

PRESS RELEASE

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YANN GROSS

THE JUNGLE SHOW III

24, RUE DU VIEUX-BILLARD

OPENING ON 12.11.2016

« *This work goes beyond the feverish dreams that smoulder in the Amazon. It seems that a spell weighs on the whole landscape, everywhere, from one horizon to the other.* » *Werner Herzog*

Art Bärtschi & Cie is pleased to present the work of the young Swiss photographer **Yann Gross**, winner of the 1st Prize for Human Rights Photography¹, with his project *The Jungle Show*.

When Francisco de Orellana, the Spanish conquistador, set out in search of cinnamon trees in 1541, he had no idea that chance would lead him to the meanders of the largest river in the world: The Amazon. Evangelization campaigns, road construction, rubber fever, oil extraction or the gold rush: this river zone has never ceased to be a crossroads of exchange and to attract covetousness.

By retracing the traces of past expeditions and thanks to discreet staging, this logbook reveals various facets of contemporary Amazonia and its outskirts. Once immersed in this domesticated universe, the romantic clichés of preserved lands or good wilderness are quickly forgotten. The Amazon is a mirage. The jungle is made of agglomerates, ghosts, reconstruction and this visual wandering questions more widely the notion of progress and development.

Yann Gross

Yann Gross was born in Switzerland in 1981. After his studies at the ECAL/University of Art and Design of Lausanne, which he attended in 2007, he left for South America to do his civil service, where he has not stopped going since. His photographs and videos have been exhibited, among others, at the Musée de l'Elysée (Lausanne), the Fotostiftung (Wintertour), the FOMU (Antwerp), in various festivals including Photo España (Madrid), Images (Vevey), le far° (Nyon), the BredaPhoto International, the Rencontres d'Arles in 2011 and 2016. His project *Le Livre de la Jungle* (The Jungle Book) was awarded the LUMA Rencontres Dummy Book Award 2015 in Arles.

For further information:
info@bartschi.ch
www.yanngross.com

¹ Created in 2015, this prize is awarded by the Act On Your Future foundation, in collaboration with the ECAL/École cantonale d'art de Lausanne, Art Bärtschi & Cie and the non-governmental organization Human Rights Watch. www.actonyourfuture.org