

Culture and cultural exchange are buzzwords. One of the aims of this Newsletter is to fill them with meaning. Nearly all the events, announced and outlined here, bring together people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Art is the common language amongst them. This is illustrated for example by the Swiss-South African dance and performance project, introduced below. Sometimes, however, it is necessary to translate the language of art for the benefit of the uninitiated. A model, developed in Belgium, brings children into contact with contemporary art.

The Newsletter introduces these and other cultural events sponsored by Pro Helvetia, and again broaches the issue of the Law on the Promotion of Culture, with two guest authors presenting their views on the social security of artists and other cultural practitioners.

We wish you stimulating reading!
Pro Helvetia Communication

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LATEST NEWS

FoKus Switzerland - Swiss arts in Barcelona

The Kùltur Büro Barcelona (KBB) will be presenting Swiss art (video, performance, installations, photography, painting) at various locations around the city over a period of ten weeks. The "FoKus Switzerland" programme offers insights into Switzerland's dynamic contemporary arts scene. Works by Fabrice Gygi (Geneva) represent an activist stance, whereas Lang & Baumann from Berne are on the borderline between art and interior design, and Nic Hess from Zurich interprets logos and icons – to mention just a few of the artists on display. Details of the event, lasting from 6 October to 17 December, can be found at www.kbb.org.es



Musical speciality for South America

"Spezialmaterial", the energetic electronica music label from Zurich, is going on a tour of South America from October to December 2005. The five musicians will be re-forging old contacts in Argentina and Chile before travelling on to Venezuela, Columbia and Uruguay. A CD compilation of South American electronica acts is being produced in connection with the tour, and is due out in January 2006. Cio Assereto, Michael Eberli (Person), Marco Crossian (Sissycontest), Fabian Stübi (Intricate) and André Senn (Solotempo) have set up an information platform at www.intricate.ch/sm.html



The mountain is dead - long live the mountains

The World Expo in Aichi has closed its gates. The Swiss pavilion, The Mountain, is being dismantled. But the related 0406 SWISS CONTEMPORARY ARTS IN JAPAN programme, initiated by Pro Helvetia, goes on, with the second stage about to be launched. On 29 October, the exhibition "Alpine Air – Swiss Artists, Inspired by Mountains", from the Aargau Art Museum, is due to open at the Matsumoto City Museum. The selection of Swiss art from the late 18th century to the present day, touching on the topic of mountains, will also be shown in Tokyo in March 2006. From 7 to 13 October, the Japanese audience will be offered a cinematographic treat. Under the



motto of Nyon Meets Yamagata, the two renowned, documentary film festivals have compiled a joint programme of Japanese and Swiss films. More details on the programmes...

Oorsmeer - for young ears

How do you get contemporary music across to children? The Belgians have come up with an answer by the name of Oorsmeer (ear wax). On 30 October, the concept will be put into practice in Switzerland for the first time. Berne's Schlachthaus theatre and the city's Music Conservatory are inviting locally and internationally-renowned musicians and theatre practitioners to play for and with children for an entire Sunday. Among those taking part are Anja Losinger (xala), Tini Hägler (percussion), Philipp Läng with harp players from the Berne School of Music, as well as Compagnie Zonzo and the Laika theatre group from Belgium. Pro Helvetia is sponsoring this project, which could well serve as a model for others. More details to be found at www.schlachthaus.ch

Scenes from everyday life - exhibited at the CCS in Paris

The banality of everyday life is given unexpected shades of meaning when seen from an artistic point of view. "Scènes de vie" is the name of the new exhibition, to be held from 30 October to 18 December, for which the Centre culturel suisse in Paris has invited contributions from Swiss artists. The topic is everyday life, to be expressed by means of theatre, dance, performance, literature and video. Further information at www.ccsparis.com



Jazz festival Onze+ in Lausanne

This year, the largest of the small festivals in French-speaking Switzerland will be staged in Lausanne from 26 to 30 October. The event features contemporary jazz in all of its diversity. Outstanding top bands (Rova Tricontinental Orchestra, Root Down, Antibalas, and Noctet de l'EJMA), a number of renowned, female jazz musicians (Satoko Fujii, Elisabeth Kontomanou, Andrea Parkins, Co Streiff and Irène Schweizer), and various international highlights will make up this year's programme. Pro Helvetia is supporting participating bands from the German-speaking part of Switzerland. For more details and tickets, go to www.jazzonzeplus.ch

Sirkona: South African artists in Berne

Three years ago, the dance, acrobatics and performance group Cirquenflex from Basle travelled to South Africa to team up with young Venda dancers from the north of the country. The "Sirkona" project was initiated after the government of the rural Venda province had expressed its wish to boost local culture. Pro Helvetia's office in Cape Town set up the contact between South African and Swiss artists, and organised joint performances in South Africa. Now, Sirkona is travelling to Berne; performances will be held at the Dampfzentrale on 12 and 13 November. Project details can be found at www.cirquenflex.ch/sudaf/index.htm



Theatre and politics

The "Politik im freien Theater" festival in Berlin will be held for the sixth time from 10 to 20 November. Four out of the fourteen productions selected come from Switzerland. 400asa will be staging "Hob(b)yhamlet / Hebbelhamlet", a piece reflecting the cultural policy of the city of Zurich. Schauspiel International presents "Château Europe", promising a super asylum-seeker slam, Stefan Kaegi will be showing his Swiss miniature "Mnemopark", and Barbara Weber will be

on stage with a "totally unplugged" version of "Mother T". For more details go to www.politikimfreientheater.de



PUBLICATIONS

"Itinerant images" on the Web

Have you ever thought about the relationship between art and globalisation? Or wondered about the benefits of cultural exchange? Answers to these and similar questions can be found on the www.itinerant-images.ch website, the outcome of a workshop on pictorial worlds. In autumn 2004, at the invitation of the Schule für Gestaltung Wallis (ECAV) and Pro Helvetia, four artists from three continents spent six weeks working in Sierre. The fruits of their labour in the form of pictures, sounds and texts, can be downloaded at www.itinerant-images.ch



THE ARTS COUNCIL

Pro Helvetia Warsaw: an autumn of Swiss music in Poland

In July of this year, Pro Helvetia moved its Polish office from Krakow to Warsaw, from where it now initiates and handles contacts between Swiss and Eastern European artists and event organisers. This autumn, the emphasis is on music, with a Poland tour scheduled by the Lucien Dubuis trio (12 to 16 October), four electronic musicians from Pro Helvetia's "construction sonor" project taking part in the Unsound festival in Krakow (14 October), and various Swiss artists, including Franziska Baumann and Matthias Ziegler, participating at the Audio Art festival, also in Krakow (4 to 14 November). Violinist Esther Hoppe, together with pianist Benjamin Engeli, will also be playing in Poland from 21 to 27 October, performing pieces by Heinz Holliger and Paul Glass amongst others. Details at www.pro-helvetia.pl

New beginnings at the Swiss Institute in Rome

New beginnings in Rome. From 19 to 21 October, the Swiss Institute in Rome (SIR) will be presenting both its new management and its new programme. At the same time, the first part of the PHOTOSuisse exhibition will be opening with works by 28 contemporary Swiss photographers. Pro Helvetia, the Arts Council of Switzerland, is conferring the responsibility for cultural activities in Italy upon the Swiss Institute in the form of a service agreement. The new Art Director is Domenico Lucchini, who was previously in charge of the Centro Culturale Svizzero in Milan. More information at www.istitutosvizzero.it



Literary contacts in Frankfurt

Once a year, the world of literature and publishing meets up in Frankfurt. The Frankfurt Book Fair (19 to 23 October) is an important international hub for licensing transactions. Pro Helvetia regularly takes advantage of the presence of publishers from all over the world to forge and strengthen international contacts and to discuss translation projects. The Arts Council is represented at the joint stand of the Swiss Book Sellers and Publishers Association (SBVV), where it will present its own publications. The stand is located in Hall 4.1 (A 102).

DEBATE

Who is to decide social-security issues?

The draft of the new Law on the Promotion of Culture ("Kulturförderungsgesetz", KfG) fails to address the issue of social security for cultural practitioners. This has led to some heated debates during the review period. Parliamentarians believe that the issue should be decided via social legislation. Artists, on the other hand, are convinced that it is only by enshrining the requisite obligations in the new law that there can be any certainty that the matter will be properly regulated. Pro Helvetia lets representatives of both sides argue their case. Stating its own position, Pro Helvetia pleads for the issue to be addressed parallel to the Law on the Promotion of Culture.

More on the debate...

TIPS

swixx award ceremony with hip-hop dance theatre

On 27 October, from 7 to 9 pm, Pro Helvetia will be holding the award ceremony for the winners of the swixx competition in the Kaserne Basle. 16 cultural projects on various aspects of culture and migration have been selected for an award. The evening will be launched by Crossroad Crew and the premiere of their hip-hop dance performance entitled "Conflict". The Swiss breakdance champions tell a story of aggression and respect by means of high-pace breaks and moves. The awards will then be presented by Pro Helvetia Director Pius Knüsel and Margrit Bürer, Head of the Programme Section. Rap artist Big Zis from Zurich will be the moderator for the evening. **More on the swixx competition...**



COLOPHON

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