14 June**

18.00 – 20.00 Exhibition opening at LUMA/Westbau, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

**Venue**

LUMA/Westbau  
Löwenbräukunst  
Limmatstrasse 270  
8005 Zurich  
Switzerland

**Opening Times**

11.00 – 18.00 Tuesday – Friday  
11.00 – 20.00 Thursday  
10.00 – 17.00 Saturday, Sunday  
Mondays closed\*  
\*(except Monday 15 June 2015, 11.00 – 18.00)

**Admission**

Free entry

**Press Information**

Sandra Roemermann, [press@poolproject.net](mailto:press@poolproject.net) / +44 (0)20 3219 7806

**NOTES TO EDITORS****Curators**

**Kris Dittel** (b.1983, Slovakia) is an independent curator based in the Netherlands. She holds an MSc in Economics and Social Sciences from Masaryk University, Czech Republic, and an MA in Arts and Heritage from Maastricht University, the Netherlands. As Assistant Curator at the Bonnefantenmuseum Maastricht, she took part in the organisation of the exhibitions Martin Visser: collector, designer, free spirit and BACA Masterclass. As Associate Curator she realized the exhibition Nachtfahrt at Bonnefanten Roermond and part of BACA Projects in collaboration with the Jan van Eyck Academie. Until 2013 she was a Board Member and Curator of the self-organised art initiative B32 in Maastricht. In 2013, Dittel took part in the curatorial residency programme at Schloss Ringenberg, Germany, followed by de Appel Curatorial Programme in Amsterdam in 2014. Dittel lives between Amsterdam and Eindhoven, and works as a curator at Onomatopee Project Space.

**Emma Panza** (b.1985, Italy) is an independent curator based in Amsterdam. Between 2008 and 2013 she initiated and coordinated Temporary Black Space, an artists' initiative focused on local artistic and social events in Bergamo (IT). In 2012 she joined Casco, Utrecht, as a research assistant, and she participated in de Appel Curatorial Programme 2013-2014 as part of the curatorial team of the project "Father Can't you see I'm Burning". She writes for Metropolis M and recently collaborated with BYU, a project by Kunstverein Amsterdam, with the events *Date Nights: Game, War, Love*. Currently she is interested in the blurring boundaries between art and curatorial practice seen from private contexts, personal relations and coincidences, through a performative perspective. Panza pursued her MA in Art History in Venice, with a thesis on the inheritance of the International Situationism.

**Mentor**

**Lorenzo Benedetti** (b. 1972, Italy) Director and curator at De Appel arts center, Amsterdam

Before Lorenzo Benedetti joined de Appel arts centre as director and curator in 2014, he was director of Art Center De Vleeshal, Middelburg, in the Netherlands, and curator of the Dutch Pavilion for the 55th Biennale of Venice in 2013. He studied Art history at the University La Sapienza in Rome and in 1999 attended the "Curatorial Training Programme" at De Appel Foundation in Amsterdam. In 2005 he founded the Sound Art Museum in Rome, a space dedicated to sound in visual art. He has been the director of the art centre Volume! in Rome and a curator at the Museum Marta Herford, in Herford, Germany. He was guest curator at La Kunsthalle in Mulhouse, France. Recent exhibition are "During the Exhibition the Gallery Will Be Close", Wiels, Bruxelles, "Also Sculpture Die", Palazzo Strozzi, Florence. He writes regularly for magazines and exhibition catalogues.

**About POOL**

**POOL** is a newly launched programme which draws from a "pool" of art works in private collections in order to support young curators and foster new curatorial approaches. POOL was conceived by Beatrix Ruf in collaboration with collectors Maja Hoffmann and Michael Ringier.

POOL joins together an international group of private collectors who perceive their collections in terms of an expanded, virtual collection, and connects them to postgraduate programmes for curating, accompanied by mentors. By providing young curators with access to works in private collections, POOL enables them to test their practice in public exhibitions and to develop it further. Young curators learn to engage with different curatorial approaches, and are provided access to an international pool of works in private collections. The associated collections – many of which do not have a permanent exhibition space – provide the source material for curators to work with.

POOL constitutes a new format for training programmes that goes beyond mere exhibition curating: it includes the possibility of learning about inventory management in the collections, art preservation, art education, and working with publications and commissioned art works.

The curators are selected by the POOL Managing Board from a multitude of international universities and curatorial studies programmes. The curators receive a grant from POOL to work in the facilities of the LUMA Westbau. POOL seeks to function as a testing ground for the public presentation of private collections and for the discourses associated with it.

POOL is based in the facilities of the LUMA/Westbau POOL etc., part of the refurbished and expanded Löwenbräukunst art complex in Zurich. As one of the city's most important centres for contemporary art, it is home to the Kunsthalle Zurich, the Migros Museum for Contemporary Art as well as a host of galleries and private collections. Within this environment, POOL functions as a new place for collaborations and experimentation between the public and the private sectors in the art world.

Conceived as an international programme, LUMA/Westbau serve as a springboard for POOL projects, which can then travel to other countries as well.

In parallel, LUMA Westbau / POOL etc also hosts and implements international projects by the LUMA Foundation in form of exhibitions, events and productions.

**Previous POOL exhibitions included:**

**'In the Crack of the Dawn', 2014**

Curator: Arthur Fink

Mentor: Ulrich Loock, art critic and curator

**'Go! You sure? Yeah.' 2013**

Curators: Nicola Ruffo and Tanja Trampe

Mentor: Dorothee Richter, Head of Postgraduate Programme in Curating, Institute for Cultural Studies in the Arts, Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK)

***some a littler sooner, some a little later*, 2013**

Curator: Gabi Ngcobo

Mentor: Tom Eccles, Executive Director of the Center for Curatorial Studies, *Bard College* (CCS Bard).