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## **Daniel Rohner** Dialogue with Mi Fu

Texts by Lothar Ledderose, Andres Pardey, Andrin Schütz

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For several years now, the Swiss photo artist Daniel Rohner has been addressing the theme of the landscape, as well as the aesthetics of Chinese art and philosophy. He focuses on ink-paintings by Mi Fu (1051 – 1107), whom Rohner sees as the chief witness of his own thought processes – pictures which lend themselves to a new interpretation, an actualization or perhaps merely a translation into a new contemporary medium. Rohner climbs into the Rhine Gorge, which has dug its way deep into the mountain landscape of Grison between Reichenau and Ilanz; he explores Chur's backyard mountain Calanda and shoots photos in the Laufen Valley near Basle. These sites lie on his doorstep; they are familiar and visited frequently – and this determines the compositions of Rohner's landscapes: peaceful, without any alpine heroism, prudently and precisely composed and, especially in their persistence, characterized by an almost meditative serenity, at peace with themselves. Traces of civilisation can be discerned, but, in light of the overwhelming nature, are restricted to a pure reminiscence of human existence.

*»For these are landscapes largely without horizons, without expanse; what they have is depth, but depth with a propensity to slip spontaneously into the two-dimensional, collapsing all distance. It is landscape that is all image.«*

– from the text by Andres Pardey

DANIEL ROHNER was born in Basel in 1955. Having completed his training in photography he embarked on a career as a freelance painter and photographer. The years that followed took him to Rome and New York and saw him exhibiting at renowned institutions in Switzerland and abroad. Rohner was awarded the 1986 Federal Applied Arts Stipend, the Canton Graubünden Young Artist's Prize in 1987, and in 2012 received a grant from Canton Graubünden. His photography and paintings can be found in numerous private and public collections. Daniel Rohner lives and works mainly in Chur.

Texts by

LOTHAR LEDDEROSE was born in 1942. A Senior Professor at the University of Heidelberg and former Director of the Heidelberg Institute of East Asian Art History, Ledderose is one of the most distinguished specialists in his field.

ANDRES PARDEY was born in Basel in 1965. He studied art history at the University of Basel, which in 1996 awarded him a doctorate for his thesis on pictorial narrative in the work of Hans Holbein the Younger.

ANDRIN SCHÜTZ was born in the Swiss resort of Arosa in 1975. He has been a freelance author, journalist, and curator since 2011.

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