

**Press Release**  
**Zurich, 16 October 2008**

**Kunsthhaus Zürich presents 2009 exhibition programme**

**The Kunsthhaus Zürich has published its programme for 2009, featuring among other exhibitions 'Giacometti – of Egypt' and a show dedicated to the Post-Impressionist painter Georges Seurat. It's not too soon to sign up for a yearly membership.**

TINO SEHGAL. 16 JANUARY – 1 MARCH 2009

Tino Sehgal (born 1976) has created an art form that exists solely in its encounter with the public. Sehgal replaces the material production of art objects with that of temporary pieces composed of bodies, voices, space and time. At the Kunsthhaus he will stage live interactions between a wide range of actors and the visitors to the museum.

HOT SPOTS: RIO DE JANEIRO / MILAN – TURIN / LOS ANGELES, 1956 – 1969.  
13 FEBRUARY – 3 MAY 2009

Interesting art is not exclusively the product of world capitals. The climate of optimism reigning in the Rio de Janeiro of the late 1950s, for example, gave birth to a new, geometrically abstract formal language in painting, sculpture and design. In Milan and Turin, meanwhile, Lucio Fontana, Piero Manzoni and representatives of Arte Povera such as Mario Merz and Michelangelo Pistoletto were experimenting with a new idea of the work of art. Painting, in which colour and emotional expression play a central part, was now superseded by an interest in the linguistic, formal and social semantic fields of the artistic statement. For its part, the Los Angeles art world fluctuated between utopian projects and a critical encounter with pop culture, as James Turrell and Robert Irwin, for instance, drew their inspiration from the light and landscape on the Pacific coast and in the desert to celebrate immateriality and physical liberation, while Ed Ruscha and Billy Al Bengston began to play with the symbols of California's cults of the body, the automobile, and the star. The exhibition also features work by Lygia Clark, Hélio Oiticica, Ivan Serpa, Giulio Paolini, John Baldessari, David Hockney, Dennis Hopper, Edward Kienholz, and many others.

GIACOMETTI – OF EGYPT. 27 FEBRUARY – 24 MAY 2009

Masterpieces from the Egyptian Museum in Berlin – including busts of Akhenaton and Nefertiti, the block statue of Senemut, and the so-called Berlin Green Head – enter into dialogue with sculptural works of Alberto Giacometti, who was profoundly influenced by the classical form.

MARK MANDERS. 20 MARCH – 14 JUNE 2009

Beginning with his 'Self-Portrait as a Building' (1986), the Dutch artist Mark Manders has created a fragmentary portrait of the artist in the form of installations-cum-sculptures within an imaginary space. The Kunsthaus will hold Switzerland's first solo exhibition of his work.

ALBERT VON KELLER: SALONS, SEANCES, SECESSION  
24 APRIL – 4 OCTOBER 2009

Albert von Keller (1844–1920), a Munich painter with Swiss roots, was a frequent participant in the Paris salon, from 1886 a member of Munich's Psychological Society, and, in 1892, a co-founder of the Munich Secession. Keller's art constitutes a detailed account of Wilhelminian and Belle Époque society, registering with care the seductively elegant world of polite ladies as well as lending visual form to a wide range of occult phenomena. A true discovery!

KATHARINA FRITSCH. 3 JUNE – 30 AUGUST 2009

Katharina Fritsch (born 1956) is among the most important artists working today. Her sculptural technique and her more recent pictures reveal Fritsch's debt to the severity of Minimal Art as well as her interest in artificial and cultural paradigms transcending the individual. Works such as the hypnotic 'Tischgesellschaft' (Company at Table), 1988, 'Rattenkönig' (Rat King), 1991–1993, and 'Elefant' (Elephant), 1987, firmly anchor themselves in the memory of their viewers, containing as they do humanity's primeval ideas, desires and fears. Fritsch's most recent art explores, among other things, erotica from the female point of view. The exhibition shows her oeuvre from the earliest groups of works to her latest major series, and thus demonstrates the coherence and depth of her treatment of subjects and motifs.

Supported by Swiss Re – Partner for contemporary art.

MIRCEA CANTOR. 28 AUGUST – 8 NOVEMBER 2009

Mircea Cantor, born in Romania in 1977, uses his work to infiltrate our everyday lives and destabilize our rote patterns of perception and our expectations by means of subtle, occasionally almost invisible gestures. His work takes up social and economic issues while combining political content with an extraordinarily poetical formal vocabulary – in videos, photographs, objects and installations as well as in ephemeral genres, such as events or newspaper advertisements.

GEORGES SEURAT: FIGURE IN SPACE. 2 OCTOBER 2009 – 17 JANUARY 2010

Georges Seurat (1859–1891), the leading exponent of the Neo-Impressionist school of drawing and painting, was celebrated in his own lifetime. Contemporary colleagues such as van Gogh and Gauguin were fascinated by his choice of colours and his technique, while artists of the Bauhaus movement revered his severe compositions. Seurat's art is uniquely represented by one

motif, a figure in a landscape. The exhibition traces this aspect of his work, from his very earliest academic studies, in which chiaroscuro effects play about his figures, accentuating them and lending them an otherworldly aura, to his paintings.

Supported by Credit Suisse – Partner of the Kunsthaus Zürich.

### ADVANTAGES OF A YEARLY MEMBERSHIP

The Kunsthaus Zürich's annual programme is available free of charge at the Kunsthaus and can also be downloaded at [www.kunsthhaus.ch](http://www.kunsthhaus.ch). Applicants for a 2009 yearly membership gain immediate admission to the collection and the current exhibitions: 'Saul Steinberg: Illuminations', 'Rivoluzione! Italian Modernism from Segantini to Balla', 'Runa Islam' and 'Friedrich Kuhn: The Painter as Outlaw'. Yearly membership is CHF 30.- for youths and young adults up to the age of 25, CHF 95.- for individual adults, and CHF 160.- for couples living in the same household. Memberships are also available as gifts. Anyone among the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft's current 20,000 members who refers a new applicant will receive a gift. Regular individual admission will be between CHF 14.- and CHF 25.- (combined ticket). The Kunsthaus reserves the right to change its offerings and admission prices.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONTACT FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEDIA

Once accredited, representatives of the media may download visual material from [www.kunsthhaus.ch/presse](http://www.kunsthhaus.ch/presse), obtain it on a CD, or receive it as an e-mail attachment.

The annual programme will be presented at a press conference to be held on Thursday, 15 January at 11 a.m. Registration is not required.

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