

## Press Release

Zurich, 20 September 2007

### **Kunsthhaus Zürich presents its Annual Programme for 2008**

**With classic photographs by Edward Steichen, European Pop Art, contemporary Swiss art and Italian Modernism, in 2008 Kunsthhaus Zürich will present as wide a range of temporary exhibitions as ever to complement its permanent collection.**

The many activities on offer by the Museum's art educators give participants a chance both to extend their knowledge of art and to put their own talents to the test. For the first time, former Kids' Club Members will lead guided tours of the Collection for other young people. With art from the fifteenth century to the present day, the Collection comprises painting and sculpture, prints and drawings, photography and video works. Visit [www.kunsthhaus.ch](http://www.kunsthhaus.ch) for details of all events and activities.

#### EDWARD STEICHEN. IN HIGH FASHION, 1923–1937. 11 JANUARY–30 MARCH

Edward Steichen (1879–1973) was one of the most important, creative and controversial photographers of the twentieth century. This exhibition is the first comprehensive presentation of Steichen's original prints of his work for the fashion and glamour industry, especially 'Vogue' and 'Vanity Fair'. For Steichen it was perfectly natural that the fashion photographer should also be regarded as an 'auteur', as an artist who just happened to achieve his highest potential in a commercial context.

#### EUROPOP. 15 FEBRUARY–12 MAY

'Pop Art' was not an American invention. Not only was the term coined in England in the mid-1950s, the movement was already anticipated by Dadaism and Surrealism. Moreover, in the late 1950s all over Europe artists started to emerge who were actively engaging with the pictorial worlds of advertising, television and popular culture. European Pop Art generally appeared more considered, quieter, subtler than its American counterpart; combining socio-critical and political themes, it also easily connected other artistic movements. A contribution to culture by Credit Suisse – Partner of the Kunsthhaus Zürich.

#### SHIFTING IDENTITIES – SWISS ART TODAY. 6 JUNE–31 AUGUST

Contemporary Swiss art is flourishing on the international stage, and this highly active art scene is the focus of an exhibition that is less about 'nationality' than 'identity'. The absence or dissolution of identity on one hand and new constructs of identity on the other are reflected in the work of many artists today – in

paintings, installations, sculpture and film. And even as artists reflect on their own role, they also engage with notions of power, politics, art and the market place. The exhibition will be marked by a number of interventions in public spaces.

This exhibition is supported by Swiss Re – Partner for contemporary art.

### THE MARC RICH COLLECTION. 20 JUNE–3 AUGUST

The Marc Rich Collection, which was given to the Kunsthaus in 1989, spans an arc from the early pioneers of photography in the mid-nineteenth century (Henry Fox Talbot, Charles Marville) via the Pictorialism of the 'Photo Secession' (Alfred Stieglitz, Edward Steichen), 'straight photography' (Paul Strand, Edward Weston, Ansel Adams), Surrealism, Constructivism and Bauhaus (Man Ray, László Moholy-Nagy, Herbert Bayer) to the poetic, documentary Realism of the mid-twentieth century (Henri Cartier-Bresson, Robert Frank).

### SAUL STEINBERG. ILLUMINATIONS. 22 AUGUST–2 NOVEMBER

Saul Steinberg (1914–1999) was draughtsman, painter, collagist and sculptor in one. His illustrations for the 'New Yorker' were widely renowned and travelled the world. Steinberg's satire is more than mere caricature; his wit breaks the one-dimensional mould of conventional cartoons. A virtuoso amongst illustrators, Steinberg effortlessly combined dark humour, an acute eye for human frailties and vanities, and an unstoppable imagination.

### RIVOLUZIONE! ITALIAN MODERNISM FROM SEGANTINI TO BALLA. 26 SEPTEMBER 2008–11 JANUARY 2009

In the late nineteenth century Divisionism gave a whole generation of artists the wherewithal to break with the past in terms of both form and content – thus paving the way for Modernism. Critical of the injustices of the early industrial society, the Divisionists regarded their paintings as a vehicle that could inform and help to promote social change. At the same time, they also took a keen interest in theories of optical perception. Largely independently of French Neo-Impression, they developed their own techniques for the application of primary colours next to and over each other using a variety of dots, streaks, dabs and lines, so that the hues only mingle in the eye of the beholder.

### PICTURE BALLOT 2008. 17 OCTOBER 2008–4 JANUARY 2009

The Members of the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft will vote for their favourite in a selection of medieval sculptures; as always the winner will be the subject of a special focus exhibition.

### RUNA ISLAM. 28 NOVEMBER 2008–8 FEBRUARY 2009

Runa Islam's work revolves around the medium of film and all its many facets. Born in Bangladesh in 1970 and currently living and working in London, Islam

deconstructs linear narrative patterns and time sequences and makes the act of seeing – both in the sense of looking and of perceiving – the focus of her art. She probes filmic illusion and lays bare the political structures that shape society – often unbeknownst to us. She has realised a new film work for the Kunsthaus that will be shown together with existing works and a programme of special screenings.

FRIEDRICH KUHN. 12 DECEMBER 2008–1 MARCH 2009

Friedrich Kuhn (1926–1972) is widely regarded as the most striking representative of the art scene in the 1960s that was soon dubbed the 'Zurich School of the Little Mad World' and whose members came together to counter the then dominance of abstract/concrete art. Kuhn's paintings are finely tuned yet powerful – somewhere between figuration and abstraction. Much admired and shrouded in legend, hitherto Kuhn's paintings have only been presented in connection with the literary exaggeration of his persona. This carefully selected cross-section of his work will highlight the current artistic relevance of this idiosyncratic painter.

KUNSTHAUS NIGHTS. SATURDAYS FROM 7 PM UNTIL MIDNIGHT

2 February. 'Picasso's Women' by Brian McAvera. Eight Muses at a fictive press conference report on their lives with Pablo Picasso. Director: Barbara Geiger. 31 May. Art@Service. Making art your job, finding the right gallerist, having works valued, talking about curating... Supported by Ernst & Young. 25 October. Into the Light. Flash Light Parcours. Intervention by artist Johannes Gees and light designer Carsten Bosch. Conversations on the use of light to stage art.

The Nights in February and October are supported by Credit Suisse – Partner of Kunsthaus Zürich.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND NEW OPENING TIMES

Kunsthaus Zürich, Heimplatz 1, CH-8001 Zurich, Tel. +41 (0)44 253 84 84

Opening Times: Sat/Sun/Tues 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Wed/Thurs/Fri 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

For Programme, Advanced Ticket Sales, Location and Agenda, see [www.kunsthaus.ch](http://www.kunsthaus.ch)

For further press information and visual materials please contact

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