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Silvie and Chérif Defraoui – Archives du Futur

14 Comments 1984-2020

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Chérif Defraoui

Silvie Defraoui

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ISBN	9783039420049
Publisher	Scheidegger & Spiess
Binding	Hardback
Territory	World excluding Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Puerto Rico, United States, Canada, and Japan
Size	240 mm x 180 mm
Pages	184 Pages
Illustrations	13 color, 2 b&w
Price	£32.00

- Silvie and Chérif Defraoui are important pioneers of multi-disciplinary and multi-media art and of art education in Switzerland
- Their digital catalogue raisonné, www.archives-du-futur.ch, will be available online as of spring 2021
- This book supplements and expands on the digital catalogue raisonné
- Text in English, French and German

Swiss artist Silvie Defraoui realised a significant part of her work beginning in 1975 together with her husband Chérif (1932–1994). Silvie and Chérif Defraoui compiled their photo and video works, installations, sculptures, and performances under the title Archives du Futur. They taught together at Geneva's École supérieure des Beaux- Arts (today HEAD–Genève), where they founded the legendary studio Média Mixte and counted a number of renowned artists among their students.

The Archives du Futur, to which Silvie Defraoui has continued adding works since Chérif's premature death, has been made available as a digital catalogue raisonné to browse online. This book accompanies, supplements, and expands on the digital documentation. It gathers 14 commentaries on individual works of the two artists by distinguished art theorists and curators, originally published from 1984 onwards, in various art journals and exhibition catalogues or newly written for this book.

They reflect on the artists' joint oeuvre as well as on work created independently by Silvie Defraoui. Interviews with her and selected lecture texts from the couple's shared teaching activities shed light on their artistic stance and thematic focuses.

The volume invites an exploration of an artistic body of work that is highly topical through its merging of dualities – memory and the present, Orient and Occident, man and woman, tradition and invention.

Text in English, French and German.

Silvie Defraoui, born in 1935 in St. Gallen and educated as an artist in Geneva and Algiers, exhibits her work in countries around the world. She lives and works in in Vufflens-le-Chateau, near Lausanne, and in Spain.

Chérif Defraoui, born in 1932 in Geneva, spent his childhood in Alexandria and Cairo and returned to Geneva for his studies, where he began his collaboration with Silvie. He died in 1994 in Vufflens-le-Chateau, near Lausanne.





Published 24th May 2021