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**mfc-michèle didier**

*Wunderkammer Café*

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**Press Release**

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Exhibition from September 5th to November 14th, 2020

**Preview on Thursday, September 3rd, 2020**

**From 6 to 9pm**

**Opening on Friday, September 4th, 2020**

**From 4 to 8pm**

mfc-michèle didier

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## mfc-michèle didier

### Wunderkammer Café

"The artist's book is not an Art book. The artist's book is not a book about Art.  
The Artist's book is an Artwork."<sup>1</sup>

On the occasion of the season's opening, and for the tenth year of the gallery, Michèle Didier will present in her new exhibition most of the editions she has been publishing since 1987.

Gathering a large part of the edited works, the gallery will take the shape of a consultation room, in a staging that could remind a café, a reading room or the famous Wunderkammer.

The publishing house « Les Maîtres de Forme Contemporains<sup>2</sup> », now known as mfc-michèle didier, opened in 1987 in Brussels, while the gallery opened in Paris in 2011.

Mainly dedicated to the publishing of works on paper, multiples and artist's books, mfc-michèle didier provides a reflection about the collection and production of edited works in contemporary art as well as about conceptual art.

Although the Wunderkammer is usually devoted to display unique and rare objects, and the reading room showcases archives and *Incunabula*, the exhibition will only present edited works<sup>3</sup>.

However, the artist book has a peculiarity: it is not, as opposed to a simple print, just a reproduction, but an authentic, multiplied artwork, that keeps its « aura » despite being edited.

This « work » in a literal sense, associates the artist to his publisher in the creative process, and each new publication appears as a « Wonder », that by accumulating constitute their Oeuvre.

The artist book is a media that needs time to be understood, it is an object whose perception is not immediate, nor integral. It requires an encounter, an handling and it generally has its own logic.

Some works are long to read and some are complex in term of conception. For instance, On Kawara's *Trilogy* includes more than 14000 pages, *One Billion Color Dots* comprises 25 volumes and *Double Bind* by Leigh Ledare is an ensemble of three volumes, three photographs and one fac-simile letter.

In the framework of the exhibition, the gallery is thought as a place outside of time, with its own rhythm, allowing the consultation of those mirabilia, those admirable and astonishing things that are usually presented under a showcase.

The exhibition's conception will allow visitors to satisfy their curiosity and to take the time needed for each work. The nature of the art object implies a permanent movement between the desire to know (libido sciendi) and erotic desire (libido sentiendi), which is all the more important in the context of artists' books and anthological works.

Entitled *Wunderkammer Café*, the exhibition will also be punctuated by meetings and discussions about the artists and their works. We wanted to take the time for us to meet again, but also to continue to use the gallery as a space of reflection and not only as a merchant house or a showroom.

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1. We translated. Guy Schraenen, *Le livre d'artiste dans l'art contemporain*, in « D'une Œuvre L'autre », Morlanwelz, Musée Royal de Mariemont, 1996 p.7-8

2. "I choose this name in reference to Bauhaus. There was then "Form masters" such as Oskar Schlemmer and "Colour Masters" such as Wassily Kandinsky."  
Michèle Didier

3. Except some unique works where produced on the occasion of specific events, as for instance the works produced by Allan McCollum and Claude Rutault on the occasion of their exhibition at the gallery in 2015.

**History of the publications (selection)****1992**

Braco Dimitrijevic, *Parc Event / P.P. Rubens - Gerda Bollen*

**1993**

Dennis Adams, *Recovered 10 on 10 - Adams on Garanger*

Michelangelo Pistoletto, *Le Miroir comme Tableau*

**1995**

Philippe Cazal, *Factice*

Paul-Armand Gette, *Nympha Nocturna ssp. Rosea P. A. G.*

**1997**

Hannah Collins, *Hair Shawl*

**1998**

Stanley Brouwn, *ell / ells - step / steps*

**1999**

Joe Scanlan, *Shipping Cartons*  
On Kawara, *One Million Years*

**2000**

Peter Downsbrough, *Occupied*

**2001**

Allen Ruppersberg, *The New Five Foot Shelf*

**2003**

Peter Downsbrough, *FROM (TO)*  
Carl Andre, *America Drill*

**2004**

Peter Downsbrough, *ET/C*  
On Kawara, *I MET*  
Liam Gillick, *Underground*

**2005**

Robert Morris, *Hurting Horses*  
Philippe Parreno, *Fade to Black*

**2006**

Robert Barry, *Art Lovers*  
Pierre Huyghe, *Le Château de Turing*  
Lawrence Weiner, *Liberté et Contraintes*  
Joseph Grigely, *Blueberry Surprise*

**2007**

Charles de Meaux, *Marfa Mystery Lights*  
Josh Smith & Christopher Wool, *Can your monkey do the dog*  
On Kawara, *I WENT*

**2008**

Samuel Bianchini, *Following Follow Spot*  
Carsten Holler, *The Beat*  
On Kawara, *I GOT UP*  
Robert Barry, *One Billion Colored Dots*

**2009**

Jutta Koether & John Miller, *Selling Short*  
Christian Marclay, *Ephemera*  
Allen Ruppersberg, *Chapter VI*  
Klaus Scherubel, *Het Boek*  
John Miller, *Shooting Log*  
AA Bronson, *life and works*

**2010**

David Cunningham, *Alphabet*  
Allan McCollum, *The Book of Shapes*  
Jonathan Monk, *Diecimila*  
Antoni Muntadas, *Fear, Panic, Terror*

**2011**

Jim Shaw, *Dream Object Book*  
Claude Closky, *Inside a Triangle*  
Annette Messenger, *Mon guide du tricot*  
Annette Messenger, *Ma collection de champignons*  
Annette Messenger, *Mes dessins secrets*

**2012**

Annette Messenger, *Ma collection de proverbes*  
Matt Keegan, *=*  
Leigh Ledare, *Double Bind*  
Maurizio Nannucci, *whichever word*

**2013**

Samuel Bianchini, *Audience Works*  
UNTEL, *LA BOÎTE UNTEL*

**2014**

Alban le Henry, *Stacks*  
Robert Barry, *Something in a Box*  
Yona Friedman, *1001 nuits + 1 jour*  
Allen Ruppersberg, *Colby Sign*  
Allen Ruppersberg, *The Novel That Writes Itself*

**2015**

BLESS, *N°53 Contenttenders*  
Claude Closky, *Pick & Hammer*  
Mathieu Mercier, *Journal*  
UNTEL, *UNTEL, LA CHEMISE TOURISTE*

**2016**

Robert Barry, *Some things that...*  
Claude Rutault & Allan McCollum  
JaZoN Frings, *Z Cerebral Hedge Fund V1*  
The Guerrilla Girls, *The Hysterical Herstory of Hysteria ...*

**2017**

Mel Bochner, *Singer Notes*  
Paul-Armand Gette, *Cinématographies*  
On Kawara, *I READ*  
Hubert Renard, *Kit de montage et Revue de presse*  
Jean-Baptiste Farkas, *On Words, In Deeds*

**2018**

Alice & Sonia, *NégoPif*  
Ludovic Chemarin©, *Moments*  
Ray Sander, *BODY WORK*

**2019**

LC©, *Moments*  
Laurent Marissal, *Caïn*  
Gustav Metzger, *Daily Express*

**2020**

Bernard Bazile, *3615 ALINE - ZIPP - AMY*  
Elsa Werth, *A Land*

**To be Released :**

Hubert Renard, *Hubert Renard - Catalogue raisonné, 1969-1998*  
Saâdane Afif, *Index*  
Martha Wilson, *Journals*

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## mfc-michèle didier

mfc-michèle didier is an independent publisher established in 1987 in Brussels, who produces and publishes original works by contemporary artists, creating an extensive series of works, such as artist's books, prints, installations, multiples, etc.

Since 2011, mfc-michèle didier gallery, located 66 rue Notre-Dame de Nazareth in Paris, gives the chance to present the publisher's productions and is a place of reflection on the artistic discipline of the artist's book. At the same time, it gives the opportunity to show the importance of ephemera and published, multiplied works in contemporary art.

### Artists

AALLICCEELLEESS...

SAÂDANE AFIF

DENNIS ADAMS

CARL ANDRE

FIONA BANNER

ROBERT BARRY

BERNARD BAZILE

SAMUEL BIANCHINI

BLESS

MEL BOCHNER

AA BRONSON

STANLEY BROUWN

PHILIPPE CAZAL

LUDOVIC CHEMAVIN©

CLAUDE CLOSKY

HANNAH COLLINS

DAVID CUNNINGHAM

CHARLES DE MEAUX

BRACO DIMITRIJEVIC

PETER DOWNSBROUGH

JEAN-BAPTISTE FARKAS

YONA FRIEDMAN

JAZON FRINGS

PAUL-ARMAND GETTE

LIAM GILICK

CARI GONZALEZ-CASANOVA

JOSEPH GRIGELY

THE GUERRILLA GIRLS

CARSTEN HÖLLER

PIERRE HUYGHE

IKHÉA@SERVICES - GLITCH

ON KAWARA

MATT KEEGAN

JUTTA KOETHER

LEIGH LEDARE

ALBAN LE HENRY

CHRISTIAN MARCLAY

LAURENT MARISSAL

ALLAN MCCOLLUM

MATHIEU MERCIER

ANNETTE MESSAGER

GUSTAV METZGER

JOHN MILLER

JONATHAN MONK

ROBERT MORRIS

ANTONI MUNTADAS

MAURIZIO NANNUCCI

PHILIPPE PARRENO

RAYMOND PETTIBON

MICHELANGELO PISTOLETTO

HUBERT RENARD

ALLEN RUPPERSBERG

CLAUDE RUTAULT

RAY SANDER

JOE SCANLAN

KLAUS SCHERÜBEL

CAROLEE SCHNEEMANN

JIM SHAW

JOSH SMITH

ROMARIC TISSERAND

UNTEL

LAWRENCE WEINER

ELSA WERTH

MARTHA WILSON

CHRISTOPHER WOOL

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### mfc-michèle didier - Paris

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*Open from Tuesday to Saturday, from 12am to 7pm*

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*République and Temple*

### Simon Poulain

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*By appointment only*

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### Upcoming and current exhibitions

*Wunderkammer Café*

From September 5th to November 14th, 2020

*FIAC Paris*

From October 22 to 25th, 2020

*Hubert Renard*

*Hubert Renard, Catalogue raisonné, 1969-1998*

Opening on November 19th

From November 20, 2020 to February 6th, 2021

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