

Philémon Otth (born 1991, Lausanne – Switzerland) lives and works in Zürich. Otth holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from ZHDK in Zürich, as well as a Master of Fine Arts from the Institut Kunst – HGK FHNW, Basel.

Philémon Otth's artistic practice revolves around the ongoing engagement with challenging and beguiling questions of time and temporalities, history and histories, material and immaterial, transparency and opacity, things that are delicate and nuanced, understood, and natural.

Otth is one of the founding members of an artist-run collective, Natalie Portman. Through the social interaction projects such as Kitchen's Best and Fairy-Tales, just to name a few, they address the felt quality of experience in the lived moment, not only as an end in itself. These interactions aim to make sure the moment belongs to a lifelong series in which space and experience are essential components of that encounter.

Otth draws his inspiration from the etymological terms that embody and shape his artworks. For instance, *sitūs*'(site), which also stands for rust, mold, dust, dirt, and soil encompasses the very nature of an artwork known as "vero veto vero." Otth collects and mixes with honey the left-behind 'sitūs' found in the exhibition space of ZQM, Berlin. He then layers it on the surface of the glass sheet and secures it with canvas in the doorway entrance segregating the exhibition areas. This particular gesture traces the history and physical past-presence of the showroom shifting the focus from the object to the process of creation, the ideas and self-reflection.

Through his work, be it is a site-specific installation, performance or social intervention project, Otth aims to abolish the limits of the material and open up new possibilities for the art object or interaction process, liberating it from the established paths of circulation and projection. He creates the opportunity for a new way of perception, more polyphonic, where there is a freedom to play with ephemerality, fluidity, and participation.

One could say that Otth's artistic approach is poetic yet accessible, in some aspects political yet universal. It offers space for interpretation, freedom, awareness, and analysis, uprooting the artifacts of our consciousness and enabling them to be informed and transformed. In this particular case, Rosalind Krauss could best sum up the underlying definition of Otth's artistic practice... "yet even as the presence surfaces, it fills the work with an extraordinary sense of time-past. Though they are produced by a physical cause, the traces, the impression, the clue, are vestiges of the cause which is itself no longer present in the given sign."

Solo exhibitions & projects

- 2020 Lubov NYC, New-York (US) – forthcoming
- 2018 *The Old Man Of the Mountain @* Dynamo – Khôra Yt, Zürich (CH)
- 2017 *Journey Journée @* Alienze, Lausanne (CH)
- 2017 *Real Studio @* Lokal-Int, Biel/Bienne (CH)
- 2016 *vero veto vero @* ZQM – Zwanzigquadratmeter, Berlin (D)
- 2015 ZON @ La Placette, Lausanne (CH)

Residencies

- 2020 ISCP – International Studio & Curatorial Program, New York (US)
- 2019 The Residency' Cabaret Voltaire, Zürich (CH)
- 2019 La dépendance, as *Natalie Portman*, St-Imier (CH)
- 2018 DO-SO Air, Fujiyoshida (Japan)

Education

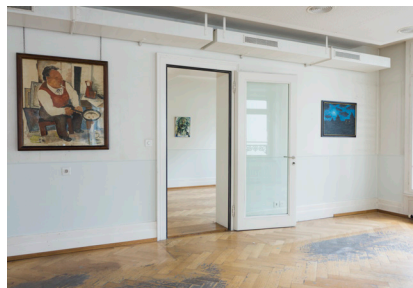
- 2015 2017 FHNW - HGK, Institut Kunst (MA) Basel
- 2014 2015 ZHDK, Zürcher Hochschule der Künste (BA) Zürich
- 2012 2014 HEAD, Haute Ecole d'Art et de Design (BA) Geneva

Group exhibitions & projects

- 2019 *Was erzählt die Romandie?* Curated by Xavier Fisher with Alfredo Aceto, Mohamad Almusibli, Maxime Bondu, Flora Mottini, Gina Proenza, Real Madrid, Koka Ramishvili, Anne Rochat, Denis Savary, Claire Van Lubeek @ Häusler Contemporary, Zürich
- 2019 *28 Days, 6 hours, 42 minutes, 12 Seconds*, in collaboration with Lubov (NYC) Curated by Domenico Roberti and Olga Generalova, with Thomas Liu Le Lann, Claire Van Lubeek, Phoebe Berglund, Nora Renaud, Theodore Darst Kaspar Ludwig, Jenna Westra, Manuela Soto @ Mikro, Zürich
- 2019 *Tempo Elastico*, with Peter Gysi and Delphine Chapuis-Schmitz @ CAN - Centre d'Art Contemporain, Neuchatel
- 2018 *20*, curated by Emilie Guennat, with Ian Anüll, Francis Baudevin, Vanessa Billy, Delphine Chapuis Schmitz, Philippe Decrauzat, Natacha Donzé, Sara Gassmann, Jean-Christophe Huguenin, François Kohler, Sarah Margnetti, Jabulani Maseko, Olivier Mosset, Damián Navarro, Sophie Nys, Annaik Lou Pitteloud, Sam Porritt, Nicolas Raufaste, Baker Wardlaw, René Zäch @ L'EAC – Les Halles, Porrentruy
- 2018 *Forecast Paradise*, with Raphael Loosli, curated by ‚Reta‘ @ Tony Areal, Zürich (CH)
- 2017 *Sols, murs, félures*, Régionales 18, curated by Isabelle Henrion, with Grégory Buchert, Claire Chassot et Joséphine Tilloy, Vincent Chevillon, Clémence Choquet et Mickaël Gamio, Nicolas Daubanes, Clara Denidet, Jörg Gelbke @ La Kunsthalle, Mulhouse (F)
- 2017 *Wir heissen euch hoffen/ We invite you to hope*, Master und Bachelor Diplomaustellung, curated by Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev and Chus Martinez @ Kunsthaus baselland, Basel
- 2017 *Un été à Deborah*, curated by Romain Juan, with Sara Margnetti, Sébastien Mennet, Nastasia Meyrat, Thomas Moor, Robin Felix Félix, Sabrina Röthlisberger, Gaia Vincensini @ Deborah Bowmann, Bruxelles (CH)
- 2017 *Group Exhibition – Studio Bertastrasse*, with Sveta Mordovskaya, Ramon Hungerbühler, Gilles Jacot, Valentina Demicheli & Karolyne Brägger, Zürich
- 2017 *i.i. (2), Where is everybody*, performance, in collaboration with Arnaud Wohlhauser @ Der Tank, Fhnw HGK, Basel
- 2016 *Portmanteau Rotary Plate*, screening(s) by Jeudi @ Espace Hit + ArtGenève, Geneva
- 2016 *i.i. (1)*, performance, in collaboration with Arnaud Wohlhauser @ Cabaret der Künstler Zunfthaus Voltaire | Manifesta 11, Zürich
- 2016 *C'est fini l'ironie*, Masterklasse 17 @ Carrosserie, Basel
- 2016 *Young Girl Reading Group Show*, curated by Julia Moritz, Egle Kulbokaitė and Dorota Gawęda with Ed Atkins, Juliette Bonneviot, Rosi Braidotti, Harry Burke, Lou Cantor, Loretta Fahrenholz, Claire Fontaine, Elin Gonzalez, Daniel Horn, Garrett Nelson & Luca Iemi, Luce Irigaray, Lhaga Khondoor & Natalja Romine, Martin Kohout, Carl Palm, Adrian Piper, Jacky Poloni, Paul B. Preciado, Antoine Renard, Ben Rosenthal, Sabrina Röthlisberger, Rafał Skoczek, Anna Uddenberg, Phillip Zach @ ArtGenève, Geneva
- 2015 *Prime Like*, with Yoo Sinae, Stefan Burger, Nils Amadeus Lange, Ramoln Hungerbühler, Timothy Lee Standing. Curated by Ramon Hungerbühler and Philémon Otth @ Kolin 21, Zug
- 2015 *666 – The Group Show*, (Stage design), by Nils Amadeus Lange with Annina Machaz, Maria Metsalu, Teresa Vittucci @ Gessnerallee Teater, Zürich
- 2014 *Clinic Solution*, with Lucas Herzig, Curated by Philipp Spielmann, Mateo Chacon-Pino and Philipp Cron @ Arbenz, Zürich
- 2013 *Dépôt de dérive* with HEAH Genève @ Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien, Berlin (D)
- 2013 *Because vikings are free*, in collaboration with Sébastien Mennet @ Standard/Deluxe, Lausanne
- 2013 *Site-Specific* @ Urgent-Paradise UP, Lausanne



Ferry tales, 2018



Kitchen's Best, 2019



Kitchen's Best, 2019

Projects organized as *Natalie Portman*

- 2020 Collaboration with Pierre Joseph (FRA), Kunstvereindresden, Dresden (GER) – forthcoming
- 2020 *Kitchen's Best*, dinner and exhibition, Istituto Svizzero Roma, Invitation by A. Wenger, Roma (ITA) – forthcoming
- 2019 *Kitchen's Best*, dinner and exhibition curated by Natalie Portman (coll.) The Residency, Grossmunsterplatz 7, Zürich
- 2019 *Ferry Tales and Poems and Songs*, stories and short texts reading on a local ferry-boat, Basel

With texts by: Amalia Ulman (ARG-US), Myriam Ziehli (CH), Ben Rosenthal (CH), Jeronimo Voss (GER), Ambra Viviani (ITA), Julien Bogousslavsky (CH), Benedikt Bock (GER), Matthew Lutz-Kinoy (US), Caroline Weigele (GER), Math Bass (US), Jérémie Gindre (CH), Stéphanie Rosianu (CH), Hamed Abboud (SYR), Mitchell Anderson (US-CH), Quentin & Séverine Heizmann (CH), Nikhil Jain (IND), Costanza Candeloro (ITA), Katja Brunner (CH). Narrators: Teresa Vittucci (AUS) and Philipp Cron (CH)

- 2018 *Ferry Tales and Poems*, stories and short texts reading on a local ferry-boat, Basel

With texts by: Louis Johnstone (UK), Tristan Lavoyer (CH), Shirin Youssefi (CH-IRN), Martina Mächler (CH), Ceylan Öztrük (TUR), Ramaya Tegegne (CH), Nastasia Meyrat (CH), Haegue Yang (KOR), Adam Jasper Smith (CH), Emma Letizia Jones (AUS), Quinn Latimer (US), Mohammed Almusibli (CH), Jay Chung Q and Takeki Maeda (US-JPN). Narrators: Nora Berman (US) and Hans-Caspar Gattiker (CH)

- 2017 *Ferry Tales*, stories and short texts reading on a local ferry-boat, Basel

With texts by: Simon Buckley (UK), David Horvitz (US), Anais Wenger (CH), Guy de Maupassant (FR), Enric Farres Duran (ES), Ingo Niermann (DE), Bettina Köhler (CH), Julija Zaharevic (SRB), Andreas Hochuli (CH), Hector Latrille (FR), Andrea Marioni (CH), Mathis Pfäffli, Thomas D'Enfert (FR), Marika Konstantinidou (GRE), Sophie Yerly (CH), Albert Allgaier (AUT), Michael Fehr (CH), Charlotte Krafft (CH), Florence Jung (CH-FR). Narrator: Lola Giouse (CH)

Natalie Portman (CH) is the collective name under which a group of friends (currently Paula Herrmann, Arnaud Wohlhauser and Philémon Otth) sporadically unite to make events and performances. Using fiction's tools, Natalie aims at creating moments of friction and contamination between worlds and people.

