

Jef Geys' *Gelijkheid, Brüderlichkeit, Liberté*, 1986

&

Rachel Harrison's *Informasjonsskilt*, 2022

July 12 – August 18, 2023

“The project *Chambres d’Amis* is undoubtedly an ambivalent situation for the artist. On the one hand he is able to follow his work to its destination and, moreover, to make it on that same spot; on the other, a creation in function of, or in interaction with the place of its destination, is more or less a threat to the autonomy of his work.”

Jan Hoet

Maxwell Graham is honored to present an exhibition of Jef Geys' *Gelijkheid, Brüderlichkeit, Liberté*, 1986 & Rachel Harrison's *Informasjonsskilt*, 2022.

In the summer of 1986, Jan Hoet curated an exhibition, *Chambres d’Amis*, for the Museum van Hedendaagse Kunst, Ghent, in which he invited 51 artists to install works in private homes across the city. The invited artists included Carla Accardi, Daniel Buren, Günther Förg, Dan Graham, Jannis Kounellis, Sol LeWitt, Mario Merz, Marisa Merz, Juan Muñoz, Bruce Nauman, Maria Nordman, Paul Thek, Niele Toroni and Lawrence Weiner. Of the 51 invited artists, 50 chose to install their art in bourgeois homes. Jef Geys was the one exception. Geys proposed to and collaborated with 6 individuals living in low-income housing. In each apartment, Geys installed a door painted with the 3 slogans of the French Revolution: *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity* but writ in the 3 official languages of Belgium: *French, German, Dutch*. Which slogan was rendered in which language shifted with each door arbitrarily. All 6 doors, although functionally hinged to a frame, were installed against a wall, opening up to nowhere. Furthermore, Geys invited each collaborator to use a page of the exhibition catalogue to share their condition and response as they chose. The door currently exhibited at Maxwell Graham Gallery, *Gelijkheid, Brüderlichkeit, Liberté*, was initially exhibited at Ingrid Verdonck's apartment. Verdonck wrote:

As a single mother with two children, unemployed and about 9000 to make ends meet each month, I don't feel the need so much to see art in the museum anymore. As I sit in this little damp house watching my children grow up, I often think: what will become of them later? But yes, later what is that?

Informasjonsskilt, 2022 was made on site at the Astrup Fearnley Museum, Oslo as part of Rachel Harrison's solo exhibition *Sitting in a Room*. The work is made out of the material of the museum, its information stands and signage.

Jef Geys lived and worked in Balen, Belgium. In 2024 a major solo exhibition will occur at Wiels, Brussels. Previous institutional solo exhibitions have occurred at Kunsthalle Bern, Bern; Kunsthall Bergen, Bergen; Künstlerhaus Bremen; BOZAR, Brussels; Yale Union, Portland; NTU Centre for Contemporary Art, Singapore; Museum of Contemporary Arts of the Wallonia, Boussu; La Loge, Brussels; Centre d'art contemporain / Passages, Troyes; IAC, Villeurbanne/Rhône-Alpes; CAPC Bordeaux; CNEAI, Chatou; S.M.A.K., Ghent; WIELS, Brussels; Cubitt, London; Culturgest, Lisbon; Royal Museum of Fine Arts of Belgium, Brussels; MuHKA, Antwerp; Jakob Smithmuseum, Mol; MOCAD, Detroit; Bawag Foundation, Vienna; Belgian Pavillon, 53rd Venice Biennale; Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven; Kunsthalle Lophem, Loppem-Zedelgem; Kunstverein Munchen, Munich; Middelheim Museum, Antwerpen; and De Vleeshal, Middelburg.

Rachel Harrison lives and works in New York. Institutional solo exhibitions have occurred at Astrup Fearnley Museum, Oslo; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland; Kestner Gesellschaft, Hannover; S.M.A.K., Ghent; Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard, Annandale-on-Hudson; Portikus, Frankfurt; Whitechapel Gallery, London; Le Consortium, Dijon; Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zürich; Kunsthalle Nürnberg, Nürnberg; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco; Camden Arts Centre, London; and Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee.

The exhibition will be on view at 55 Hester Street in New York City from July 12 – August 18, 2023, during Summer hours of Monday – Friday 11AM - 6PM. For additional information, please contact the gallery at 917-675-6681 or info@maxwellgraham.biz

1. Rachel Harrison

Informasjonsskilt, 2022

Plastic, paper, steel and aluminum

71 × 48 × 41 ¾ inches (180.34 × 121.92 × 106.05 cm)

2. Jef Geys

Gelijkheid, Brüderlichkeit, Liberté, 1986

Paint on wooden door and frame

84 × 39 × 4 ½ inches (213.36 × 99.06 × 11.43 cm)