

## PRESS RELEASE

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**MATHIEU DAFFLON**

**WPO WPA WPC IPF**

**24, RUE DU VIEUX-BILLARD**

**43, ROUTE DES JEUNES**

Art Bärtschi & Cie is pleased to present for the first time the work of the young Swiss painter *Mathieu Dafflon*. For this first exhibition, the artist occupies both spaces of the gallery, with a set of seven oil paintings shown at 24, rue du Vieux-Billard as well as a monumental work (*Sans titre, Waste session*, 2016) exhibited at 43, route des Jeunes.

The title of the exhibition, "WPO WPA WPC IPF" takes the initials of the different Anglo-Saxon professional boxing organizations, with the letter P replacing the original B. The spectator thus attends an exhibition of the "World Painting Organisation" or the "International Painting Federation". The metaphor of the act of painting as a fight is obviously embodied in the portraits of disfigured boxers but also in the small vignettes in grey concealed in the large paintings, each of which represents an important painter of the 20th century.

Mathieu Dafflon's painting feeds on the history of art which he interprets and diverts with irony and a certain irreverence. The artist treats with virtuosity the pictorial material from which he draws his inspiration, both literally and figuratively. Dubuffet's portrait (*Dhôtel nuancé d'abricot*, 1947) is thus divided into three, and the very materiality of the painting disappears to give way to a disconcerting illusion. The artist blurs the tracks and proposes to question the reproduction and representation of Painting by Painting.

Born in 1987 in Geneva, where he lives and works, Mathieu Dafflon is a graduate of the Ecole des Arts Appliqués (EAA) and the Haute Ecole d'Art et de Design (HEAD). Winner of the Prix de la ville de Genève in 2014, then the Prix Hirzel in 2016, the artist has notably joined the collection of the Fonds municipal d'art contemporain de Genève (FMAC).

The exhibition will be held from 19 May to 2 July 2016 at 24 rue du Vieux Billard, and by appointment, during the same period, at 43 route des Jeunes.

For further information, please contact the gallery: info@bartschi.ch.