

## Séverin Guelpa

Location: Ochsenmatt Gadä, basement

When the earth shakes, it hits us at our core. Because earthquakes destroy not only buildings, but also certainties, they have become engraved in human memory. When the earth shook in Basel in 1356, the city burned for days; when an earthquake severely damaged Lisbon in 1755, philosophers in Europe raised the question of God; and when an earthquake-triggered tsunami led to the nuclear disaster in Fukushima in 2011, many countries changed their energy policies. Geothermal energy also plays a role in the search for alternative energy sources. Séverin Guelpa goes wherever there are rumblings, whether in conflict zones or seismic areas. Not only the Basel region, but also the Valais is a Swiss earthquake zone.

In Guelpa's work, shocks to nature are always linked to political, economic and social issues. For his work *De Profundis Terrae*, he literally went into the depths: Here he presents video footage of deep boreholes at various locations along with a series of drill cores from the Swiss Alps.

The world is in crisis, Guelpa feels the pulse of the earth and asks what solutions might look like. His installation *Ecrire l'histoire* consists of stone slabs coated with printing ink and presented with the imprint of a slab in a steel construction. There is no shortage of publications on nature. The metaphor of the book of nature is a symbol of our relationship to it. (*ah*)

Séverin Guelpa was born in 1974 in Geneva, Switzerland, where he lives and works. His work has been shown in Switzerland at Espace d'Art Contemporain – Les Halles, Porrentruy (2023), Bex and Arts, Bex (2023), Kunsthalle Arbon (2021), Museu de Amanhã, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2022), and Building Bridges Art Exchange Gallery, Santa Monica, USA (2021), among others. As part of MATZA, he explores extreme natural and urban areas in collaboration with artists and scientists. Further information: [guelpa.com](http://guelpa.com)