

Press release

Jan Fabre

Exhibition from 14th September to 4th November 2006

Guy Bärtschi gallery is pleased to present Jan Fabre's work from September 14 to November 4, 2006. On this occasion, a 364-page monograph dedicated to the artist will be published by Editions Bärtschi-Salomon. With more than 520 colour reproductions, the book, edited by Frank Maes, traces the artist's sculptural work from 1977 to the present day.

Jan Fabre is an infinitely versatile artist who has been active for more than 30 years in the fields of performance, theatre, choreography and the visual arts, creating his own universe, far from the rigid formalism of the "moderns" as well as the cynicism of the "postmodernists". His work is imbued with the great human adventures: life, death, the body, mythology, memory. Human ghosts, animal carcasses and armies of insects thus come together in a work rich in symbols and metaphors.

The exhibition at the Guy Bärtschi Gallery will show recent installations, some of which were already presented in part at the Royal Museum of Fine Arts in Antwerp during an exhibition that ended in September 2006. The gallery will thus be specially set up to host five monumental installations, as well as two self-portraits made with the bic pen, one of the artist's favourite techniques. Some of the installations also feature the artist himself, such as Bloedneusfiguur (2006) [ill.], in which a figure of Jan Fabre bumps into a painting by the master Rogier van der Weyden and bleeds out through his nose, bathing his feet, or Dependens, representing the artist, covered with thumbtacks, hanging from a rope. Another work, Messengers of the dead decapitated, is closer to the animal theme dear to the artist, presenting owl heads [ill.] on a huge table covered with flaming lace.