

The new edition of Pro Helvetia's cultural magazine Passages is now available, based on a new concept and presented in a fresh layout. The promotion of music is the special focal topic of this issue, supplemented by a wide range of reports and news items on art and culture in Switzerland and cultural contacts around the world. Further information on Pro Helvetia's activities is provided in this Newsletter.

Pro Helvetia Communication

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## LATEST NEWS

### «Die Herbstzeitlosen» (Late Bloomers) in Shanghai

SWISS FILMS is submitting six feature films from Switzerland to this year's Shanghai International Film Festival (14 to 22 June). The special programme «Female Filmmakers» provides an exclusive platform for four film directors from Switzerland: Andrea Staka, Bettina Oberli, Jeanne Waltz and Ursula Meier. The film «Der Freund», winner of the 2008 Swiss Film Award, is being shown in the international competition. Further details at: [www.prohelvetia.cn](http://www.prohelvetia.cn)



### Switzerland at the City of London Festival

This traditional festival in the heart of London (20 June to 10 July) has invited artists from India and Switzerland as special guests. Pro Helvetia is supporting the performances of Swiss musicians from the classical, jazz and alpine sound fields, including the Festival Strings, Edward Rushton with his melodramatic «On the Edge» and the group Stimmhorn. For more information, go to [www.colf.org](http://www.colf.org)



### Reading in the mountains

23 renowned writers from all over the world are convening this year in Leukerbad. From 4 to 6 July they will be holding readings in unusual but attractive settings. At the old railway station, in a hotel bar, or high up on Mount Gemmi, audiences can listen to new texts being read by the likes of Cécile Wajsbrot, Pierre Michon and Péter Nádas. Representing Switzerland's literary scene are Lukas Bärfuss and Simona Ryser. Details at: [www.literaturfestival.ch](http://www.literaturfestival.ch)



### Theatre festivals: new management, new stages, new content

Two major Swiss theatre festivals have come up with innovations. Sally de Kunst, director of the Belluard Bollwerk International in Fribourg (24 June to 5 July), has set a stage ranging from the town's Bollwerk to the new Ancienne Gare cultural centre. Zurich's Theater Spektakel (14 to 31 August) under Sandro Lunin is taking on board theatre and dance from Africa, Asia and Latin America. Both festivals will be interspersed with interventions and performances in public spaces aside from the official stages. Find out more at [www.belluard.ch](http://www.belluard.ch) and [www.theaterspektakel.ch](http://www.theaterspektakel.ch)



### Everyday life in Cairo: «Basic Motion»

The hustle and bustle of the Egyptian metropolis is proverbial, and this is what Anastasia Katsidis, Swiss artist-in-residence in Cairo, has adopted as her topic. Together with two Egyptian colleagues, she is putting various installations on display at the Townhouse Gallery (6 to 27 July). «Basic Motion» is a reflection of day-to-day reality in Cairo: the tragedy of unpaid bills, the power of the family, dreams and fantasies of flight. More at: [www.basicmotioncairo.com](http://www.basicmotioncairo.com)



### Machines that can draw in London

They are called Hector, Rita or Victor, and they create art: Jürg Lehni's graffiti robots. In «A Recent History of Writing and Drawing» (9 July to 31 August) at the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London, the young Swiss artist and designer will be conducting a new project together with his English colleague Alex Rich. Visitors are offered workshops where they can take an active part in the creative process. The process will be documented in a final publication. More details at [www.ica.org.uk/recenthistory](http://www.ica.org.uk/recenthistory)



## PUBLICATIONS

### Fresh look for cultural magazine Passages

Pro Helvetia's cultural magazine Passages has been given a new design. Passages provides topical information on arts and culture in Switzerland, including updates on cultural policy issues and cultural exchange between Switzerland and other countries throughout the world. You can access the latest edition with a special feature on music promotion at: [www.prohelvetia.ch/passages/en](http://www.prohelvetia.ch/passages/en)



## THE ARTS COUNCIL

### Call for compositions - commissioning music for dance

Pro Helvetia is providing an opportunity for Swiss musicians to compose music for dance companies. This year, it is commissioning three compositions each worth CHF 10,000, aiming to encourage a stimulating exchange between dance and music makers. The compositions are to be created for one of the dance companies supported by Pro Helvetia. The deadline for submitting concepts is 1 August 2008. You will find the application form [here](#) ...



### Pro Helvetia supports «Jodel Plus»

This year's Swiss Yodelling Festival in Lucerne (26 to 29 June) is taking a new approach with a composition contest entitled «Jodel Plus», which aims to give a boost to traditional yodelling. At the end of May, an audience jury of around 100 selected the three finalists, who will be singing for first prize on the TV programme «Hopp de Bäse!» of 28 June. Accompanied by saxophone, bagpipes and harp, they will add new elements to the traditional yodelling sound. Pro Helvetia is supporting the project together with Swiss Radio (DRS), Swiss Television (SF) and other sponsors. Details at: [www.jodlerfestluzern.ch](http://www.jodlerfestluzern.ch)



### Pros and cons of folk culture promotion

On 16 May, Pro Helvetia invited representatives from the worlds of politics, cultural promotion and folk culture to Lenzburg castle for a debate on the pros and cons of public financial support for folk culture. Speakers from Austria and Denmark described the situation and experiences of their respective countries. All the presentations of this conference, which was organised within the framework of the «echoes» programme, can be accessed at [www.prohelvetia.ch/echoes](http://www.prohelvetia.ch/echoes)



### Composition commissions 2008

Pro Helvetia commissioned 20 compositions in all this year, allocating a total of CHF 171,000. Musicians from all parts of Switzerland are creating new works on behalf of Pro Helvetia in the fields of classical, folk and pop music. Close cooperation between composers and the music groups involved will help gain the pieces an audience inside and outside of Switzerland. You will find the names of the composers selected [here](#)...



## TIPS

«echoes» brings in the harvest

Ten «folk culture for tomorrow» projects were selected by Pro Helvetia for awards within its «echoes» programme. These are now being shown or staged at various locations in Switzerland. On 2 August, Leo Tuor's shepherd Giacumbert Nau will cast his spell on old and young in Disentis as the hero of a puppet theatre production under the same name. Another forthcoming production is LOBA TOWN, a modern alpine benediction, to be heard in Berne in July and Lausanne in August. All award-winning projects will once again be on show at the «echoes» closing festival in St. Gallen from 19 to 21 September 2008. More at [www.prohelvetia.ch/echoes](http://www.prohelvetia.ch/echoes)



#### Quiz show: 40 years «Kunst-Bulletin»

Are you the next shooting star? On 22 August, from 20:30 at the Helmhaus in Zurich, up-and-coming artists will be battling it out in a fictitious TV quiz show in the 1970s style. The winner will be given large-scale coverage in the Swiss art magazine Kunst-Bulletin, which is organising the event together with the F + F school for art and media design. Two juries with prominent jurors as well as high-profile prompters and live guests add to the fun and suspense. «A Tout Prix / Um jeden Preis» is an amusing and yet serious game concerned with art, career and publicity.



## COLOPHON

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

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