

Press release

Jim SHAW

Œuvres choisies : drawings – paintings – sculptures – videos

Exhibition 8 November 2014 to 13 March 2015

Opening Saturday 8 November and Sunday 9 November in the context of the ***week-end portes ouvertes de Genève Art Contemporain***

For this premiere solo exhibition of **Jim Shaw's** work at Galerie Guy Bärtschi, we are delighted to dedicate an entire space to the American artist, born in 1952 in Michigan and presently living in Los Angeles.

Jim Shaw's universe is defined by a multitude of materials and techniques including sculptures, installations, drawings and videos. The artist's untethered imagination explores every possible form of plastic.

Jim Shaw draws inspiration from American pop culture, repudiating its excesses while accepting the extent of its impact. Eclectic, vibrant and whacky, his art reflects contemporary society; colourful, dynamic and incongruous.

The surreal world of **Jim Shaw** in which imagery and American imagination coexist, is inhabited by creepy figures, ghosts and zombies. Fascinated by the power of cults, the artist invented his own religion, Oism, in which he examines the indoctrination process be it in art, pop culture or religion.

Jim Shaw's work is inhabited by floating, dream-like apparitions. His own dreams, recorded at night over a ten year period are revealed through pop culture imagery in comic-book form; a reference to the artist's childhood interest in comic-books. Objects from those same reveries feature in his *Dream Object* sculptures and *Dream drawings*.

Over the decades **Jim Shaw**, an avid collector, has built up a collection of hundreds of amateur paintings and images bought in junk shops and thrift stores. This collection of comic, disturbing, strange pictures has been exhibited in galleries and museums and is a source of inspiration for the Artist's own work. The collection reveals a somewhat disturbing, sensitive perception of art and the world as does the rich and amazing artistic universe of **Jim Shaw**.