

Contemporary art knows no bounds. This Newsletter contains information on projects that take Swiss artists to other continents, bring the world to Switzerland or, in some cases, even touch on the interplanetary sphere. The events supported by Pro Helvetia are selected by the experts on the Pro Helvetia Board, whose new members will be introduced one by one in this Newsletter.

Here's wishing you a pleasurable read!
Pro Helvetia Communications

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LATEST NEWS

The SI with an art show in interplanetary space

Ten contemporary artists, among them the Swiss Gianni Motti and Lang/Baumann, have begun exploring the Interplanetary Boomerang. The installations, sculptures and videos that can be viewed at the Swiss Institute – Contemporary Art in New York (SINY) from 24 January to 9 March - together form a group presented as "Space Boomerang". This, by the way, will be the last show to be presided over by Curator Marc-Olivier Wahler, who has headed the Swiss Institute for the past five years. By combining ideas and visual elements from previous exhibitions, "Space Boomerang" – like all good boomerangs – comes full circle. For more information, please go to www.swissinstitute.net



Fabrice Gygi in Stockholm

The artist Fabrice Gygi has, for the first time, ventured up north. As his solo exhibition at the Magasin 3 art gallery in Stockholm will surely prove, this native of Geneva, born in 1965, is an astute observer of everyday life. The works on show were created especially for this exhibition, which will be open to the public from 11 February to 28 May. Magasin 3 is one of Sweden's most important institutions for contemporary art.; Pro Helvetia is helping with the funding. For more details on this exhibition, please go to www.magasin3.com



Fotobot in South Africa

During Expo. 02, thousands of Swiss used the so-called Fotobot to take self-portraits. Together, these portraits can be viewed as a collective snapshot of the times in which we live. On the initiative of Pro Helvetia's liaison office in Cape Town, South Africa, these Internet portrait robots – which, thanks to their inventor, have since undergone various improvements – are now to provide a take of the pulse of South Africa. From March to July 2006, Fotobots are to be set up at all the most important festivals in Cape Town, Oudsthoorn and Grahamstown. By asking questions and recording the answers they receive, the Fotobots will convey an interesting insight into South African sensibilities today. For more details, please go to www.prohelvetia.ch/capetown and www.fotobot.net.



ALLER/RETOUR in CCSP

Two steps forward, one back – that would certainly be an apt description of the current production of the Pro Helvetia Cultural Centre in Paris (CCSP). The lack of any clear pointers to our personal and collective identity leaves a feeling of insecurity. Everything is open to question, nothing is certain. This year, therefore, the CCSP will be bringing together artists of various generations, starting with a show by Ian Anùll, Marco Poloni and Irène Hug from 22 January to 26



March. All the shows will be backed up by readings, concerts and film screenings to be held every Thursday and Sunday. For more details, please go to www.ccsparis.com

Via litterale - literature in honour of a very long tunnel

The building of the new transalpine railway tunnel not only promises greater mobility, but is set to have literary consequences too. As part of Pro Helvetia's via litterale Project, the winners of the Spycher Literature Prize will be reading texts inspired by this feat of engineering. Daniel de Roulet, Anna Ruchat, Claudia Storz and Gerhard Meister, for example, will read from their works at Lucerne's Central Library and University Library on 14 February and at the Müllerhaus in Lenzburg on 23 February. These readings will be moderated by Beat Mazenauer. **For more on the via litterale...**

Electronic music in Japan

Among the musicians in the ad hoc, Japanese-Swiss formation which will be improvising in clubs from Tokyo to Nagoya between 3 and 13 March, will be Günter Müller, Jason Kahn, Norbert Moeslang, Otomo Yoshihide, Toshimaru Nakamura and the trio I.S.O. That this joint tour could come about at all was thanks to the existence of long-standing contacts between leading exponents of electronic music in both countries. The Improvisation Festival forms part of the Pro Helvetia programme 0406 SWISS CONTEMPORARY ARTS IN JAPAN. **For more on this...**

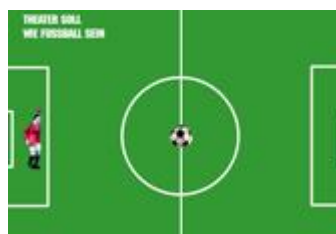


Zwicker Opera: Premiere in Leipzig

"Death and the Maiden" is a drama about human rights. Composer Alfons Karl Zwicker from St. Gallen based his opera on the play by Chilean playwright Ariel Dorfman. The libretto was the work of Daniel Fuchs. This third opera by Zwicker is being produced by the Gewandhaus Leipzig and will be premiered there on 21 March in a concert performance by the Mitteldeutsche Rundfunk Symphony Orchestra and Choir conducted by Fabio Luisi. The opera was commissioned by Pro Helvetia, which is also supporting the project in an advisory capacity. **For further details...**

Blickfelder - theatre for young people

This year's "Blickfelder", Switzerland's most important international children's theatre festival, once again promises to provide German-speaking Switzerland with two weeks of exciting theatre for kids and young people. Between 16 March and 1 April, Berne, Chur, Lucerne, Schaan, Steckborn and Zurich will be playing host to some 25 different productions – including dance, music theatre and puppetry – from both Switzerland and abroad. Better still, audiences will have a chance to talk to the artists and others involved as well. "Blickfelder" is organised by the Canton of Zurich together with local event managers and has the financial backing of Pro Helvetia. For more on the festival, please go to www.blickfelder.ch



Translating literature in Switzerland

A new initiative to promote the translation of literature in Switzerland is due to kick off on 24/25 March. From now on, every year will see one of Switzerland's four linguistic regions hosting a series of workshops, discussions and lectures headed "4+1 übersetzen tradurre tradurre tradurre" and devoted to the subject of translating between Switzerland's four official languages plus one guest language. This initiative is being sponsored by the ch Stiftung, the Centre de Traduction Littéraire of the University of Lausanne, the Arts Council of the Canton Thurgau and Pro Helvetia. **For more details, please go to www.chstiftung.ch**

PUBLICATIONS

Small Pro Helvetia Internet Glossary

What does Pro Helvetia mean by "intercultural dialogue"? What does the abbreviation "ISR" stand for? What is the correct translation of "Beitragsverordnung" in French, Italian and English? Help is now at hand! Pro Helvetia's Internet Glossary, containing more than 100 key terms and abbreviations used by the Arts Council of Switzerland, is now available. **And can be accessed by clicking here...**



Swiss Dance Selection 2006

The CD-ROM entitled Swiss Dance Selection 2006 provides an up-to-date overview of the Swiss contemporary dance scene. The CD introduces over 50 free-lance dance companies and institutional ensembles which have been supported by Pro Helvetia over the past two years. **The CD-ROM can be ordered here...**



Performance Arts in Switzerland

"Performative! Performance Arts in Switzerland" is a reader providing information on the present-day situation of the performing arts in Switzerland. It discusses the various forms of performance and describes both venues and media of importance to performing artists in Switzerland and to the Swiss arts scene. The brochure is published by Pro Helvetia. **Click here to order...**



THE ARTS COUNCIL

New Board Members

On 1 January of this year, the 25-member Board of the Arts Council of Switzerland, Pro Helvetia, was joined by nine new arts experts, who will henceforth advise the various departments, evaluate grant applications and help ensure that the various linguistic regions are given appropriate consideration. **Click here to read the profiles of these experts...**

DEBATE

Contract Art

Artistic autonomy is a relative concept. Many artists produce works in response to an invitation or commission that contains certain specifications with regard to content.. Pro Helvetia also invites artists to take part in its various theme programmes. The arts and culture journalist, Barbara Basting, talks about overt and hidden commissions in the art world, pinpoints the problems posed by such patronage and describes the preconditions necessary for a fruitful relationship between artists and their patrons. **Continue...**
