

There are projects under way that link tradition and innovation and point the way for a folk culture of the future. Pro Helvetia's "echoes" competition will be awarding a prize to ten such projects. You will find the competition details at the end of this Newsletter. There is creative tension to be found in the relations between cultures, between different generations of artists, between art practitioners and patrons or promoters of art, between culture and politics. This is one of the topics inherent in the news and tips presented below.

We would also like to draw your attention to a new series of artist monographs aiming to familiarise readers with new trends and positions in the art world. "Passages", the cultural magazine, offers items for debate on folk culture. And after issuing our first eleven Newsletters, we are keen to hear what you as a reader think about them. We would be grateful if you could take five minutes to participate in our brief survey.

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LATEST NEWS

Renens as culture capital

On 20 and 21 October 2006, the small town of Renens will be in the spotlight for 30 hours on end. The municipality in the Canton of Vaud with the highest proportion of foreigners in Switzerland - no fewer than 115 nationalities represented in an overall population of 19,000 - will be Switzerland's de facto culture capital for two days. Over 50 theatre performances, concerts and other cultural events will be open to visitors free of charge. Pro Helvetia is presenting the festival as the closing event of its "swixx - Switzerland's Cultural Worlds" programme, which highlights the exciting mix of elements from a great diversity of backgrounds in Swiss culture today.

Details on the festival at: www.renenscapitaleculturelle.ch

For more on swixx: www.prohelvetia.ch



"KIN:BE:JOZI" journey through Kinshasa, Berne and Johannesburg

"KIN:BE:JOZI" is the name of an intercultural art project supported by Pro Helvetia's Liaison Office in Cape Town. Its focal points are the cityscapes of Kinshasa, Berne and Johannesburg. Five artists, Wantina Apollinaire, Vitshois Mwilambwe (Kinshasa), Dorothee Kreuzfeldt (Johannesburg), Raphael Urweider and Martin Blum (Berne) are investigating the specific social and communication codes of these three cities. From 9 October to 12 November 2006, the project will be launched at the Kulturzentrum PROGR in Berne, with the official opening event scheduled for 10 November. In a second phase, the artists will be meeting up in Kinshasa from 15 December 2006 to 7 January 2007. Further events will be held in Johannesburg in spring 2007. **Details...**



Fischli/Weiss at the Tate Modern

With "Flowers & Questions", the Tate Modern in London is hosting the first comprehensive David Fischli/Peter Weiss retrospective in the UK from 11 October 2006 to 14 January 2007. Fischli/Weiss made a name for themselves with their critical and yet humorous transformations of the commonplace by means of installations, films, sculpture and photography. The retrospective will include their films "The Right Way" (1983) and "The Way Things Go" (1987) as well as the photo series "Quiet afternoon" (1984-85). The exhibition has been realised not least thanks to a generous contribution from Pro Helvetia.

www.tate.org.uk/modern



Robert Walser 50 years after his death

18 European cities are organising readings and productions of Walser texts as well as film screenings and lectures on Robert Walser's life and works to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the author's death. The centrepiece will be the exhibition "Robert Walser, 1878-1956", which will, after a short stop-over in Frankfurt, be shown in the Literaturhaus Berlin from 28 September to 19 November 2006 before moving on to Prague (29 November 2006 to 7 January 2007) and Berne (27 January to 25 February 2007). Besides this major undertaking, Pro Helvetia is also supporting an exhibition of Walser's micrograms "Territoire du Crayon" ("Aus dem Bleistiftgebiet") at the Fondation Martin Bodmer in Cologne (Geneva) from 2 September to 29 October 2006. Information on these events at: www.walser-archiv.ch



Workshop for drama writers

The Burgtheater in Vienna is promoting young dramatists. Around ten lesser-known German-language authors will be discussing their works with experienced theatre directors and producers from 2 to 15 October 2006, while actors and actresses from the Burgtheater company test the piece's viability for the stage. Partners to this writers' workshop are Pro Helvetia and Literar-Mechana, a society representing the joint interests of authors and publishers. Two Swiss dramatists, Laura de Weck and Gerhard Meister, are also among those invited. Tobi Müller, a drama critic, has been selected as a member of the jury. Further details at www.burgtheater.at



Swiss folk and world music at WOMEX

Some of the most important protagonists of world and folk music will be travelling to Seville for the international "World Music Expo" WOMEX scheduled for 25 to 29 October 2006. Pro Helvetia is coordinating Switzerland's presentation, which includes two compilations on CD, "alpine music made in switzerland" - a cross-section of contemporary Swiss folk music - and "world music made in switzerland". The CDs will be offered to expo visitors free of charge. More on WOMEX at www.womex.com



Else Lasker-Schüler forum in Zurich

As part of the "Plattform Schweiz: Kultur in Nordrhein - Westfalen" programme, the 13th Else Lasker-Schüler forum will be held in Zurich from 26 to 29 October 2006. Five new productions by different organisers will reflect the broad scope of this writer's work. Hanna Schygulla will be on stage at the Zurich Schauspielhaus, and at the Hochschule Musik und Theater a world premiere of Lasker-Schüler's poetry set to music by Swiss composer David Philipp Hefti will be presented by the Zürcher Kammerensemble with Sylvia Nopper (soprano). Maria Becker and Anne-Marie Blanc will recite poetry at the same venue. In the "Literaturhaus" Alice Schwarzer, Georg Kreiser and Erica Pedretti among others will be taking part in a discussion on the topic "Die ewige Lust an den Tätern" (the perpetual attraction of perpetrators).



Details on the forum: else-lasker-schueler-gesellschaft.de

Further information on the "Plattform Schweiz" events: www.kultur-nrw.ch

Mexican-Swiss dance of death in Basel

"Diesseits vom Jenseits" (this side of the hereafter) is the name of a ten-day festival to be held on the occasion of the "día de los muertos" (day on which the dead are commemorated) from 28 October to 5 November 2006 in Basel. Various partners at various venues are to give artistic expression to the issue of death and its rituals in Mexico and Switzerland. The festival will be launched at the "Museum der Kulturen" in Basel with a panel discussion on the role of the "día de los muertos" in Mexico. One of the questions will be whether the "día de los muertos" is rooted in cultural tradition or part of Mexican cultural policy. Pro Helvetia is supporting the project, which is to be continued in Mexico City as part of the Festival de México in March 2007. More information at



PUBLICATIONS

New artist monographs published

With its artist monographs (Collection cahiers d'artistes) Pro Helvetia has been documenting new strategies and trends in Swiss visual arts since 1997. For Series VI, seven professional artists and one group of artists have been selected that so far have no specific publication to their name. Graphic designer Caspar Mangold was responsible for the design of the eight magazines. The publication was effected in collaboration with Edizioni Periferia (Lucerne) and will be presented to the public for the first time at the Frankfurt Book Fair (4-6 October 2006). The artist monographs can be obtained for SFr 18.00 each at any bookshop or directly at www.periferia.ch
Further information on the artist monographs: www.prohelvetia.ch



Passages 42: echoes - folk culture for tomorrow

In its new issue coinciding with the start of this new programme, Pro Helvetia's cultural magazine attempts to shed light on seemingly unrelated phenomena in the Swiss cultural landscape. Events like the "Unspunnenfest" and the Street Parade have more in common than meets the eye. Young women designers are rediscovering traditional handicraft techniques, while the alphorn is evolving into a high-tech instrument. Should the term folk culture therefore only be applied in inverted commas? And how and by whom should it be promoted? Questions that have a direct impact on Pro Helvetia and its activities.
You can order Passages here (D,F,E) or read it in pdf format...



THE ARTS COUNCIL

Project Dance - towards comprehensive dance promotion in Switzerland

In 2002 Pro Helvetia and the Federal Office for Culture launched "Project Dance" with the aim of establishing an up-to-date promotional concept in collaboration with dance associations and representatives from the cantons and municipalities, and with dancers themselves. The final report was published on 11 September. Some of the planned measures resulting from the project have already been implemented, for instance a three-year cooperative promotional agreement with independent dance companies. The creation of a nationally recognized dance training programme and the set-up of the "Réseau Danse Suisse" network have also been initiated. You will find the project report and further details at www.prohelvetia.ch/tanz



Survey: Ideas for the Pro Helvetia Newsletter?

Since March 2005, Pro Helvetia has been providing information on its activities and the projects it supports through this Newsletter eight times a year. Our five-minute survey aims to gather feedback from our readers. We would be pleased if you could kindly click through the 13 questions and share your opinions with us. **More...**



TIPS

"echoes" project competition

As a key part of its "echoes - folk culture for tomorrow" programme, Pro Helvetia has launched a competition. It is seeking projects that link tradition and innovation and encourage us to take a new look at what is familiar and discover traces of tradition in what is new. The projects should be planned and realised jointly by artists from the fields of folk culture and contemporary art. Around ten projects will be selected for an award. The overall prize sum amounts to SFr 250,000 and the deadline for applications is 7 January 2007. Competition conditions and application forms are available at



www.prohelvetia.ch/echos

Music - no borders, no cost, no protection?

A public conference held by the Schweizer Musikrat (Swiss Music Council) and the Cultural Management Study Centre of the University of Basel will take a look at the future of music in the digital age. On 19 October 2006 at the "Kultur- und Kongresszentrum" in Aarau, specialists together with the general public will be discussing questions such as: Are the current debates on the revision of the intellectual property law covering all the relevant issues? What inventions can have a decisive impact on our everyday life? Registration and more information at www.miz.ch



One-day conference: A law for culture?

On 9 November 2006 the association Pro Cultura and the Zürcher Hochschule Winterthur are organising a one-day conference for practitioners from all areas of Swiss culture for the second time. The key issue will be the draft bill for a new law on the promotion of culture that is to be debated in the two chambers of the Swiss Parliament next year. In the Solothurn Concert Hall, cultural practitioners and other concerned persons from Switzerland and abroad will speak on the relationship of state and culture, cultural policies and federalism. Registration and further details at www.arts-management.ch

Eine Politik für die Kultur?
Tagung in Solothurn, 9. November 2006



COLOPHON

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

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