

## PRESS RELEASE

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**LÉONARD DE MURALT & KEVIN GOTKOVSKY**  
**HOMEWORK EDIT**  
**24, RUE DU VIEUX-BILLARD**  
**OPENING 13.07 – 18H**

Art Bärtschi & Cie is pleased to present the work of two young graduates of the Haute Ecole d'Art et de Design de Genève (HEAD), **Léonard de Muralt** and **Kevin Gotkovsky**, winners of the HEAD 2016 prize awarded by the gallery.

Kevin Gotkovsky's Master's work revolved around the relationship between generic and allegorical objects. By proposing sculptures, approximate reproductions of industrial forms, he seeks to characterize the moments when an object is absorbed by its environment. The formal simplicity and functional character of the works are transcended by the use of unexpected and poetic colours. The artist plays on the gap between the inevitable imperfections of artisanal production and the ideal aspect of the industrial object. By painting on sheet metal, a material usually the prerogative of the body painter, he experiments with its status and questions the legitimacy of a know-how in full mutation.

Leonard de Muralt's works, by using vernacular and local motifs, provoke by small variations a decentration of the immediate environment. Through the use of ambiguous and universal forms, motifs from a local history are concentrated in the artist's imaginative space. The artist presents sculptures with raw, Swiss-inspired forms; he uses ornaments, furniture and architectural elements to which he confers ambiguous, universal forms evocative of a certain folklore.

By linking their artistic practices around the notions of craftsmanship and industry, the works presented by Art Bärtschi & Cie become part of a heritage of know-how. The history of craftsmanship is ultimately that of a representation, of a certain way of bringing together local roots and recurring motifs. By playing with this formal diachronism, interest is finally focused on the trace, or the visibility of the gesture at work. By revealing the time of manufacture of the craft object, while diverting its functional utility, the exhibited pieces question their possible status: at the same time enunciating their creative process and familiar functional objects.

**Léonard de Muralt** (1989) lives and works in Lausanne and **Kevin Gotkovsky** (1991) in Geneva. Both are graduates of the Master in Visual Arts at the Geneva University of Art and Design (HEAD). In 2015, Léonard de Muralt created an important monument, entitled *Hating only Harms the Hater*, in honour of Nelson Mandela and his work for peace. The sculpture is located a stone's throw from the United Nations Office in Geneva.

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