

Two key figures from Pro Helvetia's annual statement for 2007: CHF 27.2 million in support of Swiss arts and culture, 1,448 positive responses to grant applications. The fact that 60% of the financial contributions went to events outside Switzerland clearly shows how well Swiss artists have integrated into international networks. If you are curious to know which projects Pro Helvetia supported in 2007, our online database will provide the answers. The arts often grapple with the notions of home or roots, as evidenced by several of this spring's cultural events introduced below. These include the "Tête-à-tête" theatre festival in Aarau, the mobile museum "Il Postale del Tempo" in Ticino, "Agenda 68" and the "VolksDEBATTEN" traditionen" debate, initiated by Pro Helvetia, at the folk dance festival in Herisau.

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LATEST NEWS

What is home?

Six current dance and theatre productions from the French-speaking part of Switzerland deal with notions and feelings of "Heimat", home or roots. The Théâtre en Flammes and the Theater Tuchlaube together - bilingually - tell about "the first time", the Philippe Saire dance company draws attention to the brevity of life. The Theater Tuchlaube is staging this "Tête-à-tête" festival in Aarau from 7 to 24 May. No specific language knowledge is required.

www.tuchlaube.ch



Garcia stages Armleder

An unusual experiment: Geneva-based artist John Armleder has "outsourced" the realisation of a work of art to French star designer Jacques Garcia. Based on a concept by Armleder, Garcia will create the interior design of a contemporary bourgeois apartment, which will also host contemporary artwork, at the Centre culturel suisse in Paris. The presentation from 18 May to 28 September will be supplemented by two film soirées. More at www.ccsparis.com



Choir sound of the 21st century

An unusual choir concert will be staged in the Tonhalle Zurich on 18 May as a world premiere: "Die Spur des Ochsen" (the ox's trail), a composition by Martin Wettstein commissioned by the Zurich "Männerchor" and "Jugendchor". The two choirs will be challenging traditional listening habits with this piece. Co-financed by Pro Helvetia, it combines pictures of a Zen parable with texts by Mechthild von Magdeburg and Dante's Divine Comedy. Further performances will follow on 6 and 8 June at the "Eidgenössische Gesangsfest" in Weinfelden. More information [here](#).



Award-winning "echoes" project

At the end of May, the travelling theatre and mobile museum "Il Postale del Tempo" will commence its journey through Ticino. On 29 May it will stop in Ambri then continue to Cugnasco-Gerra in Sessa, Olivone and Stabio. The yellow post bus takes stories, memories and pictures to Ticino's more remote valleys and villages. Organised by the "Festival di narrazione", this is one of the award-winning projects of Pro Helvetia's "echoes - folk culture for tomorrow" programme. Details in Italian [here](#). More information on "echoes".



Eugène in Rome: "Les Jardins de Livia"

Inspired by a fresco of a Roman garden from the villa of the Empress

Livia, Eugène is writing a historic crime novel. As a guest at the Istituto Svizzero di Roma, the Lausanne-based author with Romanian roots has been working on this, his latest book, for the past 11 months. He will personally read some extracts at the Palazzo Massimo on 30 May. Details at www.istitutosvizzero.it



"Synthetic Times" in China

From 9 June to 3 July, the National Art Museum of China (NAMOC) in Beijing is presenting new media art from over thirty countries. Switzerland will contribute four productions which Pro Helvetia is supporting in connection with its "China 2008-2010" programme: etoy, Yves Netzhammer, Knowbotic Research and Jeffrey Huang & Muriel Waldvogel. plug.in, the centre for media production in Basel, is coordinating the Swiss presentations. More information [here](#).



PUBLICATIONS

Annual Report: little financial leeway

Pro Helvetia proved in 2007 that its efforts to maintain a lean administration are paying off. At its annual media conference on 22 April, it presented a balanced result with administrative expenses amounting to only 14.7%. Federal contributions for 2007 came to CHF 32 million, which left the Arts Council with little financial leeway.

More...

Pro Helvetia's **2007 Annual Report**, published in German, French and Italian, can be ordered here in printed form or downloaded in PDF format.

The **online database** lists all projects that received financial support from Pro Helvetia in 2007.



THE ARTS COUNCIL

Felley and Kaeser on their way to Paris

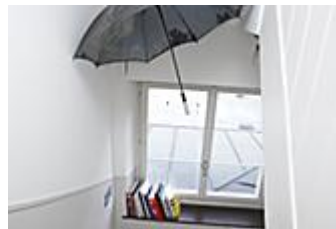
Jean-Paul Felley and Olivier Kaeser from the contemporary arts centre "attitudes" in Geneva will jointly head up the Centre culturel suisse in Paris from 1 October. Pro Helvetia's Board of Trustees selected the two curators from over 50 applicants. The two aim to ensure that the cultural centre remains a vibrant place of encounter and experiments.

More



Work grants for 33 CH authors

This year too, Pro Helvetia is supporting Swiss literary practitioners with an overall amount of CHF 600,000. 25 authors and 8 translators will each receive contributions ranging from CHF 10,000 to CHF 40,000. These work grants enable them to spend a certain time focusing entirely on their creative work without the need to pursue gainful employment. You will find the names of the recipients [here](#).



Seeking Swiss jazz bands

With "Priority area: jazz promotion", Pro Helvetia is offering financial support of up to CHF 25,000 per year to selected Swiss jazz bands with international potential. The multi-year support agreement covers tours abroad, CDs, agency work and compositions. Conditions include artistic quality and independence, a track record of successful foreign tours and a clear career strategy. Applications must be submitted by 1 August 2008. Further details and application forms are available [here](#).

DEBATE

VolksDEBATTETraditionen

Heated discussions on the future role and relevance of folk culture continue. On 14 June, Pro Helvetia is organising the fourth public debate of its "echoes - folk culture for tomorrow" programme at the 2008 folk dance festival in Herisau. The focus will be on identity. How significant are our folk-cultural traditions? How strongly does advertising influence Switzerland's folk-cultural identity? You will find further information [here](#).



TIPS

Electronic music on the Web

Since 2007, the Zurich-based experimental electronic music label "Domizil" has been making works by Marcus Maeder, Martin Neukom, Luigi Archetti and Bernd Schurer available as online releases, thereby opening up an alternative to the CD business. Pro Helvetia provided financial support by commissioning compositions and welcomes the global availability of the outcome. www.domizil.ch



Agenda 68

What remains of the revolutionary year 1968 40 years on? Quite a lot, it seems. In Switzerland alone, this is evidenced by several book publications as well as exhibitions, conferences, films and a guided city tour on the subject. "Agenda 68", coordinated and regularly updated on the initiative of the Swiss Society for Cultural Studies (SSCS), provides an [overview](#).



COLOPHON

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Pro Helvetia supports and promotes Swiss culture in Switzerland and throughout the world.

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