

# GALERIE FONS WELTERS

## Collage Storyboard

Juliette Blightman, Bob Eikelboom, Job Koelewijn, Matthew Monahan, Berend Strik and Evelyn Taocheng Wang

1 April – 20 May 2023

Starting point of the exhibition is Job Koelewijn's work *Collage Storyboard* (2023) in which techniques of collage and storyboard come together. Koelewijn's monumental work consists of images built up over years. Layer by layer is assembled from A4-sized printed paper and then cut into ever-expanding circles, like the annual rings of a tree. The image is worked through and a new layer is added. Each separate layer, each cut circle, comes together in a stop motion animation, in which high and low culture, fiction and reality merge.

Part of the exhibition are Bob Eikelboom's magnetic paintings in which he experiments with composition, colour, form and the relationship of the artwork to the viewer. Eikelboom sees painting as collages of paint; the process of painting consists of adding, removing and adding again. The cut-out magnets placed on a metal base offer the possibility of dissecting, constructing and deconstructing, as the composition can in theory be changed by moving the magnets.

Matthew Monahan uses fragmentation as a technique to break open the narrative. In Monahan's monumental, almost two-metre-high collages *Sister X* (2014) and *Green Mind* (2014), we see faces and hands drawn in charcoal recurring on several overlaid sheets of paper. The collage technique creates dynamics in the image and the figures seem to come alive. The works show a fragmented classical figure, set against a geometric background.

Berend Strik appropriates existing images and places by photographing them. He then adds information by adding new layers through stitching and textiles. In the series *Deciphering the Artist's Mind*, Strik addresses the myth of the artist's studio, the historically privileged space for artistic creativity and the impossible promise of a glimpse into the artist's mind. Strik photographs the studios, enlarges and prints them before stitching the surface and adding an extra layer through colours and tactile fabrics.

In her work, Juliette Blightman explores the boundary between private moments and the shared intimacy of a personal moment. In her photographs, videos, drawings, paintings and installations, Blightman takes us into her personal life, combining voyeurism with a dash of melancholy. Blightman's series *Loved an image* consists of black screens with white phrases interspersed with watercolours. Fragments range from conversations, messages, mails, quotes from songs, books, films, her own films. Taken out of their context, they degenerate almost into clichés: 'too much?', 'I'm really sorry about yesterday', 'me too I guess'... They are phrases that individually create images for each person and evoke memories. The horizontal sequence of the works suggests a story.

A similar storyline can be found in Evelyn Taocheng Wang's so-called *naked scrolls*. The unadorned long strips of paper take on the idea of the traditional Chinese hand scroll, considered the earliest Chinese book form. Painting and text alternate. Wang annotates her paintings with epigraphs, quotations, red seal imprints and references to literature. In addition to her use of collage techniques, Wang also stylistically adds layers of abstract, figurative and calligraphic elements.

# GALERIE FONSWELTERS

**Juliette Blightman** lives and works in the UK. She has had solo/duo exhibitions at Vleeshal (Middelburg, NL), Koelnischer Kunstverein (Cologne, DE), O-TOWN HOUSE (Los Angeles, US), Galerie Fons Welters (Amsterdam, NL), Kunsthalle Bern (Bern, DE), South London Gallery (London, UK) amongst others. Her work was recently part of group shows at a.o. Költnischer Kunstverein (Cologne, DE), Museum Ludwig (Cologne, DE), Palais de Tokyo (Paris, FR) and Centraal Museum (Utrecht, NL). Blightman's work is part of the public collections of Museum Ludwig (Cologne, DE) and the Arts Council England collections.

**Bob Eikelboom** lives and works in the UK. He recently had a solo exhibition at the Kunstmuseum Den Haag (The Hague, NL). His work was part of group exhibition at a.o. Bonnefantenmuseum (Maastricht, NL), AkzoNobel Art Foundation (Amsterdam, NL), KM21 (The Hague, NL), Project Space on the Inside (Amsterdam, NL), Alice Folker (Copenhagen, DK), and Dordrechts Museum (Dordrecht, NL). Eikelboom's work is part of the collections of Bonnefantenmuseum (Maastricht, NL), Centraal Museum (Utrecht, NL), Kunstmuseum Den Haag (The Hague, NL).

**Job Koelewijn** lives and works in the Netherlands. He has had solo exhibitions at amongst others Museum De Pont (Tilburg, NL), Museum De Paviljoens (Almere, NL), Henry Moore Foundation (Leeds, UK), Foksal Galerie (Warsaw, PL), Chisenhale Gallery (London, UK). His work was part of the 1st Asia Biennial/5th Guangzhou Triennial: Asia Time', Guangdong Museum of Art (Guangzhou, CN), 'Everywhere', Busan Biennial (Busan, SK), 'Post Natural', Ca'Zenobio, 49th Venice Biennial (Venice, IT), 'Appertutto' 48th Venice Biennial, curated by Harald Szeemann (Venice, IT); 'Among Others (curated Bart de Baere)', San Francesco della Vigna, 46th Venice Biennial (Venice, IT). Koelewijn's work is part of the collections of amongst others Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam (Amsterdam, NL), MUHKA (Antwerp, BE), Guangdong Museum of Art (Guangzhou, CN), S.M.A.K. (Ghent, BE), Museum De Pont (Tilburg, NL) and Museum Voorlinden (Wassenaar, NL).

**Matthew Monahan** lives and works in the US. His works was part of 'The Encyclopedic Palace' 55<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennial, Grandeur, Sonsbeek and the Whitney Biennial. He has had solo exhibitions at Massimo de Carlo (Paris, FR), Anton Kern Gallery (New York, US), Museo Nazionale Romano (Rome, IT), Los Angeles County Museum of Art (Los Angeles, US) and the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam (Amsterdam, NL) amongst others. His work is part of the collections of Art Institute of Chicago (Chicago, US), Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen (Rotterdam, NL); LACMA (Los Angeles, US), MoCA (Los Angeles, US), MoMA (New York, US), Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam (Amsterdam, NL), TATE Modern (London, UK).

**Berend Strik** lives and works in the Netherlands. He has had solo exhibitions at EENWERK, (Amsterdam NL); Jack Tilton Gallery (New York, US), Het Nieuwe Instituut, (Rotterdam, NL), Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam (Amsterdam, NL). His work was part of exhibitions at Kunstverein (Amsterdam, NL), Tilton Gallery, (New York, US), The Corner at Whitman-Walker (Washington, US), Wuzhen International Contemporary Exhibition, (Wuzhen, CN), Museum Voorlinden (Wassenaar, NL), MuZee (Oostende, BE). Strik's work is included in the collections of Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam (Amsterdam, NL), Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen (Rotterdam, NL), Kunstmuseum Den Haag (Den Haag, NL), amongst others.

**Evelyn Taocheng Wang** lives and works in the Netherlands. She has forthcoming solo exhibitions at Rockbund Art Museum (Shanghai, CN) and Dordrechts Museum (Dordrecht, NL). Recent solo exhibitions include Art Institute of Chicago (Chicago, US) (performance), Kayokoyuki (Tokyo, JP), Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen (Düsseldorf, DE), museumverein Mönchengladbach, Museum Abteiberg (Mönchengladbach, DE), FRAC Champagne-Ardenne (Reims, FR), KW – institute for contemporary art (Berlin, DE). Wang participated in Manifesta 11 (Zurich, CH), Busan Biennale 2022 (Busan, KR) and exhibitions at X Museum (Beijing, CN), Centre Pompidou (Paris, FR), WIELS (Brussels, BE) and Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam (Amsterdam, NL). Wang's work has been collected by Art Institute of Chicago (Chicago, US), Bonnefanten Museum (Maastricht, NL); Centre Pompidou (Paris, FR), Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam (Amsterdam, NL), FRAC Champagne-Ardenne (Reims, FR), Museum Abteiberg (Mönchengladbach, DE), amongst others.