

## PRESS RELEASE

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**DORIAN SARI**

**VOICES**

**24, RUE DU VIEUX-BILLARD**

**OPENING ON 18.05 – 18H**

Art Bärtschi & Cie is pleased to present *Voices*, the first solo exhibition of the young Turkish artist **Dorian Sari**.

In Art Bärtschi & Cie's showroom, two sculptures, placed on the floor, face the viewer without offering themselves transparently; despite a recognisable childlike form, the absence of any facial expression does not allow a precise meaning to emerge. Without a reading track offered to the first glance, the spectator must necessarily go around the sculptures and project himself into the exhibition space to try to grasp a meaning.

Once inside, the spectator can recognize the staging of the exhibition and the action in progress. The oversized necks of the two figures are a burden: the hands cling to them and try to remove them from the body. By making these necks like donkey hats, Dorian Sari reinforces the childlike side of the performance. The title *Voices* reminds us of the inner voices that arise when loneliness manifests itself.

By fixing the reference of the donkey cap covering the eyes, it is the child with the will not to grow up, not to have to face his new responsibilities that seems to be represented here. The attempt to remove this obstacle highlights this search for freedom and the child's desire not to succumb to the heavy legacy that awaits him or her. However, while one of the characters seems to be striving with all his strength to remove his burden, the other, leaning against two chairs, may have already realized the obvious: inheritance is inevitable and the child is always someone else's child.

The youthful aspect of both characters gives them a certain purity, as if they were detached from unconscious desires or evocative dreams. Because they are innocent, they can become the medium for the viewer's psychological projections. It is the external projections of adult neuroses and interpretations of the visitor's refusal to grow up that give the works a symbolic meaning: the staging of the exhibition brings into play the adult's view of the child.

The two sculptures made of mattresses allow the works to enter the realm of intimacy. As a material, the mattress symbolically evokes private space and refers to night and daydreaming. It allows a dreamlike field to be brought back to life and reactivated in an exhibition space. The mattress is malleable and it is therefore the aspect itself that recalls dream and the movement of the imagination: being able to be twisted to the point of satisfying the artist, the material here is shaped by all the subjectivities that project their own mental constructions. With their evocative form and material composition, these two sculptures become ideal receptacles for the viewer's intimate projections. Dorian Sari's work is thus part of an essentially relational proposition.

**Dorian Sari** (1989) was born in Izmir, Turkey. He lives and works in Basel. He obtained two Bachelors degrees from the University of Paris-Sorbonne, in Political Science and Italian and in Greek Literature. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Visual Arts (Sculpture Department) from the Geneva University of Art and Design and a Master's degree in Visual Arts from the Kunst Institute in Basel. He presented *Meeting With The Tank Family* at the Kunst Institute Basel in 2017. In 2016, he participated in three group exhibitions, at the Maison des arts de Malakoff in Paris, at the Act On Your Future Foundation in Geneva and at the Villa Bernasconi in Geneva.

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