

luc aubort & didier rittener

la belle caporal

Exhibition May 7 – June 4, 2016

Opening May 7, 2016 starting at 3 p.m.

The Xippas Gallery is pleased to present the exhibition *la belle caporal*. Born out of the collaboration of two Swiss artists Luc Aubort and Didier Rittener, this group project was contrived as a dialogue between artworks, materials, and references.

Organized by geometric shapes, Luc Aubort's canvasses focus on the interplay between ink saturation and transparency, allowing the various levels of absorbability to create rhythm within the composition. His sculptures *choses* (things) are connected in an almost organic fashion to his work as a painter and are the fruit of a happy fusion of heterogeneous elements such as found objects, manmade forms and organically molded forms. Oscillating between objects and tools, weapons and fetishes, these choses fascinate the public by hinting at their utilitarian purpose that remains undetermined.

Didier Rittener dives into the plethora of images that constitute art history, literature, and the press, to create drawings that explore the nuances of gray and black. These images, that form his series called *Libre de droits*, are reframed in the A4 format on waxed paper and then transferred onto new paper using a chemical process. Through this process, the drawings change scale and adapt to the dimensions of the canvas or that of the exhibition space. Each step of the transfer process is visible: when the stains and mistakes become visible, the outlines of A4 papers form a grid and testify to his artisanal methods as well as his roots in the traditions of printing. Rittener also presents a series composed of glass shards reassembled into plates. By unveiling each step of his artistic method, he simultaneously presents the public with the residue of his artworks (the glass plates that now form a sculpture) as well as their impressions (the image of each glass is recomposed and transferred onto paper). This process of recycling images raises questions pertaining to the original, which appears and disappears, mingles and constantly evolves.

Moving rhythmically between homogeneous sequences and breaking points, the coexistence of the artworks of both artists into the exhibition space recontextualizes each element.

Luc Aubort was born in 1971. He lives and works in Lausanne. After graduating from École cantonale d'art de Lausanne, he became member and co-founder of the Circuit, Centre d'art contemporain (Lausanne).

His artworks have been shown at the art center SKLAD (Abkhazia), at the Lange et Pult Galleries (Zurich) in 2016, the Hubert Berschler Gallery (Zürich) in 2012, the Cantonal Museum of Fine Art (Lausanne) and the Pro-Helvetia Foundation (Basel) in 2011, at Bruder Klaus Museum in 2009, the Espace de l'art concret (Mouans-Satoux) in 2008, the Tunnel Kunsthalle (Dusseldorf) in 2007, the Circuit, Centre d'art contemporain (Lausanne) in 2003, at Fri-Art Kunsthalle (Fribourg) in 2002, at Mamco (Geneva) in 2001...

Didier Rittener was born in 1969. He lives and works in Lausanne, Switzerland. He graduated from Ecole cantonale d'art de Lausanne and he is member and co-founder of the Circuit, Centre d'art contemporain (Lausanne). He was granted residence at Landys & Gyr (London) in 2013, at Récollets (Paris) in 2012 and at Villa Arson (Nice) in 2004.

He had numerous solo shows such as : Musée des Beaux-Arts, Le Locle, Centre d'art de l'Onde (Vélizy-Villacoublay (2014), Mamco (2010), Le Printemps de Septembre (2009), Pully Museum (2009), Attitudes, Centre d'art contemporain, Geneva (2007). His artworks were also shown at Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Museo Civico Villa dei Cedri, Bellinzona, Circuit Centre d'art contemporain, Lausanne in 2016, at Mac Val in 2015, at the Centre Pompidou as a part of the Nouveau Festival in 2014, at CCA Wattis Insistute for Contemporary Arts in San Francisco in 2014, at Kunsthau Aarau, at Crédac in 2011...