

Press release

Not Vital

Œuvres sur papier

Exhibition from the 10th of November 2012 to the 18th of January 2013

Opening Saturday the 10th of November 2012 from 6pm

Not Vital grew up in Sent in the Swiss Engadine where he was born in 1948. His unusual name is not a nom d'artiste but is indeed a Rhéto-Roman name that has been passed down through the generations.

Not Vital's art is like living matter; his works offer the viewer a surprising spectacle with. The forces of nature, how he views living beings and his many travels are central to his work. A tireless nomad, this Romansche artist travels the world without ever losing sight of his origins. Neither illusionist nor abstract, his work is a silent, sensitive celebration of life.

Galerie Guy Bärtschi is pleased to present for the first time, l'oeuvre 7 (NOTVITAL). In this work we get a feel for Not Vital's earnest attachment to the often fragile craftworks and cultures discovered throughout his frequent travels in Africa and China. The art of papermaking has been cultivated for centuries by the inhabitants of Bhoutan, where the artist has stayed on a number of occasions. High up in the hills, peasants collect the bark of the Daphnae Papyracea shrub also known as Lokta, which grows at 2,500 to 4,500 meters. The long fibre, the texture and the resistance of this plant ensure the durability and luxuriance of this remarkable medium.

This Work, comprised of 8 pieces reminds us of the inevitable transformation of matter over time and of man's irresistible desire to obtain the unattainable. A metaphor for life and death marked by our finitude, the Work creates a space where the energy of life is woven with that of death. Through the empty and the full, it mirrors our own duality, it shakes-up our views, our western beliefs; it's could be considered opposition.

The nomadic energy cherished by the artist, the strength of the collective memory, the mark of time, the notion of identity and the traces of passage all come together in this new ensemble of oeuvres sur papier presented. Not Vital invites us, through his enigmatic titles such as Nervous nothing with tape or Entrance + exit of tunnel at Notona Patagonia, to follow a fleeting moment, the subtle reflection of a soul in perpetual movement.

By blending simple, everyday materials such as adhesive tape, cotton buds and aluminium foil the artist continues to pursue alchemy by transforming the ordinary into the sublime. Reflective materials, the transparency of plastic and the shine of aluminium captivate our vital impulse, our deepest force in an absolute timeless resonance.