

Press release

Zurich, 14 January 2010

Kunsthhaus Zürich reports satisfying footfall in 2009 and presents activities planned for centenary in 2010

According to its accounts for 2009, as yet unfinalized, the Kunsthhaus Zürich saw visitor numbers increase, with 228,000 admissions. The Kunsthhaus will be celebrating its centenary in 2010, with such features as an open house and an entire year of top-flight exhibitions, dedicated to 18th-century art (Salomon Gessner), 'Van Gogh, Cézanne, Monet' (the Bührle Collection), and the contemporary photography of Thomas Struth, among other things. Picasso will provide the high point of the fall season.

Provisional accounts for the year in review indicate that the Kunsthhaus Zürich registered 228,000 admissions in 2009, a visitor increase of 13,200 (or 6%) over 2008 figures (214,376). The Kunsthhaus Zürich's 2009 annual report will be presented for approval at the annual general meeting of the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft in May, and will then be published.

100 YEARS KUNSTHAUS ZÜRICH

On 17 April, Carl Moser's flagship building on Heimplatz will be one hundred years old, with an open house in honour of the occasion. The public will be invited to concert and film premieres, art and architecture tours and discussion forums, and Kunsthhaus staff will be on hand to offer them a glimpse behind the scenes. The schedule of the events will be published in early April. Common to all centenary events is a focus on the Kunsthhaus Zürich's own collection and its ties to Zurich, to the museum's patrons, and to the artists who have benefited from the exposure provided them by the Kunstgesellschaft since 1787. No ceremony, just high-calibre exhibitions and outreach events: that's how the Kunsthhaus will be celebrating its 100th birthday!

EXHIBITIONS

Van Gogh, Cézanne, Monet – The Bührle Collection Visits the Kunsthhaus Zürich.
12 February – 16 May.

The unique private collection of some 180 pictures and sculptures is among the most significant of its kind worldwide. It includes masterpieces of French Impressionism from Manet to Cézanne, works by Picasso, and pieces by Canaletto, Ingres and Frans Hals. The provenance of the pictures collected by the Zurich-based industrialist and art historian Emil Bührle (1890–1956), along with the circumstances of their acquisition, is addressed in the Kunsthhaus presentation and accompanying events. Its exhibition in the generously proportioned space Bührle donated to the Kunsthhaus and the city of Zurich will

serve as a dress rehearsal for the collection, which is destined to be housed in its own special suite in David Chipperfield's Kunsthaus extension when the new building opens in 2015.

Idyll in an Obstructed Landscape: The Gessner Cabinet at the Kunsthaus Zürich.
26 February – 16 May.

In the Europe of the Enlightenment, the drawings and watercolours of Salomon Gessner (1730–1788) were highly respected. His prose idylls won the Zurich painter-poet world renown, and in North and South America as well as in Russia, Armenia and the Caucasus, Gessner was celebrated for his Arcadian visions. Self-taught, Gessner was instrumental in the development of the sentimental landscape painting, at once meticulously detailed and idiosyncratic. The Kunsthaus show reconstructs Gessner's once-celebrated painting cabinet, presented by the city of Zurich to the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft in 1818 on permanent loan as the city's first publicly accessible art exhibition, and was destined to survive both the Napoleonic Wars and the confusion of the Helvetic Republic to serve as the cornerstone of today's Kunsthaus collection as early as the first half of the 19th century.

Adrian Paci. 4 June – 22 August.

Adrian Paci (born 1969) is one of Albania's few internationally known artists. In his work – which encompasses videos, paintings, installations and photography – he addresses topics such as migration, globalization and cultural identity, and demonstrates their effect on the human subject. The Kunsthaus is hosting Paci's first solo museum show in Switzerland, and the artist has created a new video piece especially for the occasion. Supported by Swiss Re – Partner for contemporary art, on occasion of the 100 year anniversary of Kunsthaus Zürich.

Thomas Struth. 11 June – 12 September.

With the success of his museum pictures in the early 1990s, Thomas Struth (born 1954) ascended to the ranks of Andreas Gursky and Jeff Wall as an art photographer with international reach. From 1973 to 1980 Struth studied painting with Gerhard Richter and photography with Bernd Becher at the Art Academy of Düsseldorf. In addition to cityscapes and museum pictures, Struth's oeuvre also encompasses classical portraits (including his celebrated families) as well as architectural studies and landscapes. Large-format and developed in thematic series, Struth's work inhabits the realm between documentation and interpretation, between studies of society and psychological excavations. With his contemplative and circumspect methodology, Struth pays homage not only to the history of classical photography but also to contemporary art. The Kunsthaus Zürich hosts the kick-off to the artist's premiere European survey exhibition.

Supported by Swiss Re – Partner for contemporary art.

Giant Herbs and Monster Trees: Drawings and prints by Carl Wilhelm Kolbe. 10 September – 28 November.

C.W. Kolbe (1759–1835) is one of the most intriguing figures in German art at the turn of the 19th century. With his fantastical, virtually surreal landscapes featuring woods and marshes, he exerted a considerable (albeit long underestimated) influence on the graphic arts between Sturm und Drang and Romanticism. From 1805 to 1808 Kolbe lived in Zurich, where he produced engravings based on aquarelle gouaches by Salomon Gessner. As a souvenir of his sojourn by the banks of the Limmat, he presented the Künstlergesellschaft with a drawing. The fear of radical change lurks in his Arcadian fantasies.

Picasso. 15 October 2010 – 30 January 2011.

Pablo Picasso's first-ever museum retrospective was mounted at the Kunsthaus Zürich in 1932, curated by the still-controversial master himself. It was a signal moment in the history of modern art, a one-of-a-kind event that is now looked upon as a milestone in the annals of the exhibitions shown at the Kunsthaus Zürich. In tribute to the centenary of its founding, the Kunsthaus presents a brilliant homage to the artist featuring works from his early days as well as his blue and pink periods, his Cubist phase, and his 'urbane' classical period. By means of 70 masterpieces originally selected by Picasso himself, the revival traces its forebear's influence on the history of the artist's reception and its exemplary significance for the symbiosis of artists, art dealers, museums and cultural institutions. Thanks to the support of the most renowned collections and private lenders in Europe, the USA and Japan, the Kunsthaus show promises to be the highlight of the museum's centenary year.

A contribution to culture by Credit Suisse – Partner of the Kunsthaus Zürich.

Karl Moser 1860–1936: Architecture and art. Begins 17 December 2010

The Kunsthaus Zürich joins forces with the Institute for the History and Theory of Architecture (gta), ETH Zurich, to present an exhibition devoted to both the museum's own centenary and the 150th anniversary of the birth of its architect, Karl Moser. With exemplary projects and buildings, as well as the artistic appointment of the latter, the show demonstrates Moser's intimate relationship with art, while focusing centrally on the planning and realization of the Kunsthaus and Moser's vision of a modern Zurich in the 1920s and 1930s.

KUNSTHAUS NIGHTS, KUNSTSPÜRNASEN AND OTHER EVENTS

The ever-popular Kunsthaus Nights – also supported by Credit Suisse – are revived as well, and take place under the heading of 'Art & Comedy' on 6 February, and 'Kitsch & Art' on 20 November.

Children in the company of adults can take advantage of a new guide, 'Kunstspürnasen', comprising five different booklets (free of charge, German-language only) and enabling them to explore a particular topic in the collection

together. Finally, from June until August, a centenary summer workshop will also focus on the Kunsthaus collection, the very heart of the museum, featuring holdings from 15th-century to contemporary art. Throughout the year, Art Education offerings include general guided tours and advanced thematic tours, conversations about art for adults, studios, workshops and clubs for children aged three and older, and opportunities for professional training and private events.

KUNSTHAUS EXTENSION

Throughout its centenary year, the Kunsthaus looks ahead at what is to come and offers art and public alike perfect conditions for an encounter in the 21st century. Its project of an extension to the existing museum is the expression of the Kunstgesellschaft's aim to increase the proportion of its collection on permanent show from its current ten percent to twenty percent by 2015, while also remaining competitive on the international market for exhibition partnerships. In late October of 2009, the establishment of a project corporation ushered in the extension's project phase. When the Bührle Collection is presented, guided tours and roundtable discussions will intensify dialogue with the public concerning the idea and form of the Kunsthaus extension. As it was founding the project corporation, the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft was also stepping up its fundraising efforts, so as to ensure that its pledge of CHF 75 million in private donations towards financing the extension be on hand when building commences.

OTHER CENTENARY ACTIVITIES

The Kunsthaus-Magazin, the official organ of the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft, is relaunched in a new design by Crafft. The magazine, chockablock with exhibition and event previews, is on sale at the Kunsthaus shop for the price of CHF 6 (free for members). On 6 May, in collaboration with the Swiss Post, the Kunsthaus will present the '100 Years of Kunsthaus Zürich' commemorative stamp, designed by contemporary artists and to be found at post offices and the Kunsthaus shop. Also available at the museum are a historic postcard of the Kunsthaus around 1910 and a talking book guide to the collection.

Short films by Thilo Hoffmann (artist), Luc Gut (young filmmaker) and Ralf Kostgeld (advertiser), three very different works, supported by partner and centenary sponsor Credit Suisse, will premiere at the Kunsthaus on 17 April and run through 31 December 2010.

Other projects include the restoration of Herbert Distel's Museum of Drawers, to be exhibited in the collection anew as of 2011, a special supplement on the history and future of the Kunsthaus Zürich in the Neue Zürcher Zeitung, and an open house on 17 April, the programme for which will be available online and as a booklet in early April.

GENERAL INFORMATION / GUIDED TOURS / ADVANCE SALES

Kunsthaus Zürich, Heimplatz 1, CH-8001 Zurich, www.kunsthhaus.ch

Opening hours Sat, Sun, Tues 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Wed, Thurs, Fri 10 a.m.–8 p.m., closed on Mondays.

Admission from CHF 14.-/10.- (concessions) to CHF 23.50 (collection plus exhibitions). Subject to change. Memberships: youths CHF 30.-, single adults 95.-, couples 160.-. Young people up to the age of 16 free of charge. Free entrance to the collection every Wednesday.

Online agenda with supplementary information at www.kunsthhaus.ch

Private guided tours can be booked on +41 (0)44 253 84 84 (Mon–Fri 9 a.m.–12 noon).

Advance sales/arrival by train Switzerland: RailAway/SBB Kombi-Ticket, with 20% reduction on rail travel and entrance to the exhibition, at SBB stations and by phoning Rail Service: 0900 300 300 (CHF 1.19 per min.). Magasins Fnac, tel. +33 1 4157 3212, www.fnac.ch. France: Magasins Fnac, Carrefour, tel. 0892 684 694 (EUR 0.34 per min.), www.fnac.com. Belgium: Magasins Fnac, tel. 0 900 00 600 (EUR 0.45 per min.), www.fnac.be.

NOTE TO MEDIA

Visual material and the following press release is available for download at www.kunsthhaus.ch/en/information/press:

'100 Years of the Kunsthhaus Zürich': detailed notes on the history of the Kunsthhaus and its collection

Contact for media

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