

ROBERT SEYDEL



BOOK OF RUTH

PRINTED MATTER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 6 - 8 PM

BOOK OF RUTH

by

ROBERT SEYDEL

A book launch and a conversation about the late Robert Seydel, his work, process, and influences with poet Peter Gizzi, artist Richard Kraft, and poet and senior editor of *BOMB Magazine* Mónica de la Torre.

The conversation begins at 6:30 p.m.

Printed Matter is located 195 Tenth Avenue between 21st and 22nd Streets, NYC 10011. Phone: (212) 925-0325.

Book of Ruth is published by Siglio Press.

"*Book of Ruth* is a modern fairy tale unlike any other, arriving from a corner of the world where fiction and fact are interchangeable. . . . Open this book and lose yourself. Out of bits of ephemera held together by cloud and glue an entire universe will rise up to greet you."
—JOHN YAU

"Rich with white magic, *Book of Ruth* is an enchanting, mischievous, often deeply moving act of invention and homage."
—MAGGIE NELSON

Published just months after Robert Seydel's unexpected and sudden death, *Book of Ruth* is a debut book that cannot be contained in any single category. A first person narrative of sorts, it uses collages, drawings, and journal entries to create an intimate portrait of an unknown woman for whom the distances between the ordinary and extraordinary, the ecstatic and the desolate, loneliness and embrace is *infra-thin*. The detritus from which Seydel fashions Ruth's art and narrates her inner life shine like the pages of an illuminated manuscript, revealing as much about the imagination of an artist as about the tenuous creation of self.

A visionary work by an artist and writer who himself was reclusive and uncompromising, *Book of Ruth* is the only published work by Seydel who had a single solo show in New York before his untimely death. This evening's conversation—led by the editor who brought the centerpiece text "Flowers & Formulas" to the pages of *BOMB Magazine*—will open the door to Seydel's work, shining light on his process and influences, as well as delving into the inimitable combination of playfulness, erudition, and imagination that drives his work.

ROBERT SEYDEL was an artist, writer, curator, and teacher. Editor of *Several Gravities* by Keith Waldrop (Siglio, 2009) as well as a professor at Hampshire College in Amherst, MA, Seydel created, often using various personas, several large-scale series of works (many in small formats) as well as curated over twenty exhibitions before his death in January, 2011.

Mónica de la Torre's poetry books in English are *Talk Shows* and *Public Domain*. She is also author of two poetry books in Spanish published in Mexico City: *Acúfenos* and *Sociedad Anónima*. She is senior editor at *BOMB Magazine*.

Peter Gizzi is the author of *Threshold Songs*, as well as four other books. His numerous honors include the Lavan Younger Poet Award from the Academy of American Poets and a Guggenheim fellowship. He teaches at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Richard Kraft is an artist whose current work, *Something With Birds In It*, is being exhibited at the Charlie James Gallery in Los Angeles. Siglio has published several multiples, and a trade edition bookwork will be published in late 2012.

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2432 Medlow Avenue, LA, CA 90041
www.sigliopress.com
p:310-857-6935