



Can cultural exchange ever work in just one direction? The word exchange already implies that it can't. When Pro Helvetia conducts country programmes in Japan, China or France, it is not simply exporting cultural goods, but forging long-term contacts. Two years ago, «La belle voisine» took Swiss productions across the border to France. On 12 January, it returns with a rich load of art and artists from the French region adjoining Switzerland. The Swiss-Japanese photo exhibition «Two Mountains», which was created in 2006 for display in Japan, is currently on show in Europe for the first time. And the Chinese, partners in our most recent country programme, are now also coming to Switzerland. This January in Wernetshausen, translators from the Middle Kingdom will work on the transformation of Swiss literature into Chinese.

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Swiss literature for China

Neither Peter Stamm nor Monique Schwitter write in Chinese. And very few Chinese read German. To prepare the ground for an interested audience when Swiss writers go on their reading tour to China in 2010, four translators are currently working on a Chinese version of the authors' works. On 22 January (19:30), Translation House Looren will stage a meeting and discussion between writers and translators. Pro Helvetia is supporting the project in connection with its «Swiss Chinese Cultural Explorations» programme. Details at www.looren.net and www.prohelvetia.ch/china0810



Club nights in Beijing and Shanghai

A further «Swiss Chinese Cultural Explorations» project is entitled «Switch On» (concept: Miro China and Shift Festival). It involves 17 musicians, DJs and live acts from both the Chinese and Swiss electronic scene performing in the clubs of Shanghai (12 December) and Beijing (19/20 December). These performances, together with exhibitions, club nights and workshops, are set to provide a stimulating framework for live cultural exchange also encompassing a broadly based audience. More at www.prohelvetia.ch/china0810



Swiss books abroad

When Anne Cuneo, Peter Weber or Anna Felder go on a reading tour abroad with the support of Pro Helvetia, their books should be available to local readers. This is one reason why Pro Helvetia distributes a selection of new literary publications from Switzerland worldwide to libraries that have expressed an interest. In 2008, over 6000 books by some 60 authors were sent to roughly 200 destinations.



PROJECTS

Visions of mountains in Japan and Switzerland

Naoya Hatakeyama and Balthasar Burkhard. The Japanese photographer hiked across the Furka pass into the Bernese Oberland, his Swiss counterpart explored the Chubu Sangaku national park south of Tokyo. Both shot pictures for the joint project «Two Mountains», exhibited separately in Tokyo in 2006 and now on show together for the first time. Up to 8 February 2009, the Museum der Moderne in Mönchsberg, Austria, presents insights into two mountain worlds and perspectives from two



different sides of the globe. Further details at www.museumdermoderne.at

Jazz concerts all around Switzerland

«Zehn Bands, vingt lieux, cento concerti» is the slogan under which ten independent young jazz bands will be performing at 20 different venues throughout Switzerland from 15 January to 21 February 2009. The project is organised by the trans-regional club festival «Suisse Diagonales Jazz». The 100 concerts aim to reflect the diversity of jazz on offer in Switzerland today and acquaint audiences with groups from linguistic regions other than their own. Concert details and dates at www.diagonales.ch



Alain Tanner retrospective in Paris

The Cinémathèque française is celebrating Swiss filmmaker Alain Tanner with a major retrospective. From 14 January to 15 February 2009, it will, in collaboration with Swiss Films, show 19 feature films, 2 documentaries and 4 TV productions by Tanner. The programme will be rounded off with Pierre Maillard's documentary on the master filmmaker. Alain Tanner himself will take part in four panel discussions and give an introduction to his most recent feature film, «Paul s'en va» (2004), on 15 January. More information at www.swissfilms.ch



Contemporary arts in the Canton of Valais

From 16 January to 1 February 2009, the «Forum Wallis» festival in Sion and Visp will provide a stage for innovative and experimental arts and culture. The programme includes new music from French-speaking Switzerland, an exchange project involving Chinese and Swiss musicians, world premieres of pieces by Valais-based composers, performances by local choirs and a piece of music theatre for children in the local German dialect. Details at www.forumwallis.ch



Max Bill's «Die gute Form» in Ulm

An exhibition that has become a classic. Back in 1949, Swiss artist Max Bill compiled what he considered exemplary forms from design, architecture and nature on 80 panels. Long deemed lost, the panels resurfaced a few years ago. Ulm Museum has now reconstructed the exhibition in accordance with Max Bill's original plans on the occasion of the artist's 100th birthday. Supplemented by a support programme, the exhibition remains on display until 18 January 2009. Details at www.museum.ulm.de



Two other, related events:

«Around Max Bill» at the [Centre culturel suisse](http://www.centre-culturel-suisse.com) in Paris, up to 4 January
«max bill 100» at the [Haus Konstruktiv](http://www.haus-konstruktiv.ch) in Zurich, up to 22 March

International project at PhotoCairo4

Swiss graphic designer Sarah Infanger is taking part at the «PhotoCairo4: The Long Shortcut», an international multi-disciplinary event staged in Cairo from 17 December 2008 to 14 January 2009. Together with Egyptian colleagues Motaz Attala, Mohammed Fahmy and George Azmy, she will realise a project entitled «The Publishing House» at the premises of the [Contemporary Image Collective](http://www.contemporary-image-collective.com) (CIC), designing print products that document the festival and the various symposia. More information at universes-in-universe.org and www.prohelvetia.org.eg



CALL FOR PROJECTS

Dance and theatre project grants

Pro Helvetia provides assistance to professional dance and theatre practitioners in Switzerland. This includes grants for new productions by independent groups with national and international impact. The application deadlines for 2009 remain unchanged: 1 February for events scheduled between June and November, 1 August for productions from December 2009 to May 2010. Applications must now be submitted electronically via www.myprohelvetia.ch. The application contents for dance and theatre will be accessible on this platform from 12 January.



Young theatre practitioners go to Berlin

From 3 to 17 May 2009 young theatre practitioners will meet up at the International Forum of the «Berliner Theatertreffen» (Berlin theatre

meeting). Pro Helvetia is offering four theatre professionals the opportunity to take part at this extraordinary educational event. The conditions are ongoing professional work in the Swiss theatre world, age 36 or younger, and a good knowledge of German. Workshops at the Forum will focus on the art of the narrative. The deadline for applications is 31 January 2009. Further details at www.prohelvetia.ch



FOCUS

«La belle voisine» in Switzerland

The good cooperation between Pro Helvetia and its French partners is visibly paying off. In 2007, «La belle voisine» presented Swiss arts work and productions in France, and now, from January to June 2009, the French from across the border are returning the visit. 40 contemporary arts and culture productions from the Rhône-Alpes region will be on show in ten Swiss towns. The programme kicks off on 10 January 2009 at the Théâtre du Passage in Neuchâtel with a performance of «Jeux doubles» by the Théâtre des Célestins from Lyon, a play about mothers and daughters. The full programme is available at www.labellevoisine.ch



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Visit our website: www.prohelvetia.ch

Read the latest edition of the cultural magazine Passages:
www.prohelvetia.ch/passages/en

Information on «Swiss Chinese Cultural Explorations»:
www.prohelvetia.ch/china0810

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

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