

Literary encounters in Warsaw, the exploration of a special neighbourly relationship in Milan, three debates on Swiss jazz in Schaffhausen. The Pro Helvetia Newsletter puts you in the picture about selected events supported by the Swiss Arts Council. Further information on what is currently happening on the cultural scene can be found in the latest issue of Passages, «Metamorphoses of dance», and in the discussion piece on the professionalization of the arts. Those wishing to apply for funding will be interested in the pointers to our updated guidelines and artistic residencies in Cairo.

We hope you will find it a stimulating read.

Pro Helvetia Communications

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## LATEST NEWS

### To Warsaw and back

Switzerland is to be the guest of honour at the 50th International Book Fair in Warsaw, presenting Pro Helvetia with a welcome occasion to further cement the extremely close relationship it has cultivated with Poland over the past 12 years and more. Readings, podium discussions, films, comic strips and contemporary Swiss art are all on the cultural menu in Warsaw. A foretaste of the events in Poland can be gained in Switzerland itself at both BuchBasel (6 May) and the Solothurner Literature Days (6 May) where a Swiss-Polish dialogue will take place. **Find out more here...**



### Poland as seen by young Swiss artists

A key element of Switzerland's presence at the Warsaw Book Fair, which this year celebrates its 50th anniversary, is the «We really have to strain ourselves to still discover mysteries on street signs» exhibition in the famed Centre for Contemporary Art. From 19 May to 30 June five young Swiss artists will be presenting works created locally: they have been on a voyage of discovery, capturing a feel for urban life in the Polish capital with an artistic eye. **More details here...**



### Art and thought

What is consciousness, what is conscience? From May 20-24 the Festival Science et Cité will be exploring these issues, which occupy the worlds of art and science alike. The festival will promote contemplation, discussion and experience at 19 locations throughout Switzerland over a five-day period with scientific presentations and artistic productions that will get people talking. As an event entirely devoted to establishing a dialogue between scientists, artists and society it is thus receiving considerable support from Pro Helvetia. Exact details of the programme at [www.festival05.ch](http://www.festival05.ch)

### Italianità and Swissness in Milan

Opposite pairings are the focus of the «Paradossi dell'amicizia» series of exhibitions at the Centro culturale svizzero in Milan: Italians and Swiss, musicians and visual artists, you and I, here and there. Four exhibitions will be staged between now and February 2006 in conjunction with three further venues in Milan, kicking off with «Rumore e silenzio» («Noise and silence») at the CCS itself (12 May – 25 June), in which Italian and Swiss artists (including Anton Bruhin,

Luisa Figini and Emilio Fantin) explore the interplay between image and sound. **Further details here...**



### **Sounding each other out: jazz talks in Schaffhausen**

The programme of the Schaffhausen Jazz Festival from 19-21 May will, for the second time, feature a constructive debate between exponents of jazz in Switzerland. They will take a critical look at the current Swiss jazz scene and discuss new ways of promoting jazz. Full programme details can be found at [www.jazzfestival.ch](http://www.jazzfestival.ch)

## PUBLICATIONS

### **Passages 38: Metamorphoses of dance**

The latest issue of Pro Helvetia's cultural magazine Passages is devoted to contemporary dance in Switzerland. It looks at the marginal areas of dance where art meets society, and the creative friction that arises. Passages goes backstage with established and independent dance groups and takes a peek behind the scenes at institutions that promote dance. **You can order Passages here (D,F,E) or read it in pdf format...**



## THE ARTS COUNCIL

### **Direct line to Cape Town and Paris**

Two of Pro Helvetia's eight Liaison Offices publish regular information on their programmes: the Liaison Office in Cape Town and the Centre Culturel Suisse in Paris both distribute an electronic newsletter containing details of their current programmes. **Subscribe to the newsletters here...**

### **New Guide for Applicants**

Pro Helvetia has given its funding guidelines a clearer and more practical structure. The Guide provides information for those working in the cultural sector on funding procedures and eligibility criteria, as well as outlining the key steps to submitting an application. The 2005 Guide for Applicants is available in German, French, Italian and English and can be downloaded right **here on the website...**



### **750 000 Swiss francs for writers and translators**

Writing takes time, and time is money. Through its new work grants, Pro Helvetia each year allows a number of authors to concentrate solely on their writing for a few months, free of all other occupational commitments. 24 writers and 3 translators will receive these awards in 2005. **Their names are listed here...**

## DEBATE

### **Professionalization of the arts: beyond good and evil**

20 years ago, those responsible for promoting the arts discovered a grassroots approach. Participation became the magic formula — in Pro Helvetia's case, in the form of its Culturemobile activities. At the end of 2004, the Swiss Arts Council discontinued this programme. Pro Helvetia is not the only organization to insist on professionalism:

everyone in the cultural sector is doing so. **Margrit Bürer, Head of the Programme Division, shares her thoughts with us on a recent piece of arts history...**

## TIPS

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### **Artist-in-Residence in Cairo**

Swiss artists from the fields of the visual arts, music, literature, theatre and dance are invited to apply for an artistic residency in Cairo of between one and three months. Pro Helvetia will pay travel and accomodation costs, as well as a daily allowance, and will also support a small-scale artistic project. Applications must be submitted to Pro Helvetia in Cairo by the end of July at the latest. **You can find the application form here...**

## COLOPHON

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