

PRESS RELEASE

Group exhibition «Topsy-Turvy World»

Opening: Wednesday, February 25, 2015, 6 – 8 pm

Exhibition: until April 30, 2015

«Topsy-Turvy World» presents artists from our program along with guest who open up unusual views on everyday objects: **Reto Boller | Sébastien de Ganay | Jonas Etter | Marcius Galan | Alicja Kwade | Richard Allen Morris | Arnold Odermatt | Koka Ramishvili | Ariel Schlesinger | Roman Signer**

Art often finds ways to show us familiar things from unfamiliar perspectives and to reveal characteristics of objects that we do not expect from them in the first place. Tendencies of the 1960s and 1970s, which are one of our gallery's focal points, essentially aimed at casting new light on the traditional understanding of art. Free from this specifically artistic discourse contemporary artists often focus on a new perception of everyday objects. Sometimes, their creations thus tend to be surreal, comical or absurd. With «Topsy-Turvy World» we will present works that distinctly show these aspects.

In a photograph of Roman Signer for instance, a red kayak in a barrel contrasts with the misty melancholic autumn landscape that surrounds this curious «time sculpture». In Koka Ramishvili's videos, someone pours liquid out onto a table instead of into the cup – a gesture that seems funny at first but that in fact is subversive. In Sébastien de Ganay's work, the national colors of France shine from a traffic light that is literally «folded» and that sounds Serge Gainsbourg's reggae version of the «Marseillaise». Reto Boller mounts six motorcycle helmets in two rigid rows to the wall. The hardness of the material and the morbid touch of these hollow patterns for human skulls are broken up by an adhesive foil that surrounds the sextet, making it look reminiscent of a flower.

These pieces will be complemented with other works by artists from our program and by an exclusive selection of young external artists whose approach is close to our gallery's orientation.

Deborah Keller, Häusler Contemporary

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The artists of «Topsy-Turvy World»

With his cross-genre practice, **Reto Boller** (*1966, lives in Zurich) drafts new ways of understanding painting and sculpture. He was granted diverse awards and has been a professor for painting at the State Academy of Fine Arts in Stuttgart.

Sébastien de Ganay (*1962, lives in Vienna) is another representative of contemporary experimental painting and sculpture. He had solo shows in Europe, US and South America and is co-founder of the artists' book publisher «onestar press». For his objects, **Jonas Etter** (*1981, lives in Zurich) often uses materials unusual for art and focuses on material processes and alienations. In 2013, he was granted fellowships of the city and of the canton of Zurich.

With his installations, objects, photographs and videos, all of minimalist aesthetics, **Marcus Galan** (*1972, lives in São Paulo) mixes up our understanding of space and objects. The artist who was granted various awards and is widely exhibited will be in a group show with James Turrell in São Paulo this summer.

Alicja Kwade (*1979, lives in Berlin), who also was awarded several prizes, finds visual metaphors for abstract notions in her objects and installations. An extensive solo exhibition just ended at Kunstmuseum St.Gallen, another one will open at Schirn Kunsthalle in Frankfurt in March.

Since the 1960s, **Richard Allen Morris** (*1933, lives in San Diego) has been pushing painting on the edge of object and relief, and with humor and irony he oscillates between concreteness and abstraction. In 2004, the Museum Haus Lange, Krefeld had shown an extensive retrospective of this «Artists' Artists».

Arnold Odermatt (*1925, lives in Stans) did not create his photographs with artistic intention in the first place. However, ever since Harald Szeemann had presented the pictures of the former police officer at the Venice Biennial in 2001, exhibitions in renowned institutions all over the world followed.

Working in various media including video, painting, drawing, photography, object, and installation, **Koka Ramishvili** (*1956, lives in Geneva) pursues the relationship between form and content, mind and matter, reality and appearance. In 2015, his first extensive monograph will be published.

In the work of **Ariel Schlesinger** (*1980, lives in Berlin), a key role is granted to everyday objects alienated from their usual function. Kunsthaus Baselland had introduced the artist to the Swiss public with a first extensive exhibition round here in 2013.

Roman Signer (*1938, lives in St.Gallen) is one of the most important Swiss artists of our time whose work is celebrated all over the world. Since the 1970s he has been contributing significantly to the renewal of sculpture with his «sculptural events» and installations.