

Our Newsletter describes projects that are financially supported by Pro Helvetia. In some cases, Pro Helvetia was also the initiator and provides advice on the content side. The projects outlined aim to build bridges between cultures and to tackle topical issues such as illegality, faith and patriotism. And we would again like to remind you of the competition for the "echoes - Folk Culture for Tomorrow" programme. The organisers are looking for cultural projects that forge a link or initiate a dialogue between tradition and innovation.

Pro Helvetia Communications

LATEST NEWS
THE ARTS COUNCIL
TIPS
COLOPHON

LATEST NEWS

el-sabr gameel: Music beyond categories

Seven composers and nine interpreters from Egypt and Switzerland have joined forces for the music project entitled "el-sabr gameel", which was launched in spring 2006 on the initiative of Pro Helvetia's liaison office in Cairo. Headed up by Prof. Issam El-Mallah (University of Munich), the musicians let East meet West in terms of improvisation and notation, and European and Arabic instruments. Rehearsals for their joint programme have been underway at the "Künstlerhaus" in Boswil since the end of October, and the group will be going on tour in Switzerland, Germany and Egypt from 20 November to 14 December 2006. Details at www.prohelvetia.ch



Matters of Faith - an exhibition

Is faith a private matter? In its latest project, the Stapferhaus in Lenzburg explores religion and religiousness in present-day Switzerland and discusses scenarios for the future (until 29 April 2007 in Zeughaus Lenzburg). Philipp Clemenz has designed an exhibition with a very experience-oriented touch. Pro Helvetia is supporting the Stapferhaus Lenzburg through a three-year performance agreement. One target is to extend the focus to include Switzerland's other linguistic regions in addition. More information at www.stapferhaus.ch



Artists' collective in Poland and Switzerland

"Icoon", a Polish artists' collective, has invited its Swiss colleagues from "cStudio" to Warsaw for the joint staging of three exhibitions. The first two, "Patriotism Tomorrow" (Gdansk, 25 November 2006 to 5 January 2007) and "Break into a Swiss bank" (Torun, 27 to 30 November 2006), focus on patriotism and national stereotypes. The third exhibition, "Arm in Arm" (Warsaw, 4 to 11 December 2006), questions the purpose of artists' collectives: Why do artists form groups, even though they often pursue very different goals? Further details at www.prohelvetia.pl
www.ikoon.art.pl
www.patriotism.wikidot.com
www.galeriadla.art.pl



ArtistNe(s)t: Artist exchange in Romania

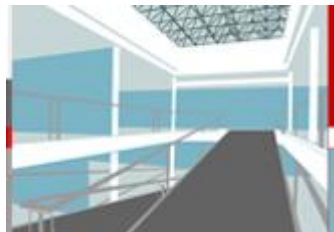
Four public cultural institutes in Romania are destined to become centres of international artistic exchange thanks to a cooperation project lasting until March 2008. From 20 to 24 November 2006, representatives of the cultural institutes will be visiting several artist-in-residence centres in Switzerland, including CRIC in Sierre as well as PROGR and Schlachthaus in Berne, in order to benefit from their experience and to strengthen ties with the Swiss arts scene. The "ArtistNe(s)t" project is being organised by the Swiss cultural programme "South-East Europe and the Ukraine" (SCP), which Pro Helvetia is managing as a mandate from the Swiss Agency for



Development and Cooperation (SDC). You will find more details [here \(PDF\)](#) and at www.artistnest.ro

"Chocolates"

From 12 November 2006 to February 2007, the Museo Carrillo Gil in Mexico City will show the exhibition entitled "Chocolates". "Chocolates" is a slang term for finding ways and means that are not strictly legal. The topic of the exhibition is everyday life on the streets of Mexico City, shown through video art. Four internationally renowned artists, Cao Guimarães (Brazil), Erik van Lieshout (Holland), Daniel Knorr (Romania) and Christoph Draeger (Switzerland) are invited to explore traces of illegality in public awareness. Together with students, Christoph Draeger will be producing a video on site. His contribution has the support of Pro Helvetia. See the site of the museum: www.macg.inba.gob.mx



"The Maghreb Connection"

The globalised economy in the Maghreb zone benefits from cheap labour. At the same time, Europe feels threatened by migrants from Africa. This is the subject matter of "The Maghreb Connection", an art and research project initiated and financially supported by Pro Helvetia Cairo. The event will be launched with an international conference on 11 December 2006. Works by artists from Cairo, Morocco, Spain, Italy and Switzerland will subsequently be on show at the Townhouse Gallery in Cairo until 13 January 2007. In February 2007, the exhibition will transfer to the Centre d'Art Contemporain in Geneva. More at www.pro-helvetia.ch/cairo



Book fair representing Western Switzerland in Paris

From 24 to 26 November 2006, the Centre culturel suisse in Paris is organising its second book fair. Twelve publishers from Western, French-speaking Switzerland will present their latest publications, and a select list of authors, including Corinne Desarzens, Yves Laplace, Béatrice Guelpa and Grégoire Montangero, will hold readings for their Parisian audience. Details of the programme at www.ccsparis.com



International book fair in Guadalajara (Mexico)

For the third time, Pro Helvetia has organised a literary programme to supplement the presence of Swiss publishers at the international book fair in Guadalajara (25 November to 3 December 2006). This year, Peter Bieri will be reading at the trade fair and subsequently lecturing at the University of Mexico City and other venues. The book fair in Guadalajara is the most significant event of its kind for Spanish-language literature and will be celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. More information at www.fil.com.mx



THE ARTS COUNCIL

Promoting Swiss Jazz

Pro Helvetia will continue to support Swiss jazz on its way to international success in 2007. Nik Bärtsch's "RONIN" was selected out of a large number of entries for the three-year "priority jazz promotion" programme. Pro Helvetia has also concluded a performance agreement with five labels covering jazz and improvised music: Intakt, Altrisuoni, Unit, For 4 Ears and Cut. This should help boost their sales and make them more independent. **Further information at ...**



TIPS

"echoes - Folk Culture for Tomorrow" - projects wanted

In its "echoes - Folk Culture for Tomorrow" programme, Pro Helvetia is exploring the significance of traditions in Switzerland's cultural identity. The competition, which looks for projects that link tradition and innovation or encourage us to think about our relationship with tradition, has now been launched. The projects should be planned

and realised jointly by cultural practitioners from the fields of folk and contemporary culture. About ten winning projects will be selected; the overall prize sum is CHF 250,000. The closing date for entries is 7 January 2007. You will find the application form and the rules of participation at www.prohelvetia.ch/echos



COLOPHON

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

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