

Each year, Pro Helvetia supports Swiss literary practitioners with more than half a million Franks of contributions towards their works; in 2007, 27 authors and 3 translators will receive support. This is linked not only to the hope that good Swiss literature will continue to develop, but also that this literature will appeal to a broad public. Pro Helvetia also campaigns for this: through its presence at the «Solothurner Literaturtage» or at «BuchBasel». Pro Helvetia has also given itself new guidelines for events like these and other forms of cultural promotion – this too makes worthwhile reading.

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LATEST NEWS

«Literaturtage» in Solothurn

Solothurn will be fully taken up by the «Literaturtage» from 17 until 20 May. This annual highlight in the agenda of the Swiss literature scene presents 59 events featuring 67 authors in 8 languages. On top of this is an accompanying programme with readings, film presentations and an exhibition. The main feature of this year's «Literaturtage» is formed by new texts from quadrilingual Switzerland. Information at: www.literatur.ch



«BuchBasel» with the emphasis on Eastern Europe

Young Romanian and Bulgarian authors and their publishers will visit BuchBasel. The programme between 11 and 13 May features readings, debates and interchange with local publishers and writers. This is at the invitation of Pro Helvetia and the Swiss Cultural Programme for Eastern Europe and the Ukraine, SCP. Further events will take place in the Literaturhaus Zurich and the Schlachthaus Theatre Berne. More information at www.buchbasel.ch



A choral experience on Lake Zurich

The first Swiss Children's and Youth Choir Festival will be held from 8 to 10 June in Zollikon and Zurich. In addition to numerous concerts also featuring Swiss composers, there will be workshops and courses. The choirs from various parts of the country will perform jointly at numerous events, a fact which encourages interchange between the linguistic groups. www.skjf.ch



Theatre Meeting in Berlin

The 44th Berlin Theatre Meeting will be held from 7 until 20 May. Two Swiss productions have been invited to this renowned meeting: «Der Gott des Gemetzels» by the Schauspielhaus Zurich and the music theatre «Dido und Aeneas» by the Theater Basel. Pro Helvetia has made it possible for four Swiss theatrical practitioners to take part in the workshops of the international forum. Information at: www.berliner-festspiele.de



Artistic project in Appenzell

The Appenzellerland features numerous museums with historical and folkloristic collections – however as good as no buildings for contemporary art. The «FÖR HITZ OND BRAND» project aims to alter this: as from 20 May, artists will take up residence in eleven museums in order to trigger irritation with their work and to start debates. Taking part are artists such as Roman Signer, Muda Mathis, Peter Regli or Silvia Bächli. www.hitzondbrand.ch



Graphic Dialogue Zurich-Milan

The exhibition entitled «Zurich HB – Milano Centrale. Incontri grafici 1945-1970» in the ISR Milan from 18 May until 28 June will be presenting works by Swiss graphic designers such as Carlo Vivarelli, Walter Ballmer and Lora Lamm. Together with Italian colleagues, they went new ways in the graphic design metropolis Milan following the second world war. For further information: www.istitutosvizzero.it



Sustained musical network

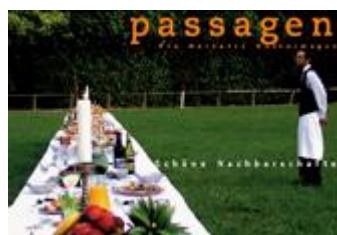
The Pro Helvetia programme «La belle voisine» strengthens contacts between the Swiss and French music scenes. «La belle voisine en musique» will be starting in Switzerland on 11 May: bands from Rhône-Alpes will be playing in six clubs in French-speaking Switzerland. A week later, on 17 May, the Swiss electro scene will be presented at the international electro festival Nuits Sonores in Lyon under the name «au bon goût Suisse». www.dessousdescene.com and www.nuits-sonores.com



PUBLICATIONS

Passages on the subject of «Border experiences»

La belle voisine, Pro-Helvetia's current country programme, encourages interchange between cultural practitioners from Switzerland and the Rhône-Alpes region in France. Passages shows what the programme has achieved and what is still planned. Additionally, the leaflet, which will appear in mid May, takes a close look at other «beautiful neighbourhoods»: the Basle three-country triangle, the Regio Insubrica and the Lake Constance area. Further information [here](#).



Annual Report documents reduction in costs

Pro Helvetia published its Annual Report 2006 at the annual media conference on 19 April in Berne. During the past year, the foundation once again succeeded in lowering the share of administrative outlays in its overall costs, this time to 14.4% (previous year 15.9%). The Annual Report appears in three languages and can be ordered in print form or downloaded [here](#).



THE ARTS COUNCIL

Pro Helvetia in mourning for Michel Ritter

Michel Ritter, Director of the Centre culturel suisse de Paris (CCSP) since 2002, sadly passed away on 2 May after a long period of illness. In Michel Ritter, Pro Helvetia has lost a strong personality who devoted much of his life to the promotion of contemporary arts and artistic activities in Switzerland. The funeral service will take place at the Cathedral of Fribourg on Thursday, 10 May, at 14:30. A memorial service will be held at the Centre Culturel Suisse in Paris on Tuesday, 22 May at 18:00. You will find further information [here](#).



New guidelines for Pro Helvetia

What does Pro Helvetia do? And how does it do it? At the end of April, the foundation presented its new guidelines and, by so doing, set out its tasks in writing. The document offers a precise and clear illustration of the purpose, instruments and objectives of Pro Helvetia's work. The guidelines represent the first step towards sharpening the profile of the cultural foundation and position it for the ongoing cultural-political debate. [More...](#)



Innovative projects presented with awards

Pro Helvetia received 133 dossiers from all corners of Switzerland for the «echos – popular culture for tomorrow» competition. At the

beginning of April, the jury announced the 10 winning projects which will receive a total of 250,000 Franks. The awards were made to cultural practitioners who have succeeded in building bridges between contemporary art and popular culture. More at www.prohelvetia.ch/echos



Contributions towards literary works

On World Book Day on 23 April, Pro Helvetia awarded the annual works contributions to Swiss authors and translators. In 2007, 27 authors as well as 3 translators received support totalling 650,000 Franks. The amounts, ranging from 10,000 to 40,000 Franks, go to literary practitioners from all regions of Switzerland who have already published a book. Further information can be found [here](#).



TIPS

Debate on the future of cultural policy

In what form should the Federation concern itself with artists? How well are the Cantons and communes equipped for this task? How can one assess the new Cultural Promotion Act and what will the new Pro Helvetia Act bring? Pius Knüsel, Director Pro Helvetia, and Marc Wehrlin, Deputy Director Federal Office of Culture, will be debating questions of this nature on 5 June in Geneva. Further information [here](#).

Art and handicaps

The symposium entitled «Building bridges between handicaps and the stage» deals with the subject of artistic work by and with handicapped people in performing arts. The event, to be held on 5 June in Basle, is aimed at interested parties from the fields of dance, theatre, handicapped people and cultural mediation. The event is being organised by the Migros Kulturprozent and Pro Helvetia together with further institutions. Information at:

www.kulturprozent.ch/integrart



Swiss photography in Krakow

The exhibition entitled «The Return Of Physiognomy» from the «Bieler Fototage 2006», will be making a guest appearance in Krakow from 10 May until 24 June. As part of the «Photomonth Festival», the Bunkier Sztuki Gallery will be presenting selected pictures by the 57 Swiss photographers on the subject of «A picture of post-modern humanity». Further information can be obtained from Pro Helvetia Warsaw at www.prohelvetia.pl



COLOPHON

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Pro Helvetia supports and promotes Swiss culture in Switzerland and

throughout the world.



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