

Press release

Philippe Favier

Changement d'Échelle

Exhibition from 18th March to 14th May 2010

Opening on 18th March 2010 from 6pm in the presence of the artist

Gallery Guy Bärtschi is delighted to welcome the French artist Philippe Favier, with whom the gallery has established a long and successful collaboration. Born in 1957 in Saint-Etienne, France, Favier shares his time between Nice and his native city. In this new solo exhibition, entitled "Changement d'Échelle", the artist will present a series of drawings on genuinely aged paper, characterised by the attention to detail so typical of his work. Furthermore, he will display a series of sculptures for the first time in Switzerland.

In "Changement d'Échelle" the artist presents his own personal cultural universe, consisting of symbols related to a particular aesthetic, cartography and calligraphy. His interest in writings and old documents (papers), confirmed in this exhibition, plunges us into the slow process of collecting. Favier proposes drawings done on Gregorian music sheets, where prayers are mixed with ink drawings, skeletons and decorative designs reminiscent of the "death dance" and marginalia.

These works propose compositions where drawings in ink, watercolour, collages and letters are lost and found. Small characters inhabit the pages of his work: skeletons, skulls, bones and hybrid mythological animals. Ironic innuendo to the religious text - "Consumétur inequítia peccatórum, Allelúia, allelúia" - skeletons hung on the page as trophies, remind the viewer of the fatal destiny of humanity. The grotesque and the hybrid animals belonging to his own syntax, represent contemporary vanities which invite us to meditate on the relationship between life. Philippe Favier often explores the derisory, while tragic, aspect of human nature.

The artist will surprise us with plans of carpentry and drawings of metal profiles, as well as sculptures entitled the "scale of Théodore", This project has been developed for the Théodore Monod de Roubaix College, consisting of a "ladder of life" with 98 ephemeris enclosed in a wooden case more than a metre long. This is a very poetic project that fits perfectly into the aesthetic world of Philippe Favier.

The spectator is lost in the infinitely small graphic line, which adds preciousness to the text. The art of Philippe Favier is to be enjoyed in detail. One should dive into his drawings to enter the fineness of the line, the richness of the shapes and finally see the facetious appearance of these skeletons, through which he seeks to solve the riddles proposed with malice.