

Press release

Jan FABRE
La metamorphose de l'artiste
(hommage à Jacques Mesrine)

Exhibition from 17th September to 7th November 2009
Opening on 17 September 2009 from 6pm in the presence of the artist

Galerie Guy Bärtschi is pleased to propose once again an exhibition of the Belgian artist, Jan Fabre, who is presenting his latest works from the series "La metamorphose de l'artiste (hommage à Jacques Mesrine)". Invited to exhibit at the Louvre (2008) where he was given carte blanche for his installation "The Angel of Metamorphosis", Jan Fabre is undoubtedly a major talent and contributor to the contemporary art scene. Sculptor, draftsman but also producer, the artist offers a multidisciplinary work that transgresses boundaries and genres. His use of unusual materials such as insects or blood is dictated as much by their technical characteristics as their meaning, transforming the artist into a modern alchemist. His works provoke a sense of eeriness and arouse marvellous fascination.

Jan Fabre's sculptures, made of scarabs, bones and gold and his drawings and films are all reflections on the human condition, presenting the body as the central point of his query.

The concept of metamorphosis reflects this interest in the transforming body, a body which tends to disappear behind the many shapes it takes before disintegrating with death, exactly like the figure of Jacques Mesrine. The artist considers destruction positive because it allows the birth of a new man. If Jan Fabre's approach could be regarded as macabre, it also contains humour.

With this new exhibition, the viewer is once again left wondering and never indifferent to the drawings, sculptures and video works in which some people see a kind of contemporary mysticism where positive destruction is the keystone.