

Is Pro Helvetia a black box? A jungle? Perhaps even a wonder? Requests go in at one end and the funding – or a refusal – comes out at the other. And sometimes, exhibitions result that keep at least Switzerland holding its breath. It was not the Hirschhorn affair that first made us aware of the wish to learn more about the activities of the Arts Council of Switzerland.

Our new electronic Newsletter helps in this respect. Published eight times a year, it provides a wealth of information on Pro Helvetia itself, the latest changes in our subsidising policies, important projects, programmes and names. It also gives readers an insight into the arts and culture debate, and encourages them to join in. By no means the least of the Newsletter's attractions are the links to our new web site, which, naturally, contains even more information on the Arts Council's activities.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Pius Knüsel
Director

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LATEST NEWS

An artist on tour through Switzerland

Jérémie Gindre, a very young and, at the same time, very experienced production artist from Geneva, will be introducing himself to the public of Eastern Switzerland. The worlds that will be on show at St. Gallen's exex project centre from 4 March to 17 April are such shameless manipulations of reality, that viewers cannot help but be drawn into Gindre's narratives. The exhibition of Gindre's works is part of the échanges project, which the Swiss Art Society hopes will help forge stronger links between galleries and museums all over Switzerland. The project is receiving substantial support from Pro Helvetia. **Click here for further details ...**



0406 - Swiss culture in Japan

To coincide with the World Expo in Aichi, Japan, starting on 25 March 2005, Pro Helvetia has organized 0406 SWISS CONTEMPORARY ARTS IN JAPAN. This cultural programme, organized in close collaboration with local partners, will show contemporary Swiss art and culture in various Japanese cities up until Autumn 2006. The programme will feature Pipilotti Rist, Stimmhorn, the Nyon Documentary Film Festival and Swiss Comics – to name but a few. **Click here for the full cultural programme ...**



Contemporary music in Geneva

This year's Archipel once again promises to live up to the festival's reputation as one of the most exciting fixtures in Switzerland's contemporary music calendar. Geneva will be playing host to a wide range of new music, including premieres of two works commissioned by Pro Helvetia: a composition by Annette Schmucki, to be played by Zurich's Collegium Novum, and a work by Christoph Neidhöfer, to be performed by the Alternance ensemble. **For more about Archipel ...**

Comics Country Switzerland

Switzerland's comics are admired the world over. Pro Helvetia therefore decided to commission two comic strip experts, Urs

Hangartner and Cuno Affolter, with the creation of an exhibition that would showcase both the history of Swiss comic strip culture and a selection of some of the stories currently in vogue. Cosey, Anna Sommer and Wazem are just a few of the names that have given Swiss comic culture its unmistakable stamp. The show called "Comics Country Switzerland" will open in both Lucerne (Fumetto) and Lausanne on 15 April, before setting off on a world tour. **More information...**



Geneva's cultural scene in Berne

Between 29 March and 3 April, Berne will be hosting a theatre, music and dance programme, imported straight from Geneva. Among the highlights of this "Ouest-Est" festival will be performances by the theatre company L'Alakran and a musician called Polar – who will be making several appearances - not only with the dance group 7273, but also with a band called Die Regierung and the trans-Swiss combo Ouest-Est, created especially for the festival. The purpose of the "Ouest-Est" festival, which is being supported jointly by the Schlachthaus, Dampfzentrale and Pro Helvetia, is to facilitate closer contacts between artists from French and German speaking Switzerland. **Click here for further information on "Ouest-Est" ...**

Reprocessing Reality

Visual artists experiment with film, while film-makers expand into space. What is reality and how do our own depictions of it look? "Reprocessing Reality" was compiled by Claudia Spinelli at the instigation and with the support of Pro Helvetia. The 15 exhibits, ranging from documentary film footage to the fine arts, will be on show at Château de Nyon from April to the end of May. The featured artists will include Yervant Gianikian & Angela Ricci Lucchi, Willie Doherty and Pierre-Yves Borgeaud. The opening ceremony is to be held during the documentary film festival, Visions du Réel, on 17 April. **More details here ...**

What makes culture successful?

Twenty years ago, Pro Helvetia began its drive to democratise culture by launching its "Kulturmobil". Today's artists, performers and organizers, however, are faced with very different challenges: with the demand for efficiency, profitability, professionalism and transparency. Creativity, originality and craftsmanship alone are no longer enough to guarantee success. Those interested in taking a closer look at our cultural values and thought patterns, and in developing strategies for striking out into new terrain, are invited to attend a conference on this subject, to be held at the Carthusian Convent in Ittingen on 26 and 27 May. **Click here for further details...**

PUBLICATIONS

Territoire Méditerranée

This publication is the result of Pro Helvetia's "L'Autre Méditerranée" project which, now in its sixth year, aims to promote more intensive cultural dialogue, both with and among the Arab countries of the Mediterranean. The differences and similarities between our cultures can become apparent only if we are willing to open our doors to outsiders – which is when the limits of our mutual understanding also become visible. This book brings together the views of various illustrious artists, organizers and cultural experts of international standing. **More details here ...**



Swiss Dance Selection

Swiss dance has progressed in leaps and bounds over the past few years and, these days, plays an important role as an emissary of Swiss culture abroad. The CD-ROM "Swiss Dance Selection", produced by

Pro Helvetia, is packed full of information on the contemporary dance scene, complete with profiles of both institutional ensembles and countless independent companies. **Click here to order the CD-ROM...**



THE ARTS COUNCIL

New web site

Pro Helvetia has given its web site an overhaul. Among those involved in this project was Swiss graphic designer François Chalet, whose characters now guide visitors through the site, while, at the same time, providing witty illustrations of the Arts Council's work. **Further details...**

DEBATE

Worlds unto themselves

Arts and politics are worlds apart nowadays with very little interface. What patterns and ideals are there behind their respective developments? What role can an arts promotion organization play in such an environment? **Pius Knüsel takes a look at these issues here...**

TIPS

swixx projects competition

swixx concerns itself with the relationship between culture and migration. As part of this programme, Pro Helvetia will be awarding a total of 250,000 Swiss francs in 2005 to creative art projects connected with the swixx theme. The projects are expected to be innovative and have immediate appeal, embracing such fields as rap, hip-hop, DJ and VJ activity, electronic music, comic strips, reportage and photography. **Full details of the swixx competition will be available on this site from 22 March.**

COLOPHON

Pro Helvetia

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