



# Theo Gerber

## Science Fiction

Edited by Helen Hirsch

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- First-ever monograph on Swiss painter Theo Gerber (1928–1997)
- Traces Theo Gerber's career in Switzerland, Paris, and Africa and sheds light on his involvement with the Swiss artist collective Ulysses
- Accompanied the exhibition: *Theo Gerber—Science Fiction* at Kunstmuseum Thun, Switzerland from 4 February to 16 April 2023

"We dive into Gerber's worlds to lose ourselves and to find ourselves again in amazing places." This is how the Swiss art historian and acclaimed novelist Paul Nizon characterised the work of his compatriot, the painter Theo Gerber (1928–1997). Gerber was a free spirit who has remained largely unknown in his native country until the present day. This is due to the artist's own choice, having rejected the efforts of gallery owners to introduce his works to the general public. For Gerber, success did not mean fame and glory, but rather that his art showed a different possibility from that of his contemporaries. The way in which Gerber, who roamed between a variety of styles, travelled the world, and lived with the ethnic group of the Dogon in West Africa for two years during a creative crisis, upheld his artistic freedom makes it impossible to assign him to a specific direction in 20th-century art.

This book, published to coincide with a retrospective exhibition at the Kunstmuseum Thun, Switzerland, is an overdue tribute to this, in the best sense of the word, incomprehensible artist and finally provides the general public with a chance to discover and recognise his oeuvre.

Text in English and German.

**Helen Hirsch** is an art historian and director of Kunstmuseum Thun, Switzerland.