

Press release

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BFRS
Blondeau Fine Art Services

5 rue de la Muse
CH-1205 Genève _ Suisse
T +41 (0)22 544 95 95
F +41 (0)22 544 95 99

www.bfasblondeau.com

contact _ Philippe Davet
philippe@bfasblondeau.com

exposition / exhibition
JEU-VEN / THU-FRI 14h-18h30
SAM / SRT 11h-17h

bureaux / offices
LUN-VEN / MON-FRI 9h-12h30
14h-18h30

Press release

For the first time, BFAS Blondeau Fine Art Services is delighted to present at its space at 5 rue de la Muse and in collaboration with the Galerie Guy Bärtschi a solo exhibition by the artist Fabrice Gygi. Winner of the Quartier des Bains prize for this year, Gygi has recently studded his native Genevan cityscape with his banners and flags, which can be seen, for example, on Mont-Blanc bridge.

Born in 1965, Fabrice Gygi's art has, from the outset, oscillated between the functional and the aesthetic. An artist of great versatility, he manipulates raw materials so as to create ephemeral and paralysing forms of urban architecture that question the militarized and industrial character of our society. His works therefore often present obstructed spaces closed by barriers. Within these blocked-off spaces paradoxically re-emerge the notions of movement and precariousness. For Gygi's art frequently comprises structures that can be dismantled and easily transported, set in the context of an urban universe and symbolising a society in perpetual movement. Social criticism is inherent in these works, which imitate the structures of power: platforms, tiers, anti-demo barriers, towers and tents are recurrent Gygi forms that speak of menace and surveillance. Simple in construction, these pieces are never superficial. They are haunted by the idea of their own overthrow. They evoke the constructions thrown up in the aftermath of natural catastrophes, major incidents or insurrectionary events.

At BFAS Blondeau Fine Art Services, Gygi has reconstructed in stylised form a *Meeting Room* and a *Press Conference Room* within a space that he has transformed into a bunker-style command post, thus giving tangible form to a threatening emergency situation implying significant political decisions and an inevitable capitalist reaction. At the Galerie Guy Bärtschi, Gygi has chosen to exhibit imposing symbolic pieces intrinsic to contemporary preoccupations: gas-bottles under lock and key, chained tyres and a punctured capsule.

Gygi's work is critical of society and its authorities but also questions the nature and meaning of beauty and contemporary aesthetic forms: how can we draw from the world around us, from these ephemeral architectures intended to limit human freedom, a concept of beauty? Oppressive and harrowing, his work nevertheless reveals a quest for poetry arising through his use of raw materials such as concrete, iron, steel and wood, which combine with plastic and rubber in entirely modern harmonies.

To mark the occasion of this twofold exhibition, the monograph from JRP|Ringier will be republished and enlarged with illustrations of the latest works by Fabrice Gygi and pictures of the two Geneva exhibitions.

The finissage of the exhibition on 17 January 2008 will feature of a work of performance-art by Fabrice Gygi.

BFAS Blondeau Fine Arts Services moved to 5, rue de la Muse in Geneva in 2000. As a consultancy firm dealing with painting, drawing and sculpture from 1820 to now, BFAS Blondeau Fine Arts Services proposes major works to collectors and institutions in Europe and in the United States. The company benefits from an art library of 10 000 titles. Wishing to share its vision of contemporary and emerging art, BFAS Blondeau Fine Arts Services devotes its space called **5, rue de la Muse** to regular exhibitions. Among other artists, Alex Brown, Dan McCarthy, Raymond Pettibon, Jerry Phillips, Jim Shaw or Louise Lawler have been exhibited in the past.