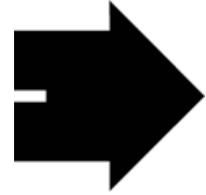


Maison d'Ailleurs – Museum of Science Fiction, Utopia and Extraordinary Journeys
Place Pestalozzi 14 - P.O. Box 945 - 1401 Yverdon-les-Bains – Switzerland
T: + 41 24 425 64 38 – F : + 41 24 425 65 75 – @ : www.ailleurs.ch



I Am Your Father!

PRESS KIT / Practical information

Maison d'Ailleurs

Museum of Science Fiction, Utopia and Extraordinary Journeys

Place Pestalozzi 14
P.O. Box 945
CH – 1401 Yverdon-les-Bains
T. : + 41 24 425 64 38
@ : www.ailleurs.ch

Exhibition opened
From December 10, 2017 to October 14, 2018
Tue-Su 11am-6pm

Press conference

Wednesday, December 6, 2017, at 10:30 a.m.

Opening ceremony

Saturday, December 9, 2017, from 5 p.m.

HD press photos available on our ftp-server:

All pictures must be published with the indicated caption.

FTP: ftp.ailleurs.ch
Username: mda_presse
Password: jules2008
File: "data"
Sub. file: "Je suis ton père"



© Travis Durden

SUMMARY

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THE EXHIBITION “I AM YOUR FATHER!”

10.12.2017 - 14.10.2018

OPENING CEREMONY: 09.12.2017, 17h-21h30

GLOBAL CONCEPT

How do we give meaning to our actions, our judgements and our place in the world? The analysis carried out in 1979 by the French philosopher Jean-François Lyotard reminds us that this question, which has long been examined by the “Great Narratives” (Myths, Religions, Ideologies, etc.), remains unanswered still today; postmodern man lives and evolves in an era where direction and meaning have become problematic.

However, and since human beings are always in search for some meaning, it is not surprising to see that some current fiction is taking the place of the myths and religions of yesteryear. This abstract observation is at the very heart of the new exhibition at the Maison d’Ailleurs – “I Am Your Father!” – an exhibition which, thanks to the original approach of the **thirteen international contemporary artists** invited to Yverdon-les-Bains, deals with the aptly named *modern myths*, and in particular the most famous of all: **George Lucas’s Star Wars**.

ARTWORKS AND OBJECTS SHOWN IN THE EXHIBITION

Just for once, the *Maison d’Ailleurs* showcases throughout the museum the works of thirteen contemporary international artists who have in common the reclaiming of the *Star Wars* myth: Dan Aetherman, Cédric Delsaux, Gabriel Dishaw, Travis Durden, Kyle Hagey, Stephane Halleux, Jodi Harvey, Hyperactive Studio, Anthony Knapik-Bridenne, Benoit Lapray, Alexandre Nicolas, The Sucklord, Superlife, have all approached this myth in their own special way. However, they do not do so in order to present yet another version of this galaxy far, far away, but to elicit **other causes, different perspectives**: for example, the relationship between reality and fiction, the LGBT movement, a critique of the picturesque, the transformation of everyday life into giant LEGO sets, or the making of myths and idols. So visitors to the Maison d’Ailleurs are not offered a journey into the universe of Star Wars, but rather a reflection on **the capacity of myths, both ancient and modern, to shed light on our daily lives, our society and our existence**.

Visitors will discover:

- 25 rare objects coming from the collections of *Maison d’Ailleurs*
- 9 photographs by Travis Durden
- 6 furnitures by Superlife
- 10 sculptures by The Sucklord
- 5 sculptures by Jodi Harvey
- 9 photographs by Kyle Hagey
- 4 photographs by Anthony Knapik-Bridenne
- 2 photographs by Hyperactive Studio
- 13 photographs by Benoît Lapray
- 9 sculptures by Gabriel Dishaw
- An art installation by Alexandre Nicolas
- 24 photographs by Cédric Delsaux
- 3 sculptures by Stéphane Halleux
- 2 sculptures by Dan Aetherman
- 47 reproductions coming from the books *Geek Art*, published by Huginn & Munnin
- 25 reproductions of children drawings published in the fanzine *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi*



© Travis Durden



© Travis Durden



© Superlife

BIOGRAPHY OF THE ARTISTS

TRAVIS DURDEN (F)

The Parisian artist who hides behind the pseudonym “Travis Durden” prefers to give greater value to his art than to his identity. Fascinated by the fabrication of modern myths, Travis Durden constantly interrogates how we, as human beings, differentiate between what we consider should be part of popular culture and what should be elevated to the rank of divine culture – as well as the way history has influenced us in this choice. His “Myths & Idols” series, which the *Maison d’Ailleurs* is proud to present, is the first of a new process in which Travis Durden examines the similarities between cult objects, by definition belonging to different historical periods.

The idea of mixing contemporary culture and Renaissance culture came to him while he was attending public lectures organised by the *École du Louvre*; he came then to the realisation, in a society where all the collections have been digitised, of the risk that the emotional impact they produce may be diminished – or even disappear – since they are only the umpteenth elements of an infinite gallery. Herein lies the mission of Travis Durden’s art: to rediscover the work of our ancestors so as not to forget them.

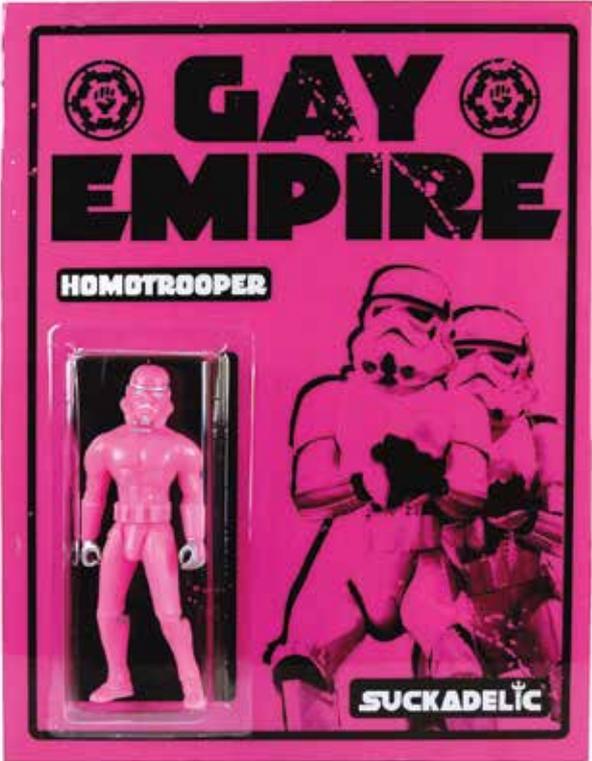
SUPERLIFE (CH)

Superlife is a collective created in 2014 by two young Swiss designers: Edrris Gaaloul and Cyrille Verdon. These two friends began working together while studying industrial design at the ECAL (Lausanne University of Art and Design), which they left in 2014, earning a special mention from the jury.

The Superlife studio is installed in the forge bequeathed by Edrris’s father in Yverdon-les-Bains. Having been transformed into an office-workshop, this space houses several imposing machines which allow the artists to design and manufacture their projects. They shape and test different kinds of materials such as metal, wood, plastic or plaster. The works that they present in the exhibition “I Am Your Father!” were created especially for the *Maison d’Ailleurs*.



© Jodi Harvey



© The Sucklord



© The Sucklord

JODI HARVEY (US)

As far back as she remembers, Jodi Harvey, who grew up in a small town in Pennsylvania, USA, has been interested in art and has always enjoyed practicing it – especially after having been gifted a box of coloured crayons by her grandfather when she was eight years old. When she left college, Jodi Harvey went to study at Seton Hill University in Greensburg, Pennsylvania; and it was there that she discovered her passion for 3D media.

Her great interest in reading – books, for her and for many others, allow us to travel to other worlds – and her obsession with art made her realise that these two media should be just one: the books that we love to read should be able to come to life, the characters that we cherish should leave the pages in the books and show us their stories. The stage for Jodi Harvey's vocation was now set: her paper sculptures are her way of giving life to the stories she appreciates and enjoys.

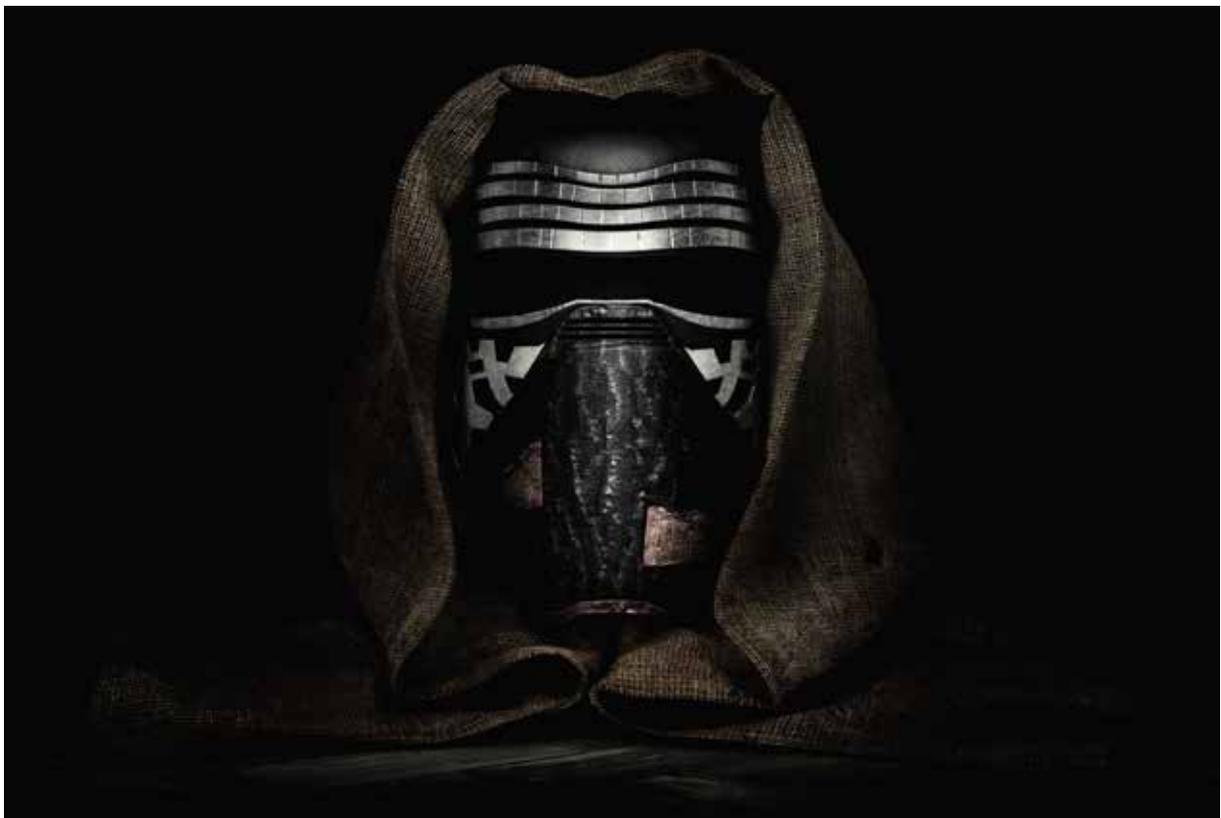
THE SUCKLORD (US)

The Sucklord is a New York pop artist as well as a media personality known for his unlicensed toys and action figures and his subversive reality television *personas*. Under the trademark *Suckadelic*, the toy line self-constructed by The Sucklord himself draws its inspiration from the elements of the *Star Wars* franchise of which he is a huge fan, or from various other icons of popular culture. Wrapped in multilayers of ironic self-mockery, his seemingly amusing works have inspired a whole new secondary artistic movement, where dozens of toy craft-designers imagine and create interpretations of their favorite figurines at low prices. The Sucklord's aesthetic is the same as the one which can be found in *The Suckhour* – a thoughtful albeit eccentric Internet talk show – and the science fiction series *Toy Lords of Chinatown*, both of which are produced by the “Suckadelic Media Enterprise”.

The Sucklord has appeared as contestant in several reality show programmes such as *BRAVO's Work of Art: The Next Great Artist* and *The Dating Game*, considering these shows as opportunities to create spectacular live performances. Recently, The Sucklord has given a new dimension to his work, exhibiting oversized blistered action figures in Tokyo art galleries, wellness homes, as well as on the walls of downtown New York.



© Kyle Hagey



© Anthony Knapik-Bridenne

KYLE HAGEY (US)

Kyle Hagey was born in Seattle, USA in 1987 and, from a very young age, remained glued to his computer, engrossed by the visual impressions given by this little box full of information of all sorts. He became particularly fascinated by the Internet, which he views as the infinite possibility of sharing everything that one wants to with all those who wish to receive it. After his college years, Kyle Hagey began working in several restaurants, as the high cost of university was way above his financial means. At the age of 22, he discovered *Sintel*, a short film made entirely using computers and the software Blender. This was his revelation: from that point on, he spent his nights learning about computers and devouring tutorials.

During this learning phase, he switched software and began to use 3ds Max. A few years and thousands of trials later, he began working with images from *Star Wars* and posted them on Reddit.com for comments: twenty-four hours later, the million views obtained by his work encouraged him to continue in this direction. As he progressed, Kyle Hagey posted more and more parodic photos from *Star Wars* with great success – even George Takei (Hikaru Sulu in *Star Trek*) shared his image of C-3PO. Thanks to the sales generated on the Etsy store, Kyle Hagey was able to leave his work in catering and today dedicates himself to his art and... to its improvement.

ANTHONY KNAPIK-BRIDENNE (F)

Anthony Knapik-Bridenne is a digital artist born in 1977 who became captivated by the photographic medium at a very young age. He discovered, experimented, managed the photographic club at his college, then became assistant to a still life photographer, before becoming a photographer himself. In 1998, when the digital revolution changed the world of images, Anthony Knapik-Bridenne, a true self-taught artist, explored all its possibilities. In 2000, he began his professional career as an independent graphic designer and then, in 2005, founded his photo studio "*La Souris sur le Gâteau*" ("The Mouse on the Cake"). He collaborates, among others, with the teaching staff of the Gobelins School, of which he is a member of the jury.

Through the ages, the continents and civilizations, the mask assumes a high symbolic value. Whereas in Africa it presides over many functions, including rites of sacred adoration, the West retains only the playful, carnival aspect. The series of "Starwars" masks borrows from Africa the texture and the substance carved in wood; it is then that these masks, carved by the digital pen, take the form of new divinities, to both entertain and interpret timehonored myths through their many metamorphoses born in the fount of our collective unconscious.



© Hyperactive Studio



© Benoît Lapray

HYPERACTIVE STUDIO (I)

Hyperactive Studio is a multi-award winning photographic studio based in Milan, Italy. It was cocreated in 2010 by the photographer Mauro Turatti and the post producer Mattia Giani, who decided to combine their experiences and professional skills in order to found this rather ambitious studio. An eye for details, creative thinking and a high dose of passion for their work: this is what characterises this highly specialised team.

The studio's main activity consists in advertising photography, where each of their subjects is treated as a still life or a portrait. Hyperactive Studio also specialises in more ambitious projects, such as 3D modelling and rendering; these projects show to what extent the studio seeks to give life and form to even the most wildest of ideas and to work in depth on specific themes – as is the case with the series “The Dark Side of Photography” presented here.

BENOÎT LAPRAY (F)

An advertising photographer, creative retoucher and French artist, Benoit Lapray was born in Burgundy in 1980. From a very early age, he travelled around the world with his father, a humanitarian doctor. These travels gave rise to a certain philosophy and a true passion for the aesthetics of landscapes, mountainous details, nature... He then studied art, journalistic communication and photography in Lyon. In 2006, he settled in the Haute-Savoie where he worked as a photographer/retoucher in an advertising photography studio.

The Haute-Savoie proved to be a formidable “photographic playground” and it was then that he began to create his personal works (including the series “The Quest for the Absolute”), inspired by the magnificent mountain scenery which surrounded him every day. After having spent five years in the Haute-Savoie, he decided to seek out a more urban environment and returned to live in Lyon, where he found a similar position in a relatively new advertising photographic studio. In early 2014, he moved to Paris to try his luck there. Today he is a freelancer, working as a photographer and retoucher while continuing his personal series as an artist.



© Alexandre Nicolas



© Gabriel Dishaw



© Gabriel Dishaw

ALEXANDRE NICOLAS (F)

Alexandre Nicolas was born in Toulouse, France in 1970 and now divides his time between Paris, Limoges and Toulouse. Known for his works in synthetic crystal, Alexandre Nicolas is a punk sculptor directly affiliated to pop culture who found a special material in casting resin – a form of synthetic crystal – which allows him to create a strange impression of a suspension of time. He interprets and perverts myths, presenting them frozen in a transparent block. The object, floating in resin and at the same time imprisoned by technology, is then offered to our critical point of view, showing us a mirror of our consumer society.

Using humour, sarcasm and a critical approach, Alexandre Nicolas uses symbols to question the observer on his or her own imaginary world, fantasies and values. His surgically precise work stands against all forms of eugenics and invites the spectator to reflect on the notions of race, nature, mutations and power.

GABRIEL DISHAW (US)

Born in Midland (Michigan, USA) in 1980, Gabriel Dishaw is particularly involved in the art movement known as “Upcycled Art”, or “Junk Art” with a passion for working with metal and mechanical objects. Through his work, he seeks to establish a dialogue to help us become aware of the problems that we face when it comes to waste sorting. Gabriel Dishaw has been sculpting with recycled and found materials for over twenty years. His works are heavily influenced by *Star Wars*, science fiction, technology and... sports shoes.

Gabriel Dishaw’s works belong to numerous private and public art collections in the United States and beyond. Some of his pieces are now part of the Deloitte Museum’s “Ripley’s Believe it or Not” collections, “Nike Vizio”, “Netshoes.com” and Eli Lilly’s collection. Gabriel Dishaw lives and works in Indianapolis (Indiana, United States).



© Cédric Delsaux



© Stéphane Halleux

CÉDRIC DELSAUX (F)

Far from reassuring images and their illusory consolations, Cédric Delsaux attempts, series after series, to bring to light the poisonous beauty of darkness that can be found concealed in our imagination as well as in our everyday life. Whether he speaks of industrial disproportions, delusions, grandeur or of uncertain dreams, Cédric Delsaux elaborates on the *catalogue raisonné* of our human folly by resorting to singular devices combining false reality and true fiction. Inspired by both cinema and literature, his work brings together equally the extraordinary and the mundane, fantasy and everyday life, in order to make visible the fictional power of images and the fantastical potential of reality. His series "Dark Lens", a set of photographs that gradually move from "non-places" to urban "hyper-places", inhabited by the heroes of the *Star Wars* saga, has, since 2004, achieved worldwide success.

STÉPHANE HALLEUX (B)

Born in Belgium on 6 July 1972, Stéphane Halleux is an extraordinary artist. Contemplating his work is like gently gliding into a world where past and future collide to recreate for an instant the delicious naïve qualities of an age when there were fewer restrictions to our dreams... A methodical artist, he has created a coherent body of work for more than twenty years that transports us to a strangely familiar "old fashioned future". A result of the precise assembly of motley pieces torn from their state of inanimate objects, his sculptures seem to be inhabited by fragile neuroses. Beyond the characters themselves, his skill lies in creating their personalities. His principal raw material, even more important than the leather, metal or wood that he uses, is the memory of human beings, their passions and emotions. Stéphane Halleux uses humour as the ferocious adjuvant to his creative process to reveal with cynicism the absurdity of the world; each sculpture is a concentrate of paradoxes and internal conflicts. Influenced by Jules Verne or Tim Burton, the artist has broken free from the codes of contemporary art and claims the right to laughter.



© Dan Aetherman

La saga *Star Wars* est devenue un mythe moderne et mondial. Réalisé à l'occasion de l'exposition « Je suis ton père ! » au musée de la Maison d'Ailleurs en Suisse, cet ouvrage propose un regard neuf et érudit sur ce phénomène. Véritable livre d'art, il expose les travaux de douze artistes internationaux, dont certains pour la première fois. Précis de culture pop, il contient aussi deux longs essais illustrés, de Frédéric Jaccaud et d'Alain Boillat, sur les origines et les héritages des univers créés par George Lucas.

Un recueil essentiel pour mieux comprendre l'influence de *Star Wars* sur notre galaxie, pour les fans comme pour tous les Padawan.

AVEC LES ŒUVRES DE :

- Alexandre Nicolas
- Anthony Knapik-Bridenne
- Benoît Lapray
- Cédric Delsaux
- Gabriel Dishaw
- Hyperactive Studio
- Jodi Harvey
- Kyle Hagey
- Stéphane Halleux
- Superlife
- The Sucklord
- Travis Durden

ET LES TEXTES DE :

- Alain Boillat
- Frédéric Jaccaud
- Marc Atallah

JE SUIS TON PÈRE

JE SUIS TON PÈRE

FANTASK Maison d'Ailleurs

ISBN 9782344805880 | 24,95 €

DAN AETHERMAN (CH)

Dan Aetherman's miraculous machines and amazing installations allow the viewer to discover and to plunge into a distant and forgotten future of the Victorian era – a time when steam airships dominated the skies and the legendary Nautilus the sea. Dan Aetherman is a Swiss steampunk artist born in Zurich on 9 March 1968, who, from a very young age, unusually spent most of his time roaming all kinds of recycling places, always in the search for old machines and strange devices.

The unstoppable power of creativity has been driving him on for more than twenty-five years and has materialised in these fantastical and fictional machines, composed of extremely fine and diverse materials such as wood, brass, copper and glass. All these inventions – and in particular the retrofuturist versions of the *Star Wars* droids – make up a unique and singular steampunk universe that has fascinated visitors at exhibitions all over the world. This universe, of which you can see only a small part in the exhibition “I Am Your Father!”, can be found in the artist's private museum; as for his machines, they are already part and parcel of our imaginary world.

CATALOG

“JE SUIS TON PÈRE. ORIGINES ET HÉRITAGES D'UNE SAGA INTERGALACTIQUE”

The *Star Wars* saga has today become a modern and universal myth. Published on the occasion of the exhibition “I Am Your Father!” at the *Maison d'Ailleurs*, this book offers a new and erudite view of this phenomenon. A true art book, it presents the works of twelve international artists, some of them for the very first time. A manual of pop culture, it also contains two long illustrated essays by Frédéric Jaccaud and Alain Boillat on the origins and legacies of the universes created by George Lucas.

It is an essential compendium to better understand the influence of *Star Wars* on our galaxy, for fans as well as for all Padawans.

Publisher: Huginn&Munnin (Paris), collection “Fantask”
Texts by Marc Atallah, Alain Boillat, Frédéric Jaccaud

Technical sheet:

Paperback, 24 x 31 cm
218 full color pages, 198 pictures

Price:

CHF 45.- / 34,95 €

PARTNERS

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“JE SUIS TON PÈRE. ORIGINES ET HÉRITAGES D’UNE SAGA INTERGALACTIQUE”

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