

FRÉDÉRIQUE HUTTER

ART CONCEPT

HANS MELCHIOR

“Völliger Sinn”

2 – 29 October 2025

Opening reception: 1 October, 6 – 9 pm, at SOUS TERRAIN ART SPACE

FRÉDÉRIQUE HUTTER art concept is delighted to present the first exhibition at the new SOUS TERRAIN ART SPACE, a new art venue near the Kunsthaus Zürich. In a solo exhibition, Zurich artist Hans Melchior (born in Zurich in 1963, lives and works in Meilen/Zurich) will occupy all four rooms and present his latest book project.

Hans Melchior discovers a new world in the seemingly worthless. Bottle caps, cans, yoghurt pots, crumpled bags – fragments of an affluent society that we hardly give a second glance. In his hands, they are transformed into vibrant sculptures, into tails, swarms or growths. They hang from the ceiling, pile up into mountains or cling to the back of an animal. The waste product becomes a carrier of meaning, the material of a poetic condensation. But Melchior does not stop at things. His paintings show faces whose contours are blurred, whose eyes can hardly find a foothold. They scream, whisper, remain still – as if they were absorbing the silent voices of the objects. An echo arises between people and material that is neither clear nor reassuring. ‘Complete Meaning’ plays with the paradox: what we carelessly throw away is given weight here. The fragment becomes the whole, the profane becomes the symbolic, chaos becomes a network. Melchior's works open up a space in which meaning is not predetermined, but sought, felt and sensed – in the midst of the contradictions of our time.

The focus is also on the book *Völliger Sinn* (*Völliger Sinn*), published in 2024 by Wolfsberg Verlag, which also gives the exhibition its name. It brings together black-and-white drawings from the years 2000–2024. A separate room is dedicated to this work and a selection of the drawings.

The exhibition invites visitors to drift between remnants and faces, between sound and emptiness, between abundance and fragility. It is not an answer, but a question that continues in material and colour.

SOUS TERRAIN ART SPACE, courtyard, Hottingerstrasse 12, 8032 Zurich

Opening hours: Wed & Sat 2–6 pm, and by appointment.

Finissage, Wed 29 October 2025, 5–8 pm

For images and further information, as well as book orders, please contact:

FRÉDÉRIQUE HUTTER art concept: Tel: +41 44 212 22 00 | bonjour@frederiquehutter.ch

FRÉDÉRIQUE HUTTER

ART CONCEPT

Biography Hans Melchior

Hans Melchior was born in Zurich in 1963 and grew up in Uitikon am Uetliberg – surrounded by forests, meadows and construction sites, which shaped his early passion for collecting and crafting. In 1980, he enrolled at the Zurich School of Applied Arts, where he studied during the youth unrest amid a period of social and artistic upheaval.

After graduating, he lived in West Berlin in 1987/88, returned to Zurich and found a connection in the alternative art scene. Together with companions, he co-organised the 'Kunsthaus Örlikon', an off-gallery that soon moved to Langstrasse and became an important meeting place for exhibitions, concerts and experiments. In the early 1990s, he moved in the squatter scene, living temporarily in various places and working in different studios. In the mid-1990s, he turned away from painting and began collecting waste and packaging materials to create works of art – a decisive step in his artistic development. Trips to Brazil deepened his understanding of how recyclable materials are handled and the poetic power of discarded objects. At the same time, he produced numerous drawings on paper.

He first appeared in public under the pseudonym 'rixloem' before deciding to work under his own name, Hans Melchior – composed of his second and third given names. In recent years, he has exhibited his works in various off-spaces and project rooms, including the Kunsthalle Schlieren and, in 2021, the Kunstammer Vaduz. To this day, his work revolves around the tension between abundance and fragility, between collecting and transforming, between chaos and new order.