

Tobias Hauser

Flags of permanent defeat and hope

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opening February 15 / 6pm

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The sail was patched with flour sacks and furled it looked like the flag of permanent defeat.

Ernest Hemingway, *The Old Man and the Sea*

The title of the exhibition *Flags of permanent Defeat and hope* chosen by the artist Tobias Hauser, originates from a central work in literary history. Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* describes like no comparable book, a man's lonely struggle against the sea and against nature. Thus Hauser devotes himself to the implied defeat excessively so to human failure, by complementing *hope* he simultaneously formulates hope as a corresponding correlation.

In doing so Hauser does not want to understand his works as an intellectually existentialist mouthpiece but rather to put human action in the foreground. The act itself cannot fail, it can only be received as such. Similarly this understanding can be transferred to art which does not fail in its objectuality or in its work substance, it only fails in the perception of its counterpart.

The motif of the *Bones* has run through the artist's work for decades. It established itself over the years as an integral part of its vocabulary and in recurring formulation the artist knows how to diversify it. Such as the becoming of an artist or the everlasting attempt of man always knows how to unhinge itself.