

**GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS
2012**

www.prohelvetia.ch

VISUAL ARTS

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VISUAL ARTS

1 GENERAL CONDITIONS

Pro Helvetia promotes Swiss arts, with a focus on diversity as well as on national and international appeal. It supports projects that contribute to cultural exchange within Switzerland, that disseminate Swiss artistic work abroad, or that enhance audience awareness of the arts. As a national institution, Pro Helvetia supplements the promotional activities of Swiss cantons and municipalities. It supports only artists who are nationally (i.e. not just regionally) recognised, except in the case of aspiring young artists. Pro Helvetia's emphasis is on contemporary art. The Visual Arts division promotes the fine arts, design, photography and media art. In the field of architecture, applications may be submitted for support in connection with exhibitions, publications and knowledge exchange projects.

To qualify for support from Pro Helvetia, the project must

- be clearly connected to Switzerland;
- be of interest to all parts of Switzerland;
- be publically accessible;
- be adequately co-financed by other public or private sponsors.

2 PROMOTIONAL SCOPE OF THE VISUAL ARTS DIVISION

A EVENTS IN SWITZERLAND AND ABROAD

Pro Helvetia promotes the exchange between the linguistic regions of Switzerland and abroad. On request from recognised art institutions, the Art Council supports exhibitions and performances of Swiss artists by means of contributions to:

- transport and insurance costs;
- rental costs of equipment;
- travelling expenses;
- fees in the case of performances.

B FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO PUBLICATIONS

On request from a recognised publishing company, Pro Helvetia contributes to the costs of printing and/or translation, including electronic data carrier, for the following types of publications:

- monographs;
- oeuvre catalogues;
- thematic publications of national relevance with clear art-historical reference to Switzerland.

Contributions may also be granted to publications that:

- contain a substantial art-historical or art-critical text;
- document a period of artistic creation of around ten years;
- deal with an art-related topic from a contemporary perspective and document new scholarly insights.

C ART AND AUDIENCE PROJECTS

Pro Helvetia supports art and audience projects in Switzerland that engage audiences in personal encounters with the arts.

Preconditions for support are that

- new forms of outreach are tested or recognised forms expanded;
- the project shows potential for further development of the outreach and education practice involved.

D PROMOTION OF ASPIRING ARTISTS

Pro Helvetia supports up-and-coming artists of outstanding talent with prospects of a national or an international career. It promotes such artists primarily via multi-year partnerships with or on individual request from recognised institutions at home and abroad (production sites, festivals, art colleges, etc.). Applications for support may be submitted for projects of art practitioners during the first five years of their professional artistic career either following the conclusion of their artistic training or – if this does not apply – following the first public presentation of their work. The upper age limit for support in this category is 35. Only projects that enable the practitioners in question to gain professional experience or to deepen this experience are eligible for support. The system for the promotion of aspiring artists is under construction in 2012. An update is planned for 2013.

E KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Pro Helvetia supports the exchange of knowledge among art practitioners. Eligible for support are specialists who actively participate in public events on topics connected with Swiss art.

3 EXCLUSIONS

The following are not eligible for support from Pro Helvetia:

- projects that are already supported by other Federal institutions (e.g. Swiss Federal Office of Culture, centre of cultural foreign policy (Zentrum für Kulturaussenpolitik), Swiss National Science Foundation, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation);
- projects that are part of a school, college or university curriculum or a training course (incl. research projects, theses, dissertations, diploma projects, scholarship projects, etc.);
- infrastructure, equipment and operational costs of cultural institutions, archives and collections;
- projects that are not dependent on financial support.

Moreover the Visual Arts department cannot accept applications for support in connection with:

- exhibitions of private collections;
- exhibitions at commercial galleries in Switzerland and abroad;
- participation at art fairs in Switzerland and abroad;
- exhibition catalogues, honorary publications, works of reference, bibliophile editions, as well as reprints and revised new editions of existing publications.

4 DOSSIER CONTENTS

An application to Pro Helvetia must contain the following items:

- description of the project;
- information on the venue, including date of the event(s);
- information on the Swiss artists involved in the project, including biographies;
- visual documentation of the Swiss artists' works;
- budget and finance plan including specification of the contribution requested from Pro Helvetia.

Additional items in the case of publications:

- list of contents, complete text or essential parts of the text;
- visual material, layout or sample volume to be filled with content;
- copies of publisher's contracts with author, editor, translator.

Also required in the case of contributions to translations of existing publications:

- Excerpt from the translation as well as the original text.

Pro Helvetia accepts applications exclusively via www.myprohelvetia.ch. Exceptions are made on request only.

5 APPLICATION DEADLINES AND TIME UNTIL DECISION IS TAKEN

- Applications for project contributions of up to CHF 25,000 must be submitted at least eight weeks before the first event associated with the project takes place or before the date of printing;
- Applications for project contributions of over CHF 25,000: 1 March, 1 June, 1 September, 1 December. The application must be submitted at least four months before the first event associated with the project takes place or before the date of printing.
- Applications not subject to a fixed deadline are decided on within eight weeks, those subject to a fixed deadline within four months.

6 PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS

A INITIAL EVALUATION

- Pro Helvetia decides to process an application only if
- the project in question fulfils the general criteria for support (cf. section 1);
 - there is no reason for exclusion (cf. section 3);
 - the application is complete and has been submitted on time (cf. sections 4 and 5).

B QUALITATIVE EVALUATION

- Pro Helvetia assesses whether
- the project fulfils the requirements of high artistic and technical quality;
 - the project is executed in accordance with professional standards;
 - the costs are proportionate to the benefits expected;
 - the project is likely to have a long-term impact.

C DECISION-MAKING BODIES

- In the case of requests for up to CHF 25,000 the decision is taken by the division; for requests in the range of CHF 25,000 to CHF 50,000, the decision is taken jointly by the Division Heads Conference (Konferenz der Abteilungsleitenden).
- Applications for more than CHF 50,000 and several years of support agreements are submitted to the Committee of Experts with the final decision taken by the director of Pro Helvetia; decisions on applications for over CHF 300,000 must be approved by the Board of Trustees.

D NOTIFICATION OF A DECISION

A decision is communicated without detailed reasons being given. On receipt of the decision, applicants can demand an official decision statement from Pro Helvetia against which an appeal can be lodged.

E OBLIGATIONS OF RECIPIENTS OF SUPPORT FROM PRO HELVETIA

A pledge of support by Pro Helvetia places certain obligations on the applicants. If the applicants do not fulfil these obligations, Pro Helvetia is entitled to reduce the amount of support accordingly or demand a refund of support payments already made.

→ See: [fact sheet for grant recipients](#)

F DISBURSEMENT

Pro Helvetia makes the support payments only after a final report, including the accounts, has been submitted. Advance payments are possible on request. Unless the applicants notify Pro Helvetia of any delays, funding expires at the latest one year after the project's closing date specified in the application dossier. If no closing date has been specified, Pro Helvetia sets deadlines itself.

G APPEALS

Decision statements from Pro Helvetia can be appealed within 30 days of the date of receipt. The appeals must be lodged with the Federal Administrative Court (Bundesverwaltungsgericht). An appeal must include the original application as well as the reasons for the appeal, including appropriate evidence, and must be signed by the appellant. The decision statement being appealed against needs to be enclosed as evidence. Appellants bear the costs of this procedure.

Appeals are to be submitted to:
Bundesverwaltungsgericht
Postfach
CH-3000 Bern 14

7 PURPOSE OF THE GUIDE AND LEGAL BASIS

The guide explains what is needed to submit a complete application for support from Pro Helvetia for an artistic or a cultural project, what the criteria for the evaluation of an application are, what deadlines and procedures apply, and what legal steps can be taken. The guide supplements the Grant Ordinance (Verordnung über Beiträge der Stiftung Pro Helvetia) adopted by Pro Helvetia's Board of Trustees on 23 November 2011 as well as the Arts and Culture Promotion Act (Kulturförderungsgesetz) of 11 December 2009 and the Arts and Culture Promotion Ordinance (Kulturförderungsverordnung) of 23 November 2011. These legal documents can be accessed (in German, French and Italian) on Pro Helvetia's website at www.prohelvetia.ch/downloads.