



# SEFFA KLEIN

## *A Family Constellation*

### MAIN SPACE

Seffa Klein, *Solo Show*

### PROJECT SPACE

A Family Constellation: Yves Klein, Marie Raymond, Rotraut, Günther Uecker

**From 15th MAY  
to 13th JULY 2024**

### PREVIEW

Wednesday 15th May 2024  
from 4pm to 7pm  
*By invitation only*

### PUBLIC OPENING

Wednesday 15th May 2024  
from 7pm to 10pm

### PARIS GALLERY WEEKEND

Friday 24th Mai 2024  
Saturday 25th Mai 2024  
Sunday 26th May 2024

Jérôme Poggi is pleased to present Seffa Klein's first exhibition in Europe (born in 1996, in Phoenix, Arizona), and to introduce this event with a unique and exceptional dialogue featuring works by Yves Klein, Rotraut, Marie Raymond, and Günther Uecker, who are her grandparents, great-grandparent, and great-uncle respectively.

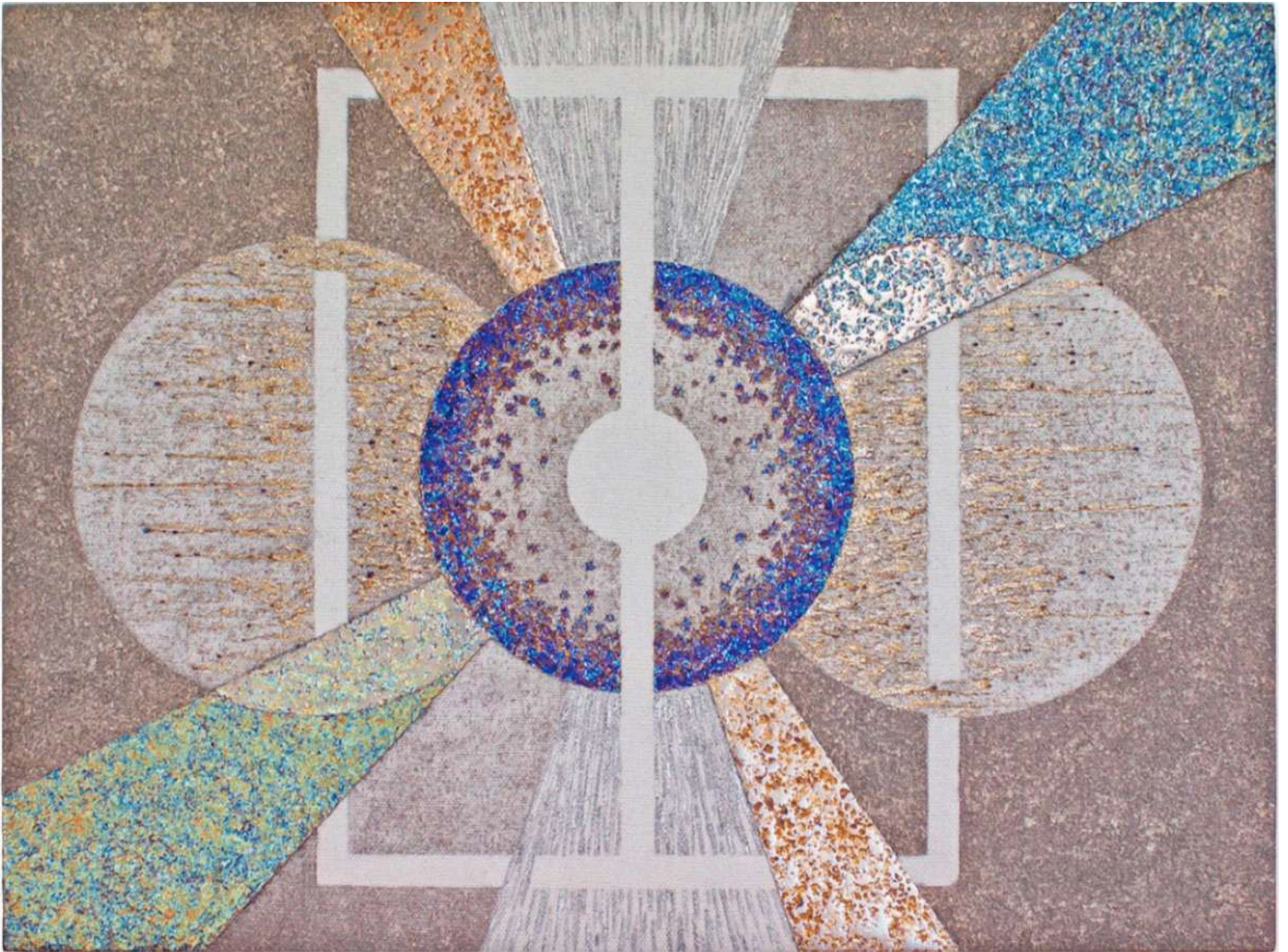
The exhibition will bring together around twenty paintings, three sculptures, and a collection of works on paper by Seffa Klein. They will resonate with three remarkable works by Yves Klein (1928-1962), several rare paintings by Marie Raymond (1908-1988), outstanding works by Rotraut (born in 1938, lives and works in Arizona), as well as a historic piece by Günther Uecker (born in 1930).

The exhibition of Seffa Klein is organized in collaboration with Yann Perreau (Here is Elsewhere). The gallery would also like to thank Diane de Polignac Gallery, Clavé Fine Arts, Standard Associates, and the Thibault Poutrel Collection for their support.

## Seffa Klein

### *New Stream*, Solo Show

Born in 1996 in Arizona, Seffa Klein is now one of the most followed young artists on the West Coast of the United States. Since 2017, she has been creating works on glass canvas using not paint, but bismuth, which she ignites to bring out its colors, playing with the iridescence of this metal and its symbolic, if not alchemical, significance. More than purely abstract, these are works that represent cosmic energies or geometric systems based on a sacred mathematics governing the laws of the universe. Passionate about science, particularly mathematics and chemistry, Seffa Klein fuses purely conceptual and/or spiritual, even meditative, methods with a profoundly manual and physical practice: playing with fire to transform matter in its form and internal organization, drawing and sculpting in molten metal, sometimes combined with plaster, *immolating* flowers, and congealing plants within the concretions of cooled metal.



© Seffa Klein, *New Stream*, 2019

While resolutely turned towards the cosmos, Seffa Klein's work is equally rooted in the natural, mineral, plant, and animal worlds. As a child, Seffa Klein grew up on a farm in the middle of Arizona, working the land, sowing and harvesting, taking care of animals, all while having her eyes turned towards the stars and sunsets. It is through her sculptures and installations that this relationship with the living world is expressed. Not as a subject in itself, but as a project. Like many artists today, in the age of the Anthropocene, and even more so in a hoped-for Symbiocene, Seffa thinks of art beyond the human sphere alone, conceiving it in relation to plants, by incorporating orchids in her sculptures, and to animals, through the design of ponds or adorned architecture for fish.

Seffa Klein's work thus inscribes itself, at once, in a history of abstraction rooted in cosmology, spiritualism, and esotericism on one side (from Hilma af Klint to Yves Klein), and in science, mathematics, and chemistry on the other (from František Kupka to Ólafur Elíasson), as well as in the life and environmental sciences (*Light and Space*, Pierre Huyghe).



© Yves Klein, *Untitled Blue Sponge Sculpture (SE 314)*, c. 1961, Courtesy of Clavé Fine Arts, Paris

GALERIE POGGI

135 rue Saint-Martin, 75004 Paris — Tuesday - Saturday — 11 am - 7 pm — [galeriepoggi.com](http://galeriepoggi.com)

## **A Family Constellation**

Yves Klein, Marie Raymond, Rotraut, Seffa Klein

It would be reductionist to begin by writing that Seffa Klein is the granddaughter of Yves Klein. Because one would immediately need to add that she is also the granddaughter of the artist Rotraut, who was married to the inventor of the *International Klein Blue*. The great-niece of Günther Uecker, one of the founders of the Zero Group, of whom Rotraut is the sister. And the great-granddaughter of Marie Raymond, whose work's importance never ceases to be rediscovered.

Such a genealogy thus greatly exceeds the idea of a lineage but rather emerges from a system of “constellation”, in the psychoanalytic sense of the term, as well as the symbolic. Not least because the sudden death of Yves Klein at 34, before the birth of his son Yves Amu, Seffa's father, excludes the idea of intergenerational learning as it may have existed in other artist dynasties of the past (the Mignards, the Vernets, etc.).



© Yves Klein, *Untitled Blue Monochrome (IKB 308)*, 1959

More cryptic connections link the members of this family, all of whom demonstrate an attraction to the sky and the cosmos, alchemy, and to a hidden order of the world surpassing all human understanding.

More than blood ties, it may be epigenetic bonds that unite them, as Seffa Klein herself hypothesizes. Or even karmic, as Marie Raymond supposed, for she saw in her son's work “the perpetual cycle of a creative impulse, springing forth and returning from shadow to light, through a Being that time pours out and recreates, PERPETUALLY”.

The assembled works bear witness to the formal, conceptual, and spiritual convergences that exist within the work of each artist.

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© Rotraut, *Sans Titre*, 1972

# PRACTICAL INFORMATION

## Preview

(By Invitation Only)

Wednesday 15th May 2024

from 4pm to 7pm

In the presence of Seffa Klein and Rotraut

## Public Opening

Wednesday 15th May 2024

from 7pm to 10pm

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## Paris Gallery Weekend

Friday 24th, Saturday 25th, Sunday 26th May 2024

### Saturday 25th May 2024

9am - 10pm

**9am:** Breakfast at the gallery

**10am:** Guided tour of the exhibition by Seffa Klein

**2pm:** Guided tour of the exhibition by Seffa Klein

**5pm:** Conference by Jérôme Poggi, "A brief history of exhibition openings"

*Jérôme Poggi extends the lecture he delivered at the Lambert Collection recently by continuing his "brief history of exhibition openings" and focusing in particular on the openings conceived by Yves Klein.*

**7pm:** Cocktail Party with original creations by Guillaume Aubry

*Echoing the blue cocktails that Yves Klein served for his exhibition "The Void" at the Iris Clert gallery in 1960, the artist, architect, and mixologist Guillaume Aubry will be serving "Sunset cocktails", in a nod to Seffa Klein's work.*

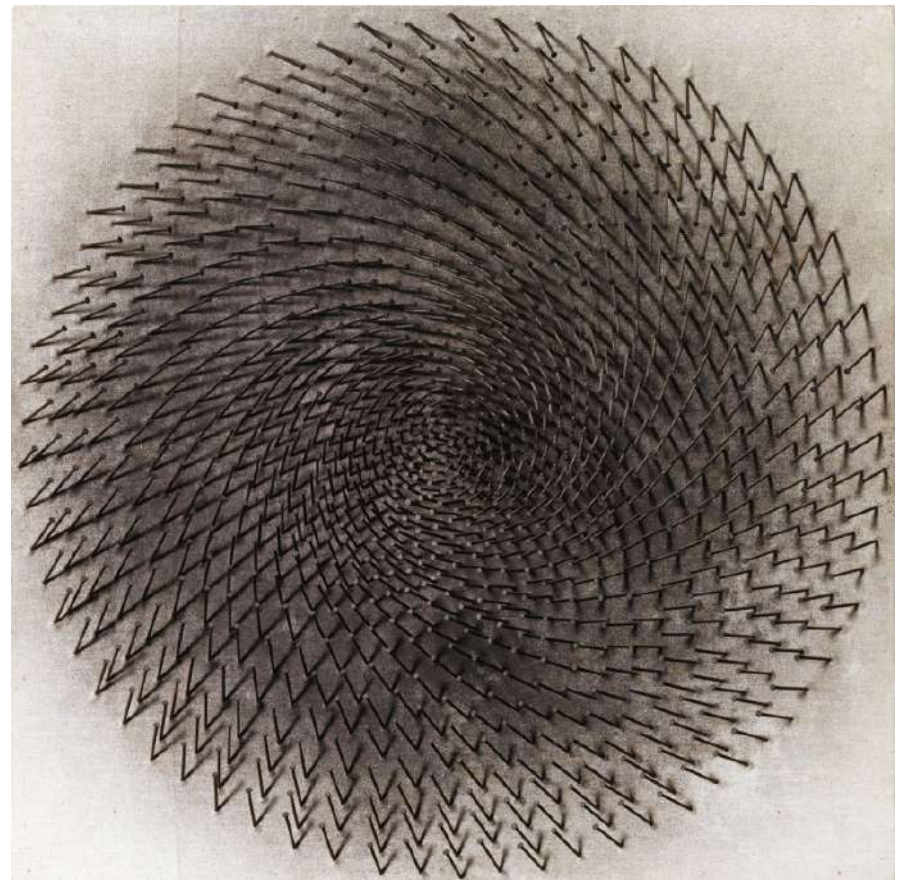
### Sunday 26th May 2024

2pm - 6pm

**4pm:** Afternoon tea at Galerie Poggi, in the presence of Seffa Klein



© Marie Raymond, *Jeu d'Espace*, 1969



© Günther Uecker

Paris Gallery Weekend  
24 · 25 · 26 mai 2024

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