



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Monira Foundation Presents a Two-Day Exhibition of Contemporary Portraiture**

Artist as Subject is Monira Foundation's debut exhibition at The KuBe, a former public high school in Beacon, New York

BEACON, NY – Monira Foundation is proud to present an important exhibition in an exciting venue, with participation from a number of prominent collectors. Running at KuBe from October 23-24 and 30-31 2021, Artist as Subject is a wide-ranging exploration of the portrait, under an expansive new definition that includes the oblique artistic reference as a mode of portraiture itself.

The Mana Collection contributes a rarely seen 20-minute film, Self Portrait (1980), by Jonas Mekas. In it, the godfather of avant-garde cinema offers 360° views of his face, with and without his hat, and speaks directly to the camera, describing his “personal, autobiographical, real-life” approach to filmmaking.

Among the works on view from the collection of Ethan Cohen is a 1980 self-portrait by Yuan Yunsheng, depicting the artist seated, paint-spattered trousers crossed at the knee, arms folded behind his head, limbs jutting into each of the four corners of the canvas. His expression of subdued triumph would have been justified: just a year prior to the painting's completion, Yuan had unveiled a mural, Water-Splashing Festival: An Ode to Life, that was heralded as a symbol of China's new freedom from the aesthetic mores of the Cultural Revolution and its emergence into contemporaneity.

Another segment of the exhibition contains works contributed by the figuration focused collection of Eileen S. Kaminsky, founder of Eskff, the Eileen S Kaminsky Family Foundation, including Yayoi Kusama, and Ida Applebroog, among others.

Israeli-born artist Yigal Ozeri has painted portraits of the Eileen S. Kaminsky collection artists, which are presented alongside figurative works by the hand of the subjects themselves. One vignette pairs Ozeri's painting of George Condo with a drawing of a woman's head by Condo, and links Condo's drawing to its stylistic antecedent, a drawing of a woman by Pablo Picasso. Condo's admiration for the late Spaniard is evident both in the neo-Cubist paintings depicted in the background of Ozeri's portrait and in the geometric similarities between the two drawings, from the rigid spindles of the figures' eyelashes to their cuneiform noses. For good measure, an

Ozeri portrait of Picasso is also included in the exhibition.

Curator Ysabel Pinyol Blasi, who is also Executive Director of the Monira Foundation, said, "Leon Battista Alberti famously linked the origins of painting to the myth of Narcissus: like the ill-fated youth, the artist is transfixed by--and transfixes us via--their own vision as it appears upon a flat surface. I invite the public to contemplate the notion of portraiture as a quasi-distorted reflection of reality, the canvas as a mirror, the subject as reified by the gaze of the artist."

The exhibition spans several floors of the former public school, however it is on view for a very limited time. Other featured artists include Aboudia, Hannah van Bart, Armand Boua, Clayton Brothers, Frederic Bruly Bouabre, Gunter Brus, Sandro Chia, Shi Chong, Sante D'Orazio, Zhang Dali, Ben Degen, Gu Dexin, Carroll Dunham, Max Ferguson, Helen Frankenthaler, Angela Gram, Erika Harrsch, Julie Heffernan, Nir Hod, Tang Hui, Sui Jianguo, Wu Junyong, Alex Katz, Jon Kessler, Benjamin Keating, Sigalit Landau, Jac Lahav, Eugene Lemay, Basmat Levin, Fang Lijun, Shen Ling, Xiao Lu, Chi Ming, Catheris Mondombo, Antonio Murado, John Newsom, Gerhard Richter, Osvaldo Romberg, Michal Rovner, Matt Saunders, Edwin Schlossberg, Allison Schulnik, Dana Schutz, Cindy Sherman, Malick Sidibé, Jeffrey Spencer Hargrave, Christian Vincent, Bill Viola, David Wakstein, Ai Weiwei, Bernard Williams, Liu Xiaodong, Zhang Xiaogang, Liu Xiaohui, Zhou Xiaohui, Peng Yu and Sun Yuan, Wang Yuping, and Qi Zhilong.

Works on view are on loan from Mana Collection LLC, Ethan Cohen, the Eileen S. Kaminsky, and Doron Sebbag.

#### About Monira Foundation

Monira Foundation, an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit institution with a mission to expand the reach and quality of art available to the public through residencies, exhibitions, and educational programs that address urgent and ongoing community needs, particularly as these needs evolve and change.

Our organization functions as a radical experimental laboratory, working in close collaboration with artists, curators, musicians, producers, and writers to conceive, realize, and present innovative projects in all media. Its aim is to spark, intensify, and promote an evolving cultural and social dialogue between creators, audiences, and institutions. Focusing on the unique potential of interdisciplinary work in a context distinct from the distracting pressures of academia and the market, Monira Foundation advances the practices and products of today's foremost artists, amplifying their contributions to communities both local and distant.

#### About The KuBe Art Center.

The KuBe Art Center, located in the heart of Beacon, New York, is a space that promotes international exchange of culture and art.

Acting as a platform for artists to continually create and present work to collectors, curators, and fellow artists and the public, the KuBe Art Center supports emerging artists through work spaces, and exhibitions for the Beacon and New York arts community. The KuBe encompasses the Ethan Cohen Gallery, The Ethan Cohen Library for Chinese Contemporary Art, experimental art spaces, 48 artists' studios, and commercial office spaces. The Zhu Chongmao and Zheng Ruyu Theater, the Joan Lebold Cohen and Jerome A. Cohen and Art Center and The Turbine special projects room. The sprawling landscape and natural beauty of the historic Hudson Valley make the KuBe Art Center an ideal site for lectures and performances, film screenings, and avant-garde experiments amidst a growing artistic community.

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To learn more about Monira Foundation or to schedule an interview with Ysabel Pinyol Blasi, please email [info@monirafoundation.org](mailto:info@monirafoundation.org). Visit the Monira Foundation website at: [www.monirafoundation.org](http://www.monirafoundation.org).