

Pro Helvetia promotes cultural interaction within Switzerland and beyond its borders. That's why it supports arts projects that break down national and linguistic barriers - whether through an African tour by a Swiss dance company, by inviting an Indian puppeteer to Berne, through a theatrical exchange across Switzerland's language divide - the «Röstigraben» - or through exhibitions of contemporary art on the subjects of globalization and Europe's cultural future.

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LATEST NEWS

Mutamenti - Visions of globalization

In the three castles in Bellinzona contemporary artists are currently showing works on the topic of globalization and change. Their unconventional, often provocative language marks them out as interpreters and catalysts of new trends in present-day art. «Mutamenti-Visioni» is part of the concluding project of «Gallerie 57/34.6 km», a Pro Helvetia programme which deals with the construction of the new St. Gotthard and Lötschberg tunnels. The exhibition lasts until 4 November.

www.prohelvetia.ch/mutamenti



Young Swiss art in Maastricht

The young Genevan artist Mai-Thu Perret will be the subject of the show «Land of Crystal», at the Bonnefantenmuseum in Maastricht from 9 September 2007 to 6 January 2008. Perret is regarded as one of the key figures in the new generation of artists. The exhibition presents Perret's most recent works, including sculptures and reliefs. Afterwards, «Land of Crystal» will travel to the Neue Kunsthalle St. Gallen. www.bonnefanten.nl



«Cruda Bellezza» in Africa

«Cruda Bellezza» (Austere Beauty) is the true story of the dancer Isabel Lunkembisa. In her own artistic language of hip-hop and Afro dance, she describes how as a young girl she fled from war-torn Angola and found refuge in Switzerland. «Teatrodanza», a Swiss dance company, will perform «Cruda Bellezza» in Durban, Maputo and Luanda between 30 August and 7 September. For information, click on www.prohelvetia.org.za or www.teatrodanza.ch



Becoming Europe

«Evolving Europe», a multidisciplinary event of the Swiss Cultural Centre in Paris examines the emergence of Europe from different perspectives. From 9 September to 28 October artists with a Swiss connection are exhibiting works on the subject of Europe: borders, migration, the globalized market and European politics.

www.ccsparis.com



Folk music - between tradition and innovation

The cabaret group «Chäslager» will present Christine Lauterburg in her dialect performance «Pflanzblätz» at the 10th Swiss Ländler Festival in Stans. Emil Walliman has composed a rhapsody for brass and local band especially for this event. These are just two of the titbits on the lively programme of the Ländler Festival from 7 to 9 September. In addition to traditional music, the festival programme also includes modern Swiss folk music.

www.laendlermusikfest07.ch



«Swiss Moods» in the WDR Big Band

The Swiss clarinetist Claudio Puntin is responsible for «Swiss Moods» in the Big Band of the Westdeutscher Rundfunk in Cologne. As a guest soloist and composer, Puntin incorporates elements of Swiss folk music into his jazz improvisations. The WDR Big Band will perform a programme of «Swiss Moods» at «Moods» in Zurich and «AMR» in Geneva on 19 and 20 September, respectively. The concerts are part of a special programme, «Swiss Platform: Culture with North Rhine-Westphalia». For further information, click [here](#).



Theatre for a young audience

The Children and Youth Theatre Festival «Spot» has been invited to perform in Fribourg this year from 19 to 23 September. The varied programme promotes the exchange of theatre performers between the different linguistic regions of Switzerland. Of the Swiss theatre groups from different parts of the country, «Sgaramusch» deserves special mention: the group will be staging stories written by Fribourg schoolchildren at the Alter Bahnhof arts centre. www.astej.ch/spot



Indian puppets in the Theater Schlachthaus

Varun Narain, an Indian puppeteer, uses his cheeky, sensual, emotional puppet characters to narrate stories set somewhere between magic and modern times. Varun Narain is visiting artist-in-residence in Berne from August to October. Narain has garnered a lot of praise both in his homeland and abroad, particularly for his success in establishing puppet theatre as a popular art form for adult audiences. www.prohelvetia.in



Petition for «Youth and Music» referendum

On 19 June 2007, the Swiss Music Council launched a petition for a federal referendum on «Youth and Music». The goal of the petition is to ensure that musical education is anchored in the Swiss Constitution. Pro Helvetia is supporting this petition. Further information can be found at www.musikinitiative.ch

PUBLICATIONS

«Progress Europe»

Is European culture in the midst of an identity crisis? Can culture play a strategic role in the EU? Thirty authors from very different cultural disciplines and perspectives address this issue for the cultural report «Progress Europe». The German and French versions of «Progress Europe» can be **ordered** from Pro Helvetia free of charge.



THE ARTS COUNCIL

New Board of Trustees member

The Federal Council has appointed Markus Luchsinger as a member of the Board of the Swiss Arts Council. He will succeed Marco Läuchli on the Theatre panel. Luchsinger's reputation in the theatre world extends well beyond Switzerland's borders. In the 1980s he was co-director of the «Schauspielhaus-Keller» in Zurich. After that he was a leading light first of the Zürcher Theater Spektakel and then the Berliner Festspiele. Luchsinger is currently artistic director of the Chur Theatre.



TIPS

Debate on folk art

How important is folk art for the general public and in artistic circles? As part of its «echos – folk culture for tomorrow» programme, Pro Helvetia is launching a series of five debates. It will open with a panel discussion «folk DEBATING art» in the Spritzenhaus, Stans, on 21 September. Representatives from the world of folk culture, cultural

promotion, politics and the media will ask questions and try to find answers. For further information, click [here](#).



«La Bâtie» - performing arts festival

Just as Zurich's «Theater Spektakel» festival comes to an end, «La Bâtie» gets going in Geneva. This major international performing arts festival attracts groups across language and national barriers. Between 31 August and 15 September it will provide a broad range of insights into Geneva's theatre, dance and music scene. Other highlights this year include productions from Canada, rhetorical contributions and events for children and youth. www.batie.ch



Football performance in Warsaw

Now largely ruined and the site of Europe's biggest bazaar, Warsaw's Dziesieciolecia Stadium was always used for major public events besides sports. On 30 September, Massimo Furlan, a Swiss artist, is staging the historic 1982 football match between the Polish national team and Belgium as a one-man performance. For further information, click on www.prohelvetia.pl or www.massimofurlan.com.



Jazz summit

Jazz has done at least as much to put Willisau on the map as its formidable «Willisauer Ringli» biscuits. The well-known international jazz festival presents a unique blend of rural charm, high-quality music and independent programming. The festival takes place from 30 August to 2 September. www.jazzwillisau.ch



Frauenfeld Poetry Festival

As Markus Bundi, guest curator of the Frauenfeld Poetry Festival, writes in the programme of the 9th festival, «Poetry's unwritten imperative is to simultaneously fragment and defragment». Hence, this year's theme «Du – dich / meine ich» is intended as an invitation. Poets will read from their work in the Eisenwerk Frauenfeld on 21 and 22 September. For further information, please click [here](#).

COLOPHON

Pro Helvetia

Arts Council of Switzerland
Communication
Hirschengraben 22
8024 Zurich
E-Mail: communication@prohelvetia.ch
www.prohelvetia.ch

Editor: Janine Messerli

Translations: bmp translations ag

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