

Folk culture - a historic relic? No. Today you find avant-garde musicians yodelling and folk music moving in new directions. "echoes - Folk Culture for Tomorrow" is the title of the programme that Pro Helvetia will be launching in mid-September. Over a period of two years, the Arts Council will be investigating the significance of folk culture, as well as tackling the questions of how much impact it has on the contemporary arts and in what way trends in contemporary art influence folk culture. The Newsletter will provide you with the relevant information as well as a link enabling you to register for participation in the kick-off symposium in Sierre on 15/16 September.

Sustainability in cultural exchange is another key topic, as demonstrated here in the examples from Japan and North-Rhine Westphalia. Festivals of all kinds - a further focal point in this Newsletter - often meet with a more widespread audience response than single events. In Paris, the impact of an older generation of artists on their younger counterparts is looked into, and in the USA a young Swiss woman with American roots is making a name for herself.

Wishing you a good read!
Pro Helvetia Communications

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LATEST NEWS

Let the curtain rise for storytellers

From 1 to 3 September 2006, storytellers from all over the world will be taking children and adults to lands of fantasy. The "Festival di narrazione" will be held for the seventh time in Arzo, Besazio, Meride and Tremona, this time under the motto of "Racconti di qui e d'altrove" (stories from here and elsewhere). Pro Helvetia's swixx programme will also be playing a part with installations, performances and story-telling evenings, presented and performed by 18 Swiss artists from a multi-cultural background. TiKINÒ will be screening recent short films on the subject of multiculturalism.

Details on the festival at www.festivaldinarrazione.ch

Information on swixx at www.prohelvetia.ch



Love between Zurich and Geneva: Festival la Bâtie

"La Bâtie", a theatre, dance and music festival, will be staging over 70 performances in Geneva and its surroundings from 1 to 16 September 2006. As part of its programme to foster cross-linguistic cultural events, Pro Helvetia is supporting the eight groups from German-speaking Switzerland due to perform. On 9 September, a group of experts will be analysing the cultural relations between Geneva and Zurich and looking for ways to intensify contacts. Patrons, organisers of cultural events and artists, including actor Gilles Tschudi and musician Philippe Koller, will discuss the two cities' cultural relationship under the heading "Zürich - Genève: un amour qui s'ignore". Pro Helvetia will be represented by Board member Anne Davier and Martha Monstein, Head of the Theatre Department. Further details at www.batie.ch



Culture in North-Rhine Westphalia (NRW)

Two years ago, Swiss artists were guests at the Internationale Kulturtag in Dortmund, Germany. Pro Helvetia had organised the Swiss programme and is now supporting the "return" event entitled "Plattform Schweiz: Kultur mit Nordrhein - Westfalen", which will see performances and presentations by theatre and dance ensembles, music groups, visual artists and writers from NRW. The programme will kick off with three theatre productions from NRW and a panel



discussion about the significance of networking in the world of culture and cultural policies, at the Basel Theatre Festival, starting on 31 August and lasting until December 2007. Details at www.kultur-nrw.ch

Language and music at the Lucerne Festival

Three compositions commissioned by Pro Helvetia are to be performed at the Lucerne Festival. The compositions by Mischa Käser ("Präludien") and Annette Schmucki ("arbeiten/verlieren. die Stimmen", "working/losing. Voices"), which will be premiered in Switzerland on 16 September, are built around the festival theme of language. The world premiere of Klaus Huber's "Miserere Hominibus..." already took place on 26 August. In the foyer of the Lucerne concert hall, festival-goers will also have the opportunity of viewing an exhibition entitled "Ein Archiv der Gefühle" (an archive of feelings), a joint production by the Lucerne Festival, Pro Helvetia and students of the School of Art and Design, Zurich. More details on the programme at www.lucernefestival.ch



PHOTOsuisse at the Bieler Fototage

The PHOTOsuisse exhibition will be presenting 28 Swiss photographers from all parts of the country showing pictures from the documentary, journalistic and art domains. The exhibition will be staged as part of the 10th Bieler Fototage at the CentrePasquArt from 2 September to 29 October. Besides the photographs themselves, 28 film portraits, produced by Swiss television, will provide visitors with insights into the photographers' studios and highlight their very different approaches to their profession. The exhibition was initiated and funded by Pro Helvetia. **More at www.prohelvetia.ch**
On the Centre PasquArt: www.pasquart.ch
On the Bieler Fototage: 2006.jouph.ch
On the film portraits: www.photosuisse.sf.tv



Roman Signer at the CCSP Paris

The third part of the "Aller-Retour" programme at the Centre culturel suisse in Paris focuses on the work of object artist Roman Signer, to whom the main exhibition is dedicated. The programme also presents works from an older generation of artists, including Meret Oppenheim, Daniel Schmid, Richard Dindo, Noemi Lapzeson, Irène Schweizer and Daniel Humair, whose output marked and, to a certain extent, still influences the work of younger contemporary artists from diverse fields. More details at www.ccsparis.com



Erika Stucky & Roots of Communication on tour in the USA

Under the heading "Swiss Roots - Cultural Offshoots", Pro Helvetia is taking a cultural programme to various American cities aimed at boosting the image of Switzerland as a country open to the world. In September 2006, Erika Stucky & Roots of Communication will be playing in San Francisco, Washington, New York, at the World Music Festival in Chicago (15 and 18 September) and other venues. The programme is part of the Swiss Roots campaign aimed at making Americans with Swiss roots more familiar with their country of origin. Further details at www.prohelvetia.ch
PDF: **Erika Stucky & Roots of Communication on tour in USA**



Rounding off: Swiss fashion design in Tokyo

At a four-day workshop with Laurent Mercier in Geneva, 20 young designers from Switzerland and Japan have created new fashion items. On 7 September 2006, they will be presenting their creations, together with a selection of the latest Swiss fashion, at the Japan Fashion Week in Tokyo. At the same time, the installation "lumps & bumps" by Lang / Baumann will open at the famous Spiral Hall. These events mark the closing of the 0406 SWISS CONTEMPORARY ARTS IN JAPAN programme that lasted two years and in which Pro Helvetia supported the staging of 35 cultural events from all lines of art in Japan. The networks established will enable a variety of follow-on projects in future.
More on 0406 SWISS CONTEMPORARY ARTS: www.prohelvetia.ch
More on the Japan Fashion Week: www.jfw.jp



More on Spiral Hall: www.spiral.co.jp

THE ARTS COUNCIL

echoes - Folk Culture for Tomorrow

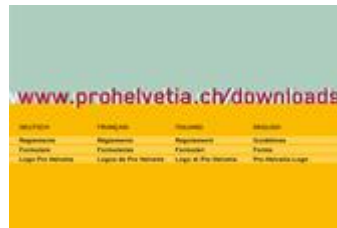
Pro Helvetia issues a topic - tradition and innovation in the Swiss cultural landscape - and then listens for incoming echoes. With this new programme, Pro Helvetia opens a forum for the folk culture of the 21st century, launches debates and a competition, and presents cultural projects in collaboration with the Cantons. The programme is meant to show that folk culture is on the move. Tradition has a future. The programme will kick off with a symposium in Sierre on 15/16 September (see TIPS). Find out more at

www.prohelvetia.ch/echoes



New guidelines for applicants

Pro Helvetia has revamped its guidelines for cultural practitioners applying for a grant. The new guidelines are more clearly set out and more user-friendly than their predecessor. There is now a separate document for each line of art (visual arts, music, literature and society, theatre, dance and interdisciplinary projects), enabling artists applying for a grant from Pro Helvetia to state their case with greater ease. The guidelines and the application forms, which have also been revised, are now available in digital form only. They can be downloaded in four languages (D, F, I, GB) from the Pro Helvetia website www.prohelvetia.ch/downloads



A new promotional tool for dance

Swiss Cantons and communities have, for the first time and together with Pro Helvetia, developed a joint tool to promote Swiss dance companies. A three-year contract will enable the dance groups concerned to plan ahead over a longer term than before. The contracts will be available not only to established companies, but also to younger groups with recognisable potential. Initial contracts have already been signed for 2006 and 2007. **More...**

DEBATE

How much State support does folk culture need?

Is "folk culture" in Switzerland receiving the support to which it is entitled by law? Does it need more? And what forms of culture does this term cover? Writer Stefan Koslowski, a theatre studies graduate, provides an overview of the parliamentary debate over the past few years and the controversies involving politicians, Pro Helvetia and "folk culture" representatives. **More...**

TIPS

Symposium: echoes - Folk Culture for Tomorrow

With Federal Councillor and Minister of Culture Pascal Couchepin attending, Pro Helvetia will launch its new "echoes - Folk Culture for Tomorrow" programme with a symposium held on 15/16 September 2006. Specialists from the worlds of academia and cultural promotion, as well as arts and folk culture practitioners, will come together to discuss issues related to the concept and reality of folk culture. The symposium is a co-production of Pro Helvetia, the Ecole Cantonale d'Art du Valais, the Fondation du Château Mercier and the Cultural Office of the Canton of Valais. An exhibition entitled "Que du vent ...", investigating the uneasy relationship between "folk art" and "contemporary art", will be on show parallel to this event. If you wish to take part in the symposium, please register no later than 31 August 2006. Further information and registration form at www.prohelvetia.ch/echoes



swixx: hip-hop on tour

Young Swiss DJs, MCs and crews give a powerful demonstration of the

sounds, moves and colours of the multi-cultural hip-hop scene. In collaboration with the association Beat on the Street, Pro Helvetia has been facilitating hip-hop performances and workshops for rap, breakdance, graffiti und DJing throughout Switzerland since May 2006 as part of its swixx programme. Next stops: Werkstatt, Chur (9 September), ESPO Centro, Bellinzona (23 September), Merkker, Baden (30 September).

More at www.beatonthestreet.ch

On swixx: www.prohelvetia.ch



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

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