

# Nicolas Lieber

## Ceramic Chronicles

MUSÉE ARIANA, GENEVA, 12 FEBRUARY 2016 – 22 JANUARY 2017

**Geneva, February 2016 – In recent years, the Genevan photographer Nicolas Lieber (Nyon, 1967) has been responsible for the professional photographing of the Musée Ariana's collections. Over the course of these photographic assignments, we have come to appreciate, in addition to his technical and professional skills, the original vision he brings to the objects conveyed in his images, readily going beyond his mandate by altering the frames or blurring part of a piece to better convey its magic and intimacy. His insatiable curiosity, fertile imagination, sharp sense of humour, the ties he so skilfully weaves between objects, images and words, as well as his love of both past and present prompted us to hand over to him the twelve hemispherical showcases around the museum gallery for a highly original year-long installation.**

We've given him carte blanche, with a mission to associate ceramics selected at will from the institution's collections and his own photographic world. His eclectic choices illustrate the diversity of the Musée Ariana's collections, both in terms of materials (earthenware, faience, stoneware and porcelain) and of the periods, geographical regions, artists and manufactories represented.

Twelve chronicles gradually emerged, all taking as their starting point one or more juxtaposed and freely appropriated ceramic items brought into dialogue. Through these objects and the visual collages that combine his own photographic images with newspaper cuttings and old photographs, Nicolas relates somewhat transgressive narratives that speak of nature, eroticism, politics, war, women, and his own life. These collages are not without references to the wall in the artist's apartment/studio with its constantly changing iconographic profusion. Nicolas Lieber's "Ceramic Chronicles" are never complete; they permit multiple readings, leaving viewers at leisure to tell their individual stories and interact with their own experiences. Visitors will certainly be tempted to linger and return again and again to explore all the different facets of the display.

This exhibition, a first for the Swiss Museum of Ceramics and Glass, once again proves the relevance and richness of interdisciplinary dialogue in contemporary art.

Anne-Claire Schumacher, Museum and Exhibition Curator

## **Biography**

Nicolas Lieber was born in Nyon in 1967 and lives and works in Geneva. After studying at the School of Fine Arts and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, he set up as a freelance photographer in 1994. He carries out assignments for museums, galleries, artists, cultural events and various industries alongside his own artistic work. This multitasking photographer is interested in music, fashion, sailing, short films, nude portraits and works of art alike. His work is based on his daily life and develops in parallel a rich and complex approach to the image. He plays with the different codes of photography over time, cultivating ambiguity and inscribing the present in history with the aid of his encyclopaedic culture and boundless imagination. Nicolas Lieber focuses readily and in a serial fashion on his favourite recurring themes: walls, cameras, group photos, war...

## **Selected Solo and Group Exhibitions**

- 2014 "étés", in "Melting pot", Espace L gallery, Geneva
- 2013 "Le voyage d'Europe", Lionel Latham gallery, Geneva (catalogue)
- 2012 "Derniers jours", Photo 12, Maghalla, Zurich
- 2010 film "Krieg", first prize in the short film festival "Minimotion.ch", Zurich
- 2010 "série appareil photo", in "Je vous remercie pour la qualité de nos échanges", Forde gallery, Geneva
- 2010 "mur, mars 2010", in "Accumulation, topos de l'indicible", Topographie de l'Art gallery, Paris
- 2009 "mur, juin 2009", in "Définitions", PhotoForum Pasquart, Biel/Bienne (catalogue)
- 2006 "la sale guerre de Nicolas" in "50 JPG photo-traffic", Centre de la photographie, Geneva
- 2005 "Mon premier jour des morts", Niveau 5 gallery, Gymnase Cantonal de la Cité, Lausanne
- 1998 "Groupe où je suis", Centre de la Photographie, Maison du Grütli, Geneva
- 1993 "36 photographies", Galerie Focale, Nyon

## **Selected Professional Collaborations**

### **Museums**

Musée Ariana, Musée de Carouge, Musée national suisse – Château de Prangins, Musée historique et des porcelaines, Nyon, Musée du Léman, Nyon.

### **Galleries**

Skopia gallery, Eva Meyer gallery, Lionel Latham gallery, Partick Gutknecht gallery,

### **Artists**

Christian Gonzenbach, Nikola Zaric, Alain Huck, Hervé Graumann, Per Barclay,

### **Events**

Museum Night Lausanne, ArtGenève, Salon International de la Haute Horlogerie, Nuit des bains / Geneva Art en Vieille Ville / Geneva, Grand Prix de l'Horlogerie de Genève

## **Works held in public and private institutions**