



Interested in foreign cultures? Then read comics! Sometimes called the ninth art form, comics can offer surprising insights into the lives of others. Two current projects with Pro Helvetia involvement bear out this claim. The international Fumetto Comix Festival in Lucerne has invited «nextComic» from Linz to present Austrian comic art. In early March, the «nextComic» festival provided a stage for Swiss cartoonists in connection with «Extra Europe - Switzerland», the Swiss contribution to the Linz 2009 European Capital of Culture agenda. And second, hot off the press, the Indo-Swiss comics anthology entitled «When Kulbhushan met Stöckli» links up Switzerland and the East. A vernissage will be held at the Fumetto Comix Festival to celebrate the publication of the anthology, jointly issued by Phantomville in India and Edition Moderne in Switzerland.

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Cultural exchange under scrutiny: panel discussion

On 19 March, a six-week festival is kicking off in Linz, the European culture capital of the year, with cultural tidbits from Switzerland. «Extra Europe - Switzerland», organised by Pro Helvetia, is on show until 3 May as part of a cultural exchange programme between Switzerland and Austria. A first return visit will be paid by Austrian cartoonists at the Fumetto Comix Festival in Lucerne. One of the programme items here is a panel discussion scheduled for 30 March, 8 pm, on the benefits and drawbacks of state-sponsored cultural exchange. Participants include Martin Heller, Artistic Director of «Linz 09», Heike Munder, Director of the Migros Museum of Contemporary Art, animation film maker Jonas Raeber and Pius Knüsel, Director of Pro Helvetia. [More information at...](#)
Details on «Extra Europe Schweiz»: www.prohelvetia.ch/extraeuropa



PROJECTS

Davide Cascio at the Kunsthauus Glarus

«A Portrait of the Man as a Building». This is the title, rich in allusions, that Ticino-based Davide Cascio has chosen for his first solo exhibition at the Kunsthauus Glarus. The exhibition comprising installations and collages provides thought-provoking comments on utopias in architecture, design, literature and society, and is on show until 3 May. In 2006, Pro Helvetia dedicated one of its «cahiers d'artistes» monographs to Davide Cascio. Further details on the exhibition: www.kunsthauusglarus.ch



Huber.Huber at the Museo Cantonale d'Arte in Lugano

For the coming years, Lugano's Museo Cantonale d'Arte is dedicating its eastern room to young Swiss art. The museum plans to show the work of up-and-coming young artists on a regular basis and supplement each exhibition with a small publication. The honour of opening the series of exhibitions goes to the Huber.Huber twins from Zurich. Their collages, drawings and sculptures, on display from 3 April to 14 June, reflect encounters and clashes between nature and civilisation. Further information at www.museo-cantonale-arte.ch



Art and technology in synch

swissnex, located in the heart of San Francisco, runs a platform for science, education, art and innovation. Working closely with Pro Helvetia, it promotes projects that thrive on encounters between art and technology. On 25 March, swissnex is staging an electro-acoustic performance with

Jason Kahn, Joe Colley and Scott Arford, and from 27 March to 14 April, «Newscocoons», media sculpture by Jeffrey Huang and Muriel Waldvogel, will be on display at the swissnex premises in 730 Montgomery Street. Information on this and other projects at www.swissnexsanfrancisco.org



Translating in Buenos Aires

Carlos Ruiz Zafón, Tomás Eloy Martínez, Zoé Valdés - three big names in Hispanic literature. Peter Schwaar - one man responsible for making these names known in the German speaking world. For over 20 years, the Swiss translator has transported literature from Spanish into German, making it accessible to large new circles of readers. Pro Helvetia is enabling Peter Schwaar to take part in a workshop for Argentinean and German-language translators from 12 to 18 April in Buenos Aires. More information at literaturuebersetzer.de



Orchestra on tour

The forthcoming tour of the 112-strong Orchestre de la Suisse Romande (OSR), conducted by Marek Janowski, takes it to some of the leading concert halls of Germany and South America. Its musical luggage includes a concerto grosso by Geneva-based composer Michael Jarrell, which was commissioned by OSR itself. The first stop is Cologne on 22 April, followed by Frankfurt, Berlin, São Paulo and Buenos Aires. The final port of call is Montevideo on 9 May. Young French pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet is accompanying OSR as a soloist. Details at www.osr.ch



«szene:Schweiz» at the Societätstheater in Dresden

A stage is being set for Swiss artists in Dresden: From 8 to 17 May, the Societätstheater is organising a festival featuring arts from Switzerland. «szene:Schweiz» will be presenting, among others, the drama groups Plasma, Schauspiel International and junges theater basel, musicians Erika Stucky and Heidi Happy, dancer Anna Huber and the music theatre group Velma. Details at www.societaetstheater.de



PUBLICATIONS

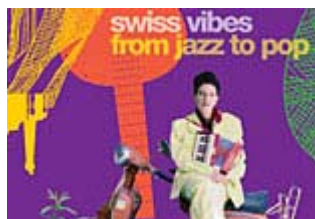
Swiss-Indian comics anthology

«When Kulbhushan met Stöckli» builds on an experiment. 19 Indian and Swiss comic book artists, including Kati Rickenbach and Sekhar Mukherjee, criss-crossed their cities in a quest for stories. The graphic tales this generated are now published in a comics anthology. A vernissage marking the book's launch and presenting some of the original drawings is scheduled for 28 March, 2 pm, at «Sic! Raum für Kunst» in Lucerne. This will be followed by a panel discussion on the comics landscape in India at the auditorium (Aula) of the University of Lucerne on 31 March at 5 pm. The anthology is jointly published by Phantomville in India and [Edition Moderne](http://EditionModerne) in Switzerland. Details at www.prohelvetia.in



«Swiss Vibes» - jazz and pop from Switzerland

The Swiss French-language music magazine «Vibrations» is offering readers a CD with choice Swiss jazz and pop. The sampler «Swiss Vibes», compiled in conjunction with Pro Helvetia, comes as a gift with the latest issue of the magazine. One of the aims is to capture the attention of concert organisers in France and so enable Swiss musicians to perform to new audiences across the border. The magazine and the CD together can be ordered at abo@vibrations.ch



CALL FOR PROJECTS

Call for projects for Swiss - West Balkan cultural exchange

Pro Helvetia sponsors projects that foster cultural contacts between Switzerland and the Balkan countries Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia through its Swiss Cultural Programme

Western Balkans (SCP). Cultural managers and event organisers from these countries can submit applications for Swiss cultural practitioners to participate in projects, which must be developed and implemented jointly with the Swiss partners. The deadline for applications is 1 May 2009. Application documents are available at www.scp-ba.net



Applications wanted for new series of artist monographs

With its Cahiers d'Artistes, a collection of artist monographs, Pro Helvetia supports young talent from the world of visual arts. Having a first publication to their name can be a stepping stone for artists on their way to international recognition. A new series comprising eight issues is to be published this year. Artists interested in a monograph can find the conditions for application [here](#). The deadline is 1 June 2009. Applications may only be submitted online, through Pro Helvetia's application portal at www.myprohelvetia.ch



FOCUS

Contemporary art from the Middle East - panel discussion

The second of three «Orient» exhibitions at the Zentrum Paul Klee museum in Berne, on until 16 August, is dedicated to modern-day art from the Middle East. The multi-disciplinary show takes viewers on a journey through today's Middle-Eastern countries, oscillating between dream and reality, as reflected by the exhibition title «Traum und Wirklichkeit». What do cultural practitioners experience as artists-in-residence in Cairo? This is just one of the questions that will be raised at the associated panel discussion featuring artist San Keller, Hebba Sherif, Head of Pro Helvetia Cairo, and Thomas Gartmann, Head of Music at Pro Helvetia. The public debate will be held on 4 April, 3 pm to 4.30 pm. Details at www.pro-helvetia.ch



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Information on «Extra Europa Schweiz»: www.prohelvetia.ch/extraeuropa

Visit our website: www.prohelvetia.ch

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