

**Press Release**  
**Zurich, 15 January 2009**

## **Kunsthhaus Zürich takes stock of 2008 and presents Annual Programme for 2009**

**According to its accounts for 2008, which have yet to be finalized, the Kunsthhaus Zürich received 214,000 visitors last year. Now, with its Annual Programme featuring exhibitions like 'Giacometti – of Egypt' and 'Hot Spots' as well as shows devoted to Georges Seurat and such contemporary artists as Katharina Fritsch, the Kunsthhaus is looking forward to an exciting 2009.**

### PROVISIONAL 2008 STATEMENT AND A LOOK AHEAD AT 2009

The Kunsthhaus Zürich registered 214,376 visitors in 2008, significantly fewer than in the previous year (309,545). While the 'Europop', 'Shifting Identities' and 'Rivoluzione' shows did not attract the numbers expected, visits to the collection (including the temporary presentations of work by Edward Steichen and Saul Steinberg) increased. Membership dropped slightly, to 20,180 (2007: 20,400). The negative result forecast at the beginning of the year was improved to break-even with the release of reserves. The 2008 financial statement will be put to the vote at the annual general meeting of the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft on 25 May 2009. Despite the economic crisis, Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft President Walter B. Kielholz is optimistic about the year ahead. Kunsthhaus sponsors remain loyal, and third-party funds have been pledged in the amount of last year's patronage. Executive board and management alike expect 2009 to boost visitor numbers and reduce losses. Despite last year's stringent cost-cutting measures, an increase in admission was found to be indispensable. The price of a visit to the collection was raised from CHF 12 to CHF 14 (CHF 10 concessions) as per 1 January 2009. This includes the price of admission to the smaller exhibitions. The price of a combined ticket – collection incl. main exhibition – remains unchanged at CHF 23.50 (CHF 15.50 concessions), as does annual membership, which continues to cost CHF 95 (single member), CHF 160 (couples), and CHF 30 (children and youths under the age of 25).

The Kunsthhaus extension project is about to enter a new phase, now that David Chipperfield Architects, the winner of the competition, has been commissioned to revise its proposal. Both the winning project and the exhibition of all competition entries, which has just closed, were met with broad public approval.

EXHIBITION PROGRAMME

The programme published in October of last year has been modified in one sole regard, with the Tino Sehgal exhibition moving from January to late April.

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, Fontana, Manzoni and representatives of Arte Povera such as Merz and Pistoletto were experimenting with a new idea of the work of art. For its part, the Los Angeles art world fluctuated between utopian projects and a critical encounter with pop culture, as Turrell and 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 Ruscha and 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 Clark, Oiticica, Serpa, Paolini, Baldessari, Hockney, Hopper, Kienholz, and others.

GIACOMETTI – OF EGYPT. 27 FEBRUARY – 24 MAY 2009

18 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 80 sculptures, drawings and paintings by 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, SÉANCES, SECESSION

24 APRIL – 4 OCTOBER 2009

Albert von Keller (1844–1920), a Munich painter with Swiss roots, renders a detailed account of Wilhelman 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!

TINO SEHGAL. 24 APRIL – 31 MAY 2009

Tino Sehgal (born 1976) has created an art form that stages live interactions between a wide range of actors and the visitors to the museum.

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 profundity 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. 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 events or newspaper advertisements.

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

Georges Seurat (1859–1891) was the leading exponent of the Neo-Impressionist school of drawing and painting. Contemporary colleagues such as van Gogh and Gauguin were fascinated by his choice of colours and his technique, while artists of the Bauhaus movement admired 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.

KUNSTHAUS NIGHTS AND ART EDUCATION

In addition to exhibitions, this year will also offer Kunsthaus Nights, with 'Art & Passion' on 14 February (Valentine's Day) and 'World Art meets World Music' on

23 May, in cooperation with Montreux Jazz and supported by Credit Suisse – Partner of the Kunsthaus Zürich. In March the Kunsthaus will present its 'Young Guide', an audioguide for a new generation of visitors, and the year's programme will also include a summer workshop and a children's club. Information on all of these offerings and more will be available three months in advance in the online agenda at [www.kunsthaus.ch](http://www.kunsthaus.ch).

### VISITOR INFORMATION

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

Open: Sat/Sun/Tues 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Wed/Thurs/Fri 10 a.m.–8 p.m. Holiday opening times, general information, directions and online shop under [www.kunsthaus.ch](http://www.kunsthaus.ch)

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