

## Press Release

Zurich, 6. September 2007

### **Kunsthhaus Zürich opens temporary 'Video Lounge'.**

**From 7 September to 18 November 2007 Kunsthhaus Zürich shows artists' videos from the 1970s to the present day. The videos belong to a collection begun by Kunsthhaus Zürich as one of the very first Swiss art museums to focus on the genre, a collection expanded to this day. The collection, now largely restored, newly catalogued and digitalised, is once again accessible to the general public.**

The Video Lounge offers a selection of the best and most striking examples of video art, and thus allows the public to take stock of the entire 40-year history and development of video art to date.

#### LOUNGE AND PROGRAMME FOR YOUNG VISITORS

Curators Tobia Bezzola and Franziska Lentzsch have assembled 24 pieces to provide viewers with strategic insights. The exhibition is accompanied by a free brochure containing brief technical and narrative notes on the works on view. The programme is available to be 'zapped' through at several stations distributed around the 120 square metres of the Video Lounge. The pieces are less than ten minutes long on average. At 59 minutes in duration, Bessie Nager's camera trip through Zurich's various neighbourhoods ('roadmovie zürich', 2006) is the longest video. As for Gabriela Gerber and Lukas Bardill's helicopter ballet, created around the World Economic Forum in Davos in 2000, its 2.22 minutes are less than a commercial video clip. The works exhibited can thus easily be consumed one after the other. On the other hand, the organisers have deliberately not included 'Untitled: Videos for Venice' (1995), an installation by Fischli/Weiss featuring 13 monitors each showing 13 tapes and lasting 104 hours (!) in all.

Pieces such as 'Goldrush' (Yello, 1987), 'Reality Hacking #195' (Peter Regli, 2002), 'Gordon's makes us drunk' (Gilbert&George, 1972) and Zilla Leutenegger's music video 'Afrika' (1999) will particularly appeal to a young crowd. Drinks are expressly permitted in the Video Lounge. And, since children under the age of 16 get in free, the Video Lounge could soon become a hangout for school kids.

#### FROM PIONEER WORK TO THE PRESENT

In their quest for fresh means of expression, young artists in the mid-1960s discovered videotape and portable video cameras as they were busily rejuvenating 20<sup>th</sup>-century art. Now, as the 21<sup>st</sup> century wears on, video has come

a long way from the documentation of happenings and the 'body art' of those early days, and has established itself as a pillar of the exhibition scene.

### KUNSTHAUS BEGAN COLLECTING EARLY ON

Kunsthaus Zürich was quick to catch on to the potential of this new art form, and began to select artists' videos for collection as early as the late 1970s. Its strategy was to seek out works that highlighted video as an independent and creative artistic medium, and the result is an important and eclectic public store of domestic and foreign video art. At its core are Swiss, German and US productions of the late 1960s and 1970s, with new works being acquired to this day. The collection includes works by such established names as Nam June Paik, Bruce Nauman, Vito Acconci, John Baldessari, Joseph Beuys, Arnulf Rainer, Dieter Roth, Fischli/Weiss, Roman Signer, Pipilotti Rist and Hubbard/Birchler as well as newer figures like Emanuelle Antille, David Chieppo, Cao Fei and Zilla Leutenegger.

### RESTORED, CATALOGUED ONLINE, AND AVAILABLE FOR ONSITE VIEWING

No collection of media art, however, can get around one central problem: the fragile and ephemeral nature of its objects. New formats supplant older ones, which thus quickly become obsolete; as for videotape, frequent play leads to wear and tear, while prolonged storage causes tapes to adhere to themselves. In response, Kunsthaus Zürich initiated a comprehensive restoration project lasting several years. The works were examined and transferred to Digital Betacam, the current format, which meets international quality standards for the coming decades. As for tapes whose condition no longer permits them to be played, they have been replaced wherever possible, always in consultation with the artist in question. Finally, those which can neither be viewed nor replaced have simply been consigned to the archives by experts. The project is at the moment being wrapped up with the creation of a new catalogue, and the restored works are virtually accessible on the Kunsthaus website ('Library') as well as physically available for viewing on DVD in the museum's conventional library.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Kunsthaus Zürich, Heimplatz 1, CH-8001 Zurich

Tel. +41 (0)44 253 84 84, [www.kunsthaus.ch](http://www.kunsthaus.ch)

Open: Tues–Thurs 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Fri–Sun 10 a.m.–5 p.m., closed on Mondays.

Admission CHF 12.- / 8.- (concessions). Young people up to the age of 16 free of charge.

For further press information and visual material, please contact

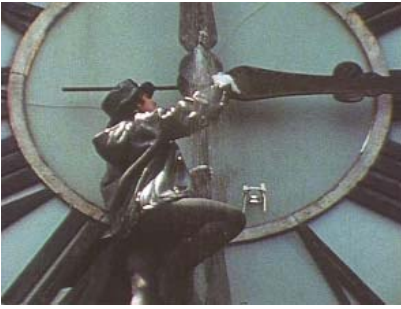
Kunsthaus Zürich, Kristin Steiner

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## Video Lounge

Kunsthaus Zürich

7. September bis 18. November 2007



Still aus:  
Gordon Matta-Clark  
Clockshower, 1974  
Kunsthaus Zürich, Video-Sammlung  
© 2007 ProLitteris, Zürich



Still aus:  
Marcel Odenbach  
Als könnte es auch mir an den Kragen gehen, 1983  
Kunsthaus Zürich, Video-Sammlung  
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Still aus:  
Yello  
I love you, 1983  
Kunsthaus Zürich, Video-Sammlung  
© Dieter Meier/Boris Blank



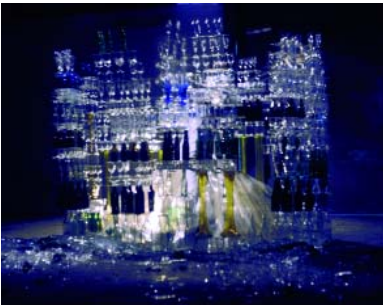
Still aus:  
Zilla Leutenegger  
Afrika, 1999  
Kunsthaus Zürich, Video-Sammlung  
© Zilla Leutenegger



Still aus:  
Eric Lanz  
Choses 1, 1999  
Kunsthaus Zürich, Video-Sammlung  
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Still aus:  
Gabriela Gerber/Lukas Bardill  
Forum, 2000  
Kunsthaus Zürich, Video-Sammlung  
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Still aus:  
Katja Schenker  
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Kunsthaus Zürich, Video-Sammlung  
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Still aus:  
Peter Regli  
Reality Hacking # 195, 2002  
Kunsthaus Zürich, Video-Sammlung  
© Peter Regli



Still aus:  
Cao Fei  
Cosplayers, 2004  
Kunsthaus Zürich, Video-Sammlung  
© Cao Fei



Still aus:  
Jochen Kuhn  
Neulich 5, 2004  
Kunsthaus Zürich, Video-Sammlung  
© Jochen Kuhn



Still aus:  
Bessie Nager  
roadmovie zürich, 2006  
Kunsthaus Zürich, Video-Sammlung  
© Bessie Nager



Still aus:  
Qiu Anxiong  
Minguo Landscape, 2006/07  
Kunsthaus Zürich, Video-Sammlung  
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