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**FLAVIO MERLO / BEN ROSENTHAL**  
**BOTTOM FEEDERS - THE BATTLE OF THE CATAPLASM**  
**KADIST - KUNSTHALLE ZÜRICH PRODUCTION AWARD 2015**  
**FEBRUARY 21 - MAY 17, 2015, OPENING & PREMIERE:**  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 5 PM**

**PREMIERE PART 2: SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 4 PM**  
**PREMIERE PART 3: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 6 PM**  
**IN ENGLISH. FREE ENTRY.**

We are pleased to announce Flavio Merlo and Ben Rosenthal as this year's recipients of the *Kadist - Kunsthalle Zürich Production Award*, offered for the third time to young Zurich artists by the Kadist Art Foundation and Kunsthalle Zürich. Merlo and Rosenthal utilized this grant to conceive and realize *Bottom Feeders - The Battle of the Cataplasma*, a puppet play staging a crime plot for ten puppets and three stages.

Paul and Ted, two idiots, encounter a dying puppet. A murder, a second, a third. A letter under suspicion. Because comprehending signs may be a deadly virtue. While "bottom feeders" (a residue-eating fish, or, more colloquially, a creep) eke out a rather miserable living on the expense of others, the cataplasma (a balmy wet pack) entails the capacity to cure. Performed by two actors *Bottom Feeders - The Battle of the Cataplasma* involves existential contradictions, communicative confusions, and corporeal thresholds. A film version will present the project before and after the plays.

Flavio Merlo (\*1990 in Zug) studied art history at Zurich University, and art at the Zurich University of the Arts. He works mainly in sculpture, performance and music, fusing stage-like installations and larger spatial environments. Small-scale sculptural pieces often bear resemblance to organic props in a broader play of subversive urgency. Collaborative practise is a crucial ingredient to his work, for example with Stefan Tcherepnin, Emmanuel Rossetti, and Tobias Madison. Merlo's work was most recently presented at The Power Station, Dallas (2013), Supportico Lopez, Berlin (2013), Marbriers 4, Geneva (2014), and at Basel Art Book Fair (2014).

Ben Rosenthal (\*1990 in Zurich) also studied art at Zurich University of the Arts. Through a practise of writing - a novel (*A Perfect Lover Is The Angel I Wanna Be*, 2012/13), poems, and performances - he generates intimate and/or collective social situations, which transpose poetics into spatial contexts. In his recent two-day project *Chora - an event around writing* for example (presented at the Geneva project space Forde, together with Géraldine Beck), the constellations he creates are fundamentally based on collaborations with other artists. Anthropomorphic sculptural works provide Rosenthal with a further field of inquiry into the monstrosities of feeling, imagination, and politics.

Actors: Annina Machaz, Garrett Nelson

**Press information: Friday, February 20, 10 am**

We are happy to provide additional information and digital visual material:  
Tel. +41 (0)44 272 15 15 or email [presse@kunsthallezurich.ch](mailto:presse@kunsthallezurich.ch)

**Theory & Programs:**

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#### **Guided Tours**

Wednesdays, 12.30 pm, with Daniel Baumann (Director Kunsthalle Zürich): February 25 / April 15  
Thursdays, 6 pm, with Arthur Fink (Curator and Art Historian): March 12 / April 20  
Sundays, 2 pm, with Yannic Joray (Artist and Curator): March 22 / May 17

#### **Book TV**

Books presentation and public TV-recording (English), a project by Géraldine Beck  
#04 Vincent de Roguin: *Illisibilismes – Observations on Esoteric Christianity, Hair Metal and War Propaganda*

#05 Luca Beeler: *Children's Books*

Friday, April 10, 5 pm

Book TV is a web project recorded in public, which aims to present selected printed matter. This first event at Kunsthalle Zürich introduces episodes #04 and #05. Vincent de Roguin is an artist based in Geneva and will speak about the migration of selected ideas and symbols, connecting Christian hermeticism, underground music and war propaganda iconography. After a short break Zurich based art historian and curator Luca Beeler will look at artist publications catered to future generations - such as the ones by El Lissitzky, Andy Warhol, John Armleder, and Tana Hoban, among others.

#### **Opening Hours**

Tue/Wed/Fri 11 am – 6 pm, Thur 11 am – 8 pm, Sat/Sun 10 am – 5 pm, Mo closed  
Holidays April 3, April 5, May 5 & 14, 10 am – 5 pm

Please consult the up-to-date information on our website: [www.kunsthallezurich.ch](http://www.kunsthallezurich.ch)

Kunsthalle Zürich receives generous funding from:



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