



Leonard Koren & Guests is a library and a live programme of conversations through which La Loge invites guests to introduce, share and address Leonard Koren's work whose principle medium is publishing. An artist who defies categorisation, Koren uses books to share his astute observations of objects, rituals, people and places, paying particular attention to overlooked details while opening up new channels through which we can understand art, design, architecture, philosophy, ecology and anthropology. His body of work, dedicated to productive incongruities and unlikely comparisons, reflects a personal and professional pathway that is erratic and consistent, curious and engaging at once.

Over a span of two weeks, prior and during the event, Leonard Koren's work—the full collection of twenty books, a selection of WET-magazines, images and print-outs—will be available for public consultation in a temporary library developed by Deborah Bowmann in the temple of La Loge.

On Friday 14 and Saturday 15 December, the selection of Koren's publications will serve as the point of departure to discuss recurring themes and interests including aesthetics, self-reflection, marketing, creative processes, vernacular practices, editorial sensibilities and 'what artists do'. Comprising three sessions, Leonard Koren and guests is envisioned as an opportunity to bring Koren in conversation with interviewers and practitioners who share affinities with his ways of thinking, making and doing. Each of the guests is invited to discuss Koren's life, interests and trajectory from a personal and particular point of view.

Library

04/12/18 – 15/12/18

Tuesday–Saturday

12:00 to 18:00

For two weeks, Leonard Koren's full collection of books is available for consultation in a library setting designed by Deborah Bowmann.

Opening drinks

Tuesday 4 December 2018

18:00 to 21:00

Live programme of conversations

Friday 14 December 2018

19:00 to 22:00

Saturday 15 December 2018

11:00 to 17:00

A detailed programme and schedule is available online: www.la-loge.be

entrance fee: 5€ (access to the full programme)

language: English

RSVP is highly recommended, limited seating: info@la-loge.be

Friday 14 December 2018

19:00 to 22:00

19:00: Introduction to Leonard Koren and guests

19:15: Talk by **Leonard Koren**

19:45: Artist **Thomas Jeppe** interviews Leonard Koren about changing contexts. Focussing on the shifting cultural frameworks—from LA's celebrities and subcultures to Japan's tea traditions, fashion and entrepreneurship—in which Leonard Koren developed his work, Thomas Jeppe will take a closer look at the artist's personal and artistic trajectory, addressing the coherent threads running through this diverse practice.

21:15: Contribution by **Boy Vereecken**. Echoing Leonard Koren's early posters and paper editions, designer Boy Vereecken will contribute a silk-screened poster. Functioning both as a homage to Koren's practice and as a material proof of the event taking place, Vereecken will add a new piece of ephemera to Koren's archive while mythologising the witnessing of an event.

21:45: drinks and snacks

Saturday 15 December 2018

11:00 to 17:00

11:00: Introduction to Leonard Koren and guests

11:15: Talk by Leonard Koren

11:45: Curator **Jeppe Ugelvig** in conversation with Leonard Koren about aesthetic sensibility. Tracing the evolution from the extravagant and wild to the intimate and silent in Koren's expansive publishing oeuvre, the duo will discuss our sensorial and emotional responses to objects and materials.

13:00: Contribution by **Nathalie Du Pasquier**. While not being personally present for this event at La Loge, Du Pasquier will share some ideas on this particular collaboration with Leonard Koren on *Arranging Things: A Rhetoric of Object Placement*.

13:15: light lunch

14:00: Talk by **Leonard Koren**

14:15: Interview by **Catherine Geel** in conversation with Leonard Koren on the relevance of his work within the field of design. Geel will particularly discuss how Koren's understanding and exploration of design at large expanded and reconfigured the scope of this discipline, and how his research drew attention

to certain concepts in a way that is both discursive and useful for design production.

16:00: Contribution by **Uta Eisenreich**. Uta Eisenreich will perform a game to initiate a conversation with Leonard Koren on their common interest in compositions and objects. Koren's work on aesthetics is filtered through Eisenreich's sensibility for ludic arrangement of objects, reminiscent of elementary science, magic tricks, arrangement tests and optical illusions.

16:30: Questions

17:00: Drinks and snacks

Practical information

entrance fee: 5€ (access to the full programme, 14 and 15 December)

language: English

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Biographies

Leonard Koren (°1948, New York) is an American artist, aesthetics expert and writer living in San Francisco Bay Area. After graduating from UCLA with a Master's Degree in Architecture and Urban Planning in 1972, he started organising bath events, creating particular bathing environments, and producing paper works about bathing. In 1976 Koren founded WET Magazine dedicated to gourmet bathing. In 1981, he shut down WET magazine and began travelling to Tokyo, where he started writing for a Japanese lifestyle magazine with a bimonthly column titled 'Dr. Leonardo's Guide to Cultural Anthropology'. Ever since, writing became omnipresent and making books became his artistic practice. Leonard Koren has published twenty books until today: 17 Beautiful Men Taking a Shower (1975), WET MAGAZINE, the magazine of Gourmet Bathing (1976 – 1981), New Fashion Japan (1984), 283 Useful Ideas from Japan (1988), Graphic Design Cookbook, Mix & Match Recipes for Faster, Better Layouts (1989), Success Stories, (1990), The Hagglers Handbook: One Hour to Negotiating Power (1991), Noise Reduction: A Ten-Minute Meditation for Quieting the Mind (1992), How to Take a Japanese Bath (1992), How to Rake Leaves (1993), Wabi-Sabi for Artists, Designers, Poets & Philosophers (1994), Undesigning the Bath (1996), Gardens of Gravel and Sand (2000), 13 Books (2001), Arranging Things: A Rhetoric of Object Placement (2003), The Flower Shop: Charm Grace Beauty, Tenderness in a Commercial Context (2005), Which "Aesthetics" Do You Mean?: Ten Definitions (2010), Making WET: The Magazine of Gourmet Bathing (2012) Wabi-Sabi: Further Thoughts (2015) and What Artists Do (2018).

Deborah Bowmann is a non-profit organisation directed by artists Amaury Daurel and Victor Delestre whose activities comprise running an exhibition space in Brussels, producing sculptures, objects and set design. Deborah Bowmann is both an artistic identity and an exhibition space and thus articulates a studio and curatorial practice. Deborah Bowmann aims to develop alternative ways of thinking exhibition making within the fields of contemporary art and design. The gallery's exhibition program is highly based on collaborations and has developed projects with Mick Peter, Daniel Dewar & Grégory Gicquel. Deborah Bowmann has also realized the scenography for Andrea Crews shop in Paris.

Uta Eisenreich (1971, works in Amsterdam) is an artist working with photography, performance and publishing. The core of Uta Eisenreich's practice is an investigation of the incongruous relationship between thought and reality. Walking a fine line between common sense and uncommon nonsense, she systematically explores the familiar methods for understanding our presumed reality. Her artist book A not B (2010, Roma Publications) has received several prizes and currently holds the status of a collector's item. Eisenreich's work has appeared in various exhibitions, such as the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Foam Amsterdam or the Centre Pompidou in Paris. Eisenreich teaches at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie.

Thomas Jeppe (1984, works in Paris) works across exhibitions, curating and publishing, Jeppe is occupied by questions around coding, exchange, and vernacular aspects of cultural production. His first book Home Made Tattoos Rule (2006) catalysed a movement within tattoo subculture. After working as a magazine editor, he published a series of interview-based publications, including Asiatische Adlernase, with a gallerist who left art for the world of Taiwanese tea; Don Carlos, with Mexico's biggest seashell collector; and Theory of the Bench, an anonymous roundtable discussion about social dynamics and appropriation in civil space. Jeppe's Abstract Journalism manifesto, released in 2014, proposes a framework for making sense of research material in an artistic context. He produces the Mimetic Club Bulletin to accompany each of his exhibition projects, and is a regular contributor to 032c magazine. He has shown in galleries and institutions in Australia, Mexico, Germany, France, Iran, and Czech Republic, and he recently organised the Umwelt exhibitions in Basel, Hamburg and Paris.

Nathalie Du Pasquier (1957, works in Milan) started her experience as one of the founding members of the influential design group Memphis, for which she designed numerous textiles, carpets, plastic laminates, and some furniture and objects. In 1987 Du Pasquier shifted her focus to painting, which

became her main medium and over the past thirty-five years. Her work stems from a curiosity towards aesthetics and the arrangement of things. Recent solo exhibitions include *From Some Paintings*, curated by Luca Lo Pinto at La Loge, Brussels (2017) *Nathalie Du Pasquier*. Big objects not always silent, *Kunsthalle Wien*, Vienna (2016); *Meteorites & Constructions II*, Exile, Berlin (2016). Her solo show is currently on display at Galerie Greta Meert in Brussels.

Catherine Geel (works in Paris) is a design historian, curator and publisher. She teaches history and design theory at the Ecole normale Supérieure de Paris-Saclay and at ENSA Nancy. She co-founded and directed from 2010 to 2016 the Dirty Art Department, Master of Design and Applied Art at Sandberg Instituut (Amsterdam). She also leads multidisciplinary design projects in the T & P Work UNit studio. She is a publisher for T&P Publishing and the author of various books, *Les grands textes du design commentés* (IFM/Le Regard) et *Design et Display : une autre histoire des expositions* (2.vol., T&P Publishing). She is a curator active within the field of design and she is going to curate the French Pavilion at the Triennale in Milan in 2019.

Boy Vereecken (1982, works in Brussels) runs a graphic design studio that operates with a research-based approach. He collaborated with several such as Jana Euler, Zin Taylor, Dewar & Gicquel on artists' books and exhibitions catalogues. He also works on projects and visual identities for a wide variety of institutions; including KIOSK (Gent), La Loge (Brussel), *Kunsthalle Wien* (Vienna); for the latter he received the German Design Award 2014. In 2016 he completed his Ph.D. at Sint Lucas School of Art Antwerp and the University of Antwerp on publishing phenomena and editorial approaches. Following *Signature Strengths* (2016), *Herewith the Clues* is the second installment in a trilogy about genre fiction and publishing that Vereecken will publish with Sternberg Press in 2018.

Jeppe Ugelvig (1993, works in London) is a curator and cultural critic whose research interests revolve around histories and theories of cultural production. He completed his MA degree at the Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College in 2018. Ugelvig's writing has appeared in *Frieze*, *ArtReview*, *Flash Art International*, *Spike*, and *LEAP* and he has written exhibition catalogues for artists and projects including *A Kassen*, *BODY HOLES*, *Soft Baroque*, *Ian Giles*, and *Esben Weile Kjær*. He is contributing editor of *Wallet*, a magazine dedicated to sharing experiences from the fashion industry. He most recently curated the exhibition, *Fashion Work, Fashion Workers* at the Hessel Museum of Art, NY exploring fashion work in all its complexity, from the atelier of the garment maker to the

post-production editing suite of the campaign photographer.

Acknowledgments

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The team at La Loge

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