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**Johan Tahon
REFUGE/SILENCE**

Musée Ariana, 28 September 2019 – 5 April 2020

PRESS RELEASE

Geneva, 16 September 2019

The Musée Ariana is proud to present *Johan Tahon. REFUGE/SILENCE*, in partnership with the Kunstforum gallery in Solothurn, from 28 September 2019 to 5 April 2020 in the space dedicated to contemporary creation. Johan Tahon, internationally renowned Belgian artist, is exhibiting a strong and committed body of work that reveals his deep connection with the ceramic medium.

The ceramic sculpture of Johan Tahon (Belgium, 1965) is powerful and expressive. While evolving in an original and individual way, it is primarily rooted in artworks and myths of the past. His figures go straight to the essential, seeking neither to seduce nor to deceive; they express the density and complexity of the human condition. The moulding marks, the holes that introduce a permeability between interior and exterior and the immaculate whitewashed glaze are all characteristic features of an oeuvre that oscillates between rusticity and refinement, whispering and silence.

This exhibition showcases, in a universal mysticism, monks and pharmacy jars or *albarelli*, angels and demons, but also our clay brothers and sisters. His figures both express the artist's emotions and reflect the world's complexity. His works speak to us, may sometimes be unsettling, but leave no-one indifferent.

Passionate about Italian maiolica and Hispano-Moorish ware and a collector himself, Johan Tahon's sculptures also permeate the Musée Ariana's showcases of antique faience, in a rich dialogue between history and contemporary art.

The book *Johan Tahon. REFUGE / SILENCE*, in French and English, retraces the artist's fascinating career and presents his most recent works. Anthony Girardi, Anne-Claire Schumacher and Marie-Émilie Fourneaux have all contributed to this publication.

Exhibition preview: Friday 27 September at 6 pm

Press visits on request only

Guided tours

Sundays 29 September at 2pm with the artist and the curators Anne-Claire Schumacher and Hanspeter Dähler, 6 October at 2pm, 3 November, 1 December 2019, 2 February, 8 March at 11am and 5 April 2020 at 2pm

Press pack available from 16 September at: www.ariana-geneve.ch

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