

PRESS RELEASE

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PHILIPPE FAVIER

'LETTRE À EZRA'

24, RUE DU VIEUX-BILLARD

OPENING ON 15.09.2016

It is with great pleasure that Art Bärtschi & Cie approaches the start of the 2016 academic year in the Quartier des Bains with a new exhibition by the French artist Philippe Favier, with whom the gallery has developed a long and rich collaboration since 1998.

Ten years after the retrospective devoted to him at the Galerie Nationale du Jeu de Paume in Paris, the mischievous Favier continues to play and surprise. Playing with meaning and words, as in "Lettre à Ezra", a title that links the literary figures of James Joyce and Ezra Pound. The artist takes up here the naughty content of a *Lettre à Nora*, by Joyce, where the latter talks about sending his chosen one a few pounds so that she can treat herself to lingerie. From the motto to the proper name, the path is short, and Favier sends us back with malice to Ezra Pound's *Cantos Pisans*, where the latter, imprisoned, declares: "*I feel like seeing the world through a pair of panties.*"

It is from furniture and objects found at random in flea markets and flea markets that the artist imagines and proposes singular creations that reveal, as so many testimonies, the traces and stigmata of a past life. More than a hijacking, the artist speaks of a "spiritual invasion" of these warm and sensitive materials. As is often the case, black and white reign supreme. And if he often works in small format, it is perhaps to better appreciate the care given to the framing and the balance of each of his compositions. "*I don't paint small, I paint from afar.*" he says. In the encyclopedic manner of a naturalist exhibition, the artist gives us to discover his works, sometimes glued, sometimes engraved, always annotated, like so many technical, poetic, phantasmagorical curiosities, in which ancient legacies and contemporary reflections are wonderfully combined.

Philippe Favier was born in 1957 in Saint-Etienne. A graduate of the Beaux-Arts of the same city, he now lives and works between Châteaudouble and Nice. First a photographer, then in turn a draftsman, engraver, painter or sculptor, Favier has been able to surprise us since the beginning of his career both by the diversity of the mediums he uses and by the poetry of his hidden speeches. Always unpredictable, he forces us to remain attentive and curious. The titles of his works are like so many treasure maps that we find ourselves trying to decipher; they take us to places where our mind takes the time to question human nature.

For further information:
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