



Augustin Rebetez @ La Nef, Le Noirmont, 2018

BIOGRAPHY

Augustin Rebetez (03.08.1986) works in **various media** including painting, photography, video, sculpture, installations and theatre. He is developing a universe populated by characters, chimeras and peculiar machines which reflect his exuberant imagination. Drawing inspiration from outsider and folk art brut as well as tribal design, **Rebetez constructs a multifaceted body of work that defies categorisation.** Rebetez's work seems to form part of an ancient tradition of legends and rites.

His creations relate to a wondrous and fantastic world which swings between dream and nightmare, the lighthearted and the serious. A modern alchemist, Rebetez plays with movement and sound, transforming banal reality into poetic fiction. (Nathalie Herschdorfer, MBAL, 2016)

Since 2009, he has exhibited his work all over the world. His solo show at the Rencontres photographiques d'**Arles** in 2011 marked a milestone in his career, as did the **Sydney Biennale** in 2014. He received the Vevey International Photography Prize that same year. Then, in 2016, he created a big in-situ installation for the **Tinguely Museum** in Basel.

In his vibrant exploration of total art, he collaborates with many performers, acrobats, musicians and friends, as well institutions such as Théâtre de Vidy in Lausanne where he created three different pieces.

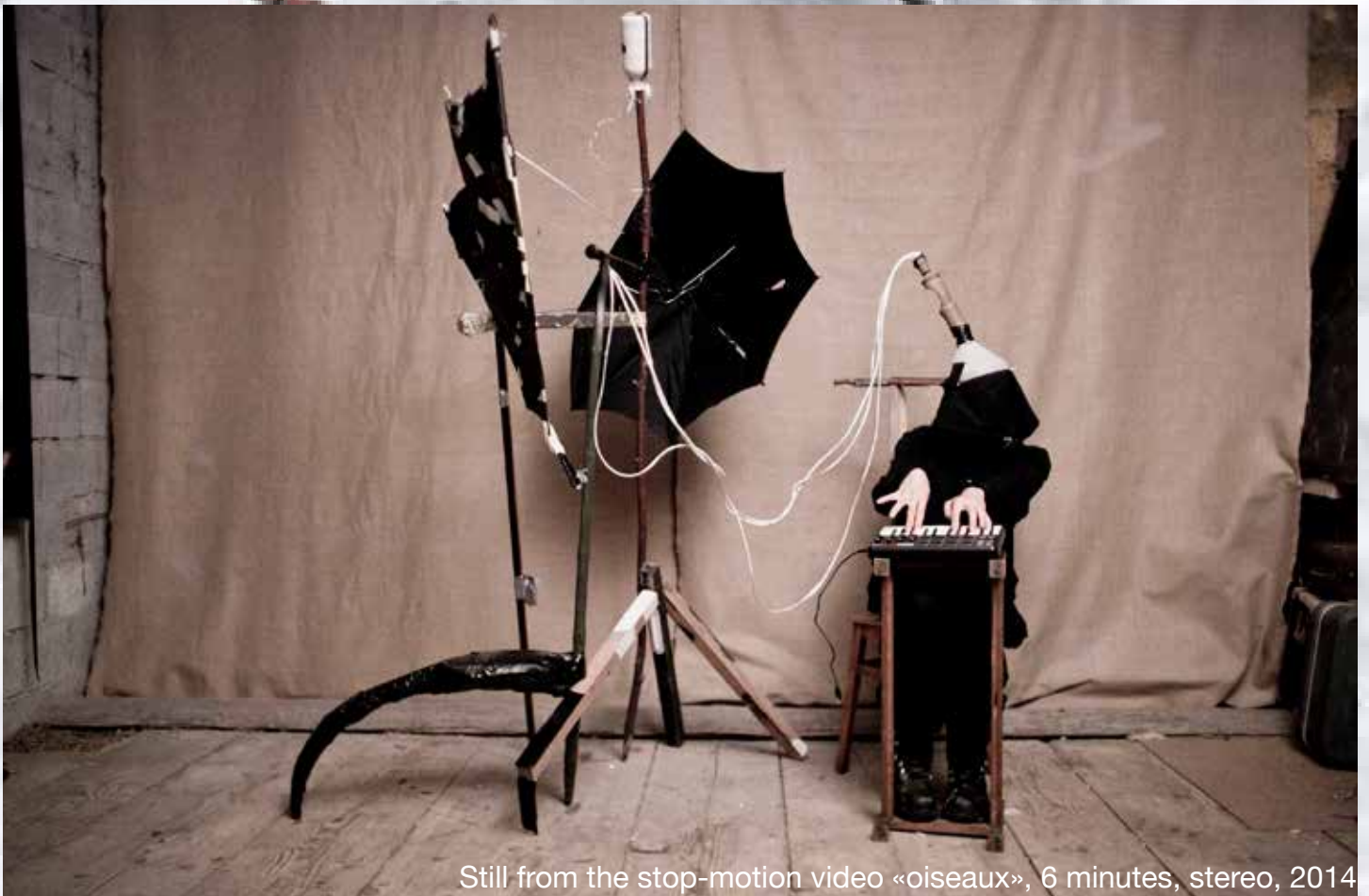
In 2018, he released a serie of twelve stop-motion shorts with director and clown Martin Zimmermann, entitled The Adventures of Mr. Skeleton. This autumn, he exhibited his work in **Tokyo, Beirut and Shenzhen.**

Rebetez is represented by several galleries including Nicola Von Senger in Zurich and Stieglitz19 in Antwerpen. He has published several books.

In 2019, his main project will be a major solo show at SESC Consolação in **São Paulo** with curator Adelina von Fürstenberg.



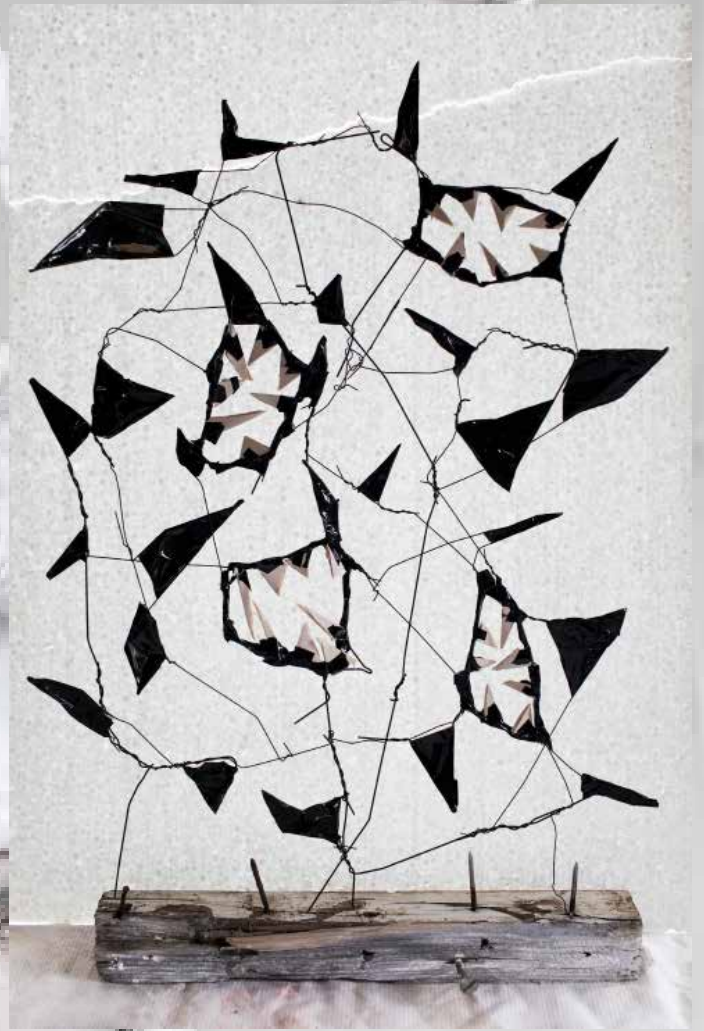
2014 Anthill (meteorites), RVB Books (FR)



Still from the stop-motion video «oiseaux», 6 minutes, stereo, 2014

WE ARE GHOSTS TRYING TO BECOME
VISIBLE WE LIKE RITUALS WE
BELIEVE IN SHADOWS AND WHISPERS
WE WORK FOR THE NIGHT
NOTHING IN OUR POCKETS ONLY OUR
HANDS OUR ARMS ARE DOGS
OUR CRANIUMS ARE BOWLS
WE HEAL WITH SMALL WOUNDS
OUR ART IS MOTORIZED AND SWILLS DOWN
KEROZENE WE CAN GO EVERYWHERE
WE HAVE TEN LIVES WE
ARE JET ENGINES PARACHUTES MINERVA
CASTS TO TWIST YOUR LIFE
WE CREATE ACCIDENTS
AND EVERYTHING WE LAY OUR EYES
UPON GRASPS US
A FRAGILE DRIZZLE OR A SLAP
THIS IS WHAT WE LIKE TO OFFER
AND IF
OUR DREAMS TRICKLE DOWN YOUR
UMBRELLA THEN IT IS NICE WEATHER
HERE ARE THE WORDS THAT AGREE
WITH US
IF NOTHING SATISFIES YOU
WE ARE THE APPETITE THAT
YOU NEED











DESPOTS WITH PHOTOSHOP
© Station, Beirut, 2016



Syrian technical crew @ Station, Beirut, 2016





Arrière-tête (mécanismes), Images Vevey, 2014



arrière-tête (mécanismes), Feldbusch Wiesner, Berlin, 2015



Factory behind your brain, Centre Clark, Montreal, 2015



conference of birds, MBAL, Le Locle, 2016



working for Musée Carton, Art Genève, 2016



Projection of the video
DOMINO DYNAMITE in the installation
MUSEE CARTON
during Les Rencontres d'Arles, 2016



Tinguely Museum, Basel, 2016



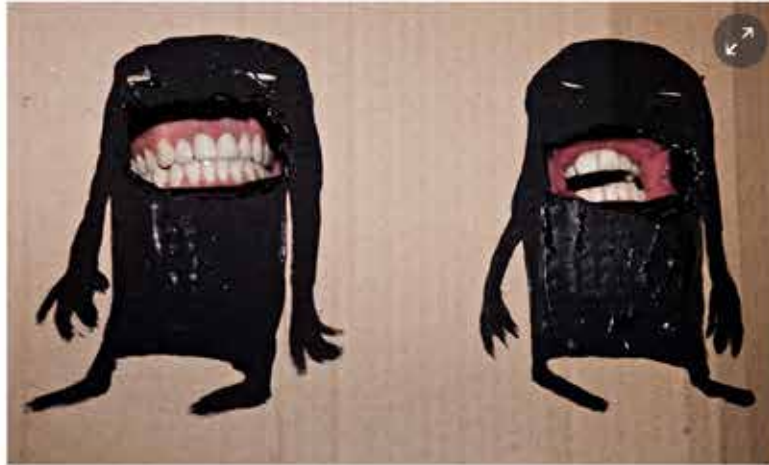


Exhibition view, Cupboard love, Gewerbe Museum Winterthur, The Magic Cupboard, 80 drawers, 2017



Unseen photo fair: the Amsterdam weirdfest jampacked with genius

From barbecued photobooks to inflatable bouncy-castle clouds and the madcap brilliance of Augustin Rebetez, many shades of weird are converging in Amsterdam for the 2014 show



Tasty ... Untitled, from the series *Arrière-Tête (Mécanismes)* by Augustin Rebetez. Photograph: Rebetez/Galerie Nicola von Senger and Festival Images

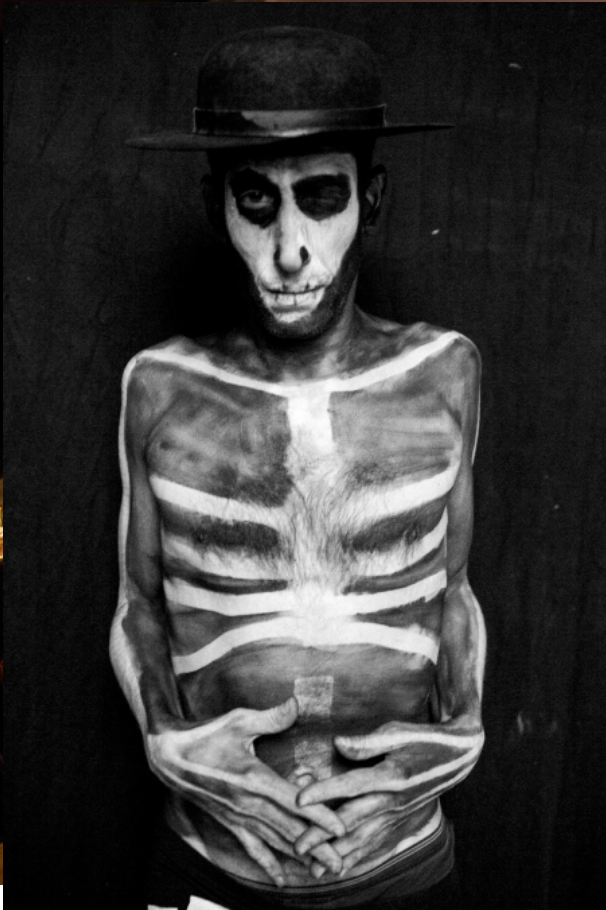
Earlier on, I had been introduced to Augustin Rebetez with the words, "You should check out this guy's work. It's pretty wild." I did. It is. Rebetez makes photographs, drawings and films obsessively. At the *Galerie Nicola von Senger*, his work covers two walls: primitive paintings, collages and photos of strange things that show a singularly dark imagination. Children look like zombies. A bald woman with kohl-rimmed eyes could be their undead mother. The legs of what look like a row of homemade electric chairs sprout shoes.



Another piece by Rebetez. Photograph: Augustin Rebetez/Galerie Nicola von Senger and Festival Images

On a third wall, a bizarre single-frame animated film plays on loop: a dead crow flies from a wooden case and flutters around a house, in which bodies emerge from drawers, slither across bare floorboards and up a flight of stairs then disappear. Makeshift machine-men whirr frantically as though they are trying to take flight. It is as if Rebetez's photographs and drawings have come to life in homage to the *Quay Brothers*. (Watch some of his videos [here](#).)

Over at the book market, RVB books are selling Rebetez's new book *Anthill Memories*, which captures his relentlessly active imagination. Like the films, many of the the photographs were constructed around his house in the Swiss Jura mountains with the help of his friends - many of whom seem to be circus performers. Strangeness abounds: there's a collapsing caravan, a crumpled house in a field of snow and the outline of *Nosferatu* on a battered fence. It is hard to know what is real and what created, but the sense of playful pranks is present in all his work. His website he tells us, "My father also publishes my books. My cousin has a brewery. My sister is a dancer and many other stuff ..." The "many other stuff" betokens a strange and singular creative imagination that is one of the highlights of the richest and most surprising Unseens so far.



Martin Zimmermann in
THE ADVENTURES OF MR. SKELETON



Louis Jucker in
THE GRAIN SHOW



→ WWW.AUGUSTINREBETEZ.COM

SEE YOU SOON