



Markus Raetz – Zeemansblik

Landmarks of Swiss Art

Franz Müller

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- Markus Raetz (1941–2020) is one of the most distinguished contemporary Swiss artists
- *Zeemansblik* is among Markus Raetz's best-known works and exists in around 20 different versions
- The book offers insights into the evolution of this landmark of Swiss art
- Franz Müller is a renowned expert on the art of Markus Raetz

Representing vision is a core theme in the art of Markus Raetz (1941–2020). The imitation of a binocular field of vision, which he chose for *Zeemansblik*, is as simple as it is convincing. Raetz created some 20 versions of this relief, made of painted and later of polished zinc sheet, in various dimensions. The Dutch term *zeemansblik* (sailor's view) can be translated as a view of the sea, yet *blik* in Dutch also means sheet metal. Raetz's wordplay refers objectively to the material and at the same time invites an interpretation of the horizontal fold in the plate as a sea horizon. Light reflections on the curved blank material change with the viewer's moving point of view, suggesting changing weather. A simple, abstract object on the wall thus becomes a seascape without painting, with the longing motif of looking into a blue distance.

In this book, art historian Franz Müller explores the complexity behind the apparent simplicity of Markus Raetz's *Zeemansblik*, highlighting what makes the relief a landmark of Swiss art.

Text in English and German.

Franz Müller is a scholar of art history working at the Swiss Institute for Art Research SIK-ISEA, where he directs various research projects, such as the catalogue raisonné of Markus Raetz's sculptural work.

