

Culture is on the political agenda this autumn. The new law on the promotion of culture (KfG) and the amended Pro Helvetia Act (PHG) are currently in the review procedure, and are being assessed critically by politically and culturally interested parties. This is an important moment for Pro Helvetia, as these laws will determine the direction of its future development.

To help guide interested parties through the complexities of the issue, Pro Helvetia has published a glossary, offering a succinct explanation of the key terms involved in Swiss cultural policy. An in-depth public debate on the two bills, organised by Pro Cultura and the Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Winterthur, will be held in Aarau on 15 September. Pro Helvetia Director Pius Knüsel is scheduled to give a presentation at this event on the strengths and weaknesses of the two bills in question.

As usual, this Newsletter aims to provide you with an overview of the current cultural events and projects supported and sponsored by Pro Helvetia.

We wish you interesting reading!
Pro Helvetia Communication

LATEST NEWS
PUBLICATIONS
THE ARTS COUNCIL
DEBATE
TIPS
COLOPHON

LATEST NEWS

Bienne Photography Show 2005

From 2 to 25 September, Bienne will be "on the road... again", this being the title of this year's photography show, in which twenty-five photographers will present photographic reports and essays on the subject of mobility. While some have accompanied young journeymen on their travels or have tagged along with New-Age travellers, others have spent time fuming in traffic jams with fellow commuters, or have engaged in mental time-travel games. This photography show, financially supported by Pro Helvetia, will be attended by photographers from all over Switzerland. For more details, please go to www.bielerfototage.ch



"Migration: Building Site Switzerland" – an exhibition in Zurich

As part of this year's world@zurich festival, the Friends of the Museum of Migration ("Verein Migrationsmuseum") will be staging a major exhibition at the Toni grounds in Zurich, in which fifty artists and photographers, including Olag Breuning, Helbling/Marusic, San Keller and Eva-Maria Züllig, will explore various aspects of Switzerland as a society of immigrants. Open until 9 October, "Migration: Building Site Switzerland" will give visitors a chance to take an in-depth look at a society in a state of transition, in a show that promises to be as entertaining as it is informative. This exhibition, which also marks the first step towards the realisation of a Museum of Migration, is being supported by Pro Helvetia. For more details, please go to www.world-zurich.ch



via litterale – literature in honour of a very long tunnel

The new transalpine rail tunnel (NEAT), currently under construction beneath the Gotthard massif, is a tour de force of Swiss civil engineering. In honour of this feat, Pro Helvetia has, as part of its "Gallerie 57/34.6 km" programme, initiated a "via litterale" – a literary

project in which writers of renown will attempt to shed light on the human dimension of this Herculean task. The "via litterale Alpine Railway" reading tour will kick off on 10 September, when Daniel de Roulet (CH), Felicitas Hoppe (D) and Martin Mosebach (D) read what they have written about the tunnel in the Leuk Town Hall. This event will be followed by "The Utopia of Multilingualism", to be held in the Volkshaus Bienne on 15 September. **For more on this...**



Premiere: Two new Swiss chamber operas at the Lucerne Festival

Both of these new operas, to be premiered on 13 September at this year's Lucerne Festival, were inspired by the world of shadows. The programme entitled "Schattenrisse" will comprise Alfred Zimmerlin's chamber opera, "Euridice", based on a libretto by Raphael Urwiler, and "Schlaflos" or Sleepless by Nadir Vassena, with a libretto by Mascha Kurtz, in which the protagonist tries to flee from the shadows of the past. "Schlaflos" is commissioned by Pro Helvetia. Performing these two operas will be the Ensemble Aequator and various guest performers. For details and tickets, please go to www.lucernefestival.ch



The genius loci of Galata

Galata is a suburb of Istanbul that is up for redevelopment. Before the construction crews get down to work, however, a number of artists have been invited to set off in search of Galata's true identity. Design2context, the institute of design research at Zurich College of Art and Design (hgk), for example, is working on a project called "In Search of the Genius Loci". The works of the graphic designers, video artists, a photographer, a journalist and a scenographer, who will be contributing their own vision of Galata to this Turkish-Swiss initiative, are due to go on show at the Istanbul Design Week, to be held from 13 to 20 September. For more details, please go to www.design2context.ch/institut/news

Ticino architecture in South Africa

From 28 September to the end of October, Pro Helvetia's liaison office in South Africa will be staging an exhibition in Pretoria called "Ticino Architecture in the world". The show will focus on the works of internationally-acclaimed architects from the Swiss Canton of Ticino, such as Luigi Snozzi and Mario Botta. The peripheral programme is to include concerts by the musician, Paul Giger, together with a South African choir. The "World Congress on Housing 2005" will also be taking place in Pretoria at this time. **For more on this...**



PUBLICATIONS

Passages 39: Shifting Perspectives on East Asia

The summer edition of Passages, Pro Helvetia's culture magazine, is devoted to our shifting perspectives on East Asia. In this issue, artists, poets, architects, musicians and designers from Japan, China and Switzerland will help build bridges between Zurich and Aichi, Tokyo and Chiasso, Appenzell and Taipei. As the specialist in Japanese matters, Florian Coulmas, points out in his introductory essay, cultural misunderstandings are actually a source of creative energy and, as such, help promote mutual respect – as long as they are used to arrive at a more balanced perception of both others and ourselves. This issue of Passages is part of Pro Helvetia's cultural programme for the World Expo in Aichi. **You can order Passages here (in German, French and English) or view it as a pdf file...**



Glossary of Swiss Arts Policy

Pro Helvetia's new glossary of Swiss arts policy, the "Glossar zur

Schweizer Kulturpolitik“, helps cut through the complex jargon in this field. From A for Alltagskultur or everyday culture to W for Wirtschaftlichkeit or profitability, arts journalists Silvia Ricci Lempen and Christian Rentsch explain 36 central concepts, many of which are being bandied about in the current debate on the new law on the promotion of culture and the amendment of the Pro Helvetia Act, now in the revision procedure. **Click here to order the glossary (in German, French and Italian)...**

Von A wie
Alltagskultur
bis W wie
Wirtschaft-
lichkeit



THE ARTS COUNCIL

swixx competition: First prize-winning projects completed

Gustavo Nanez (CH/Peru), one of the winners of the swixx competition launched by Pro Helvetia, is to go on tour with his group, "Gustavo delux". His first solo album called "Pintame la Casa!" was released on 13 August. The Bernese rapper, LuL DxE from Kosovo, has also used his prize money to release a new CD called "Läbe mit Plan". The Arts Council of Switzerland has awarded grants to 16 of the 214 projects submitted for this competition, which is part of the swixx programme revolving around art and migration. All the sponsored projects are to be completed by 2006. **For more on this...**



Promoting new music

Pro Helvetia will commission no fewer than fifteen new compositions this year. A budget of CHF 157,000 has been earmarked for the works in question, which are to be premiered as part of various major concert series and festivals. The projects being considered range from a clarinet trio to an orchestral work, from urban soul and hip-hop to electronic music and chanson, and even an intercultural suite for alpine horn, didgeridoo and African percussion. **Click here to view all the compositions for 2005...**

DEBATE

A new law for Pro Helvetia

On 15 June, the Swiss Federal Council started the review procedure of the proposed new law on the promotion of culture (KfG) and the extensively-amended Pro Helvetia Act (PHG). An important moment for the future of the Arts Council. What will this future look like? Will the Arts Council of Switzerland retain its autonomy? Are the planned procedures for the definition of key programmes, credit lines, sponsorship concepts and performance mandate practicable? **Click here to read what Pius Knüsel has to say about the strengths and weaknesses of the two bills...**

Pro Helvetia's position on KfG and PHG...

TIPS

A law for culture?

The new law on the promotion of culture (KfG) and the amended Pro Helvetia Act are still in the review procedure. All those involved in Swiss arts and culture are therefore invited to take part in a public debate on the objectives of Swiss arts policy, to be held in Aarau on 15 September. Organised jointly by the Centre for Arts Management at the Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Winterthur, and PRO CULTURA (a forum of art societies and associations), the conference headed "A Law for Culture?" will seek to provide a common platform for artists, administrators, cultural institutions and the media. Those present will include Iso Camartin (President of Suisseculture), Jean-Frédéric Jauslin (Director of the Federal Office of Culture), Christine Egerszegi-Obrist (Member of the National Council, FDP) as well as

Yvette Jaggi (President) and Pius Knüsel (Director) from Pro Helvetia.
Click here for the conference programme and registration form...

COLOPHON

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