

Press Release

Zurich, 25 November 2012

Kunsthhaus Zürich becomes Switzerland's largest art museum

Zurich's electorate today approved the project to extend the Kunsthhaus Zürich, with 53.9 percent voting in favour. From 2017, the building designed by David Chipperfield Architects will create space for a dynamic, regularly changing presentation of the collection of post-1960 art, attractive temporary exhibitions, and the new specialism of French painting and Impressionism.

The result of the popular vote on 25 November 2012 is a major success for the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft – the association that runs the Kunsthhaus Zürich. The voting figures – 53.9 percent for and 46.1 percent against – represent a clear majority for the idea of a museum for art and audiences in the 21st century.

A NEW HOME FOR THE BÜHRLE COLLECTION

The extension will focus mainly on art created since the 1960s, and allows for a wide variety of exhibition formats – from new media, prints and drawings and photography to paintings, installations and sculptures – with regularly changing presentations offering an exciting contrast to the self-contained, classical galleries housing the private Bührle Collection. The latter's arrival will create a new specialism – French painting and Impressionism – and make the Kunsthhaus the most important centre for such art in Europe outside the museums in Paris.

DYNAMIC PRESENTATION OF THE COLLECTION, MORE VISITORS

With the increased attractiveness that the extension brings, the Kunsthhaus is forecasting a rise in visitor numbers to around 400,000 a year from 2017 onwards. Improvements will include the scope for larger-scale presentations in the existing building, with more space for Swiss art, especially Alberto Giacometti. Technically innovative exhibition design in the new temporary exhibitions area, the art garden and an electronic media laboratory will combine to make a visit to the Kunsthhaus an even more absorbing and interactive experience.

HIGH LEVEL OF PRIVATE FUNDING

Funding will come from both private individuals and the public purse. The Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft (ZKG) itself is providing CHF 88 million, the largest private contribution ever made to an art museum in Switzerland. In addition to a matching contribution of CHF 88 million from the City of Zurich, CHF 30 million are to come from the cantonal lottery fund. Including reserves, the construction investment adds up to CHF 206 million.

CURRENT EXHIBITION CONTINUES UNTIL 6 JANUARY 2013

The exhibition 'The New Kunsthaus: Great Art and Architecture' runs until 6 January 2013. It includes a dazzling selection of works that will move into the new extension, such as Cézanne's 'Boy in the Red Waistcoat,' which is being shown in public for the first time since it was stolen from the Bührle Collection in 2008. In addition to art from the Kunsthaus's own holdings – covering everything from French Impressionism to Pop Art and newly acquired works by contemporary artists – there are also some first highlights from the Looser Collection. Consisting of abstract painting, Minimal Art and Arte Povera, it will form the subject of a dedicated exhibition in summer 2013. A series of models, plans, photos and material samples offer a vivid insight into the sensitivity with which David Chipperfield Architects have approached the existing buildings on Heimplatz. Entrance to the exhibition is free on Wednesdays. The latest information can also be found at www.kunsthaus.ch.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Kunsthaus Zürich, Heimplatz 1, CH-8001 Zurich

Tel. +41 (0)44 253 84 84, www.kunsthaus.ch.

Sat, Sun, Tues 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Wed, Thurs, Fri 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Public holidays: 26 December 2012, 1/2 January 2013: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. 24/25/31 December closed.

Admission including audioguide in English, French or German: CHF 15/CHF 10 concessions/CHF 12 per head for groups of 20 or more. Admission free on Wednesdays. Combined ticket including the collection and the exhibition 'Paul Gauguin' CHF 25/CHF 18 concessions/CHF 20 for groups of 20 or more. Children and young people up to the age of 16 free of charge.

Advance sales: SBB RailAway combination ticket, with discount on travel and admission: at stations and by phoning Rail Service 0900 300 300 (CHF 1.19/min. by land line), www.sbb.ch. Magasins Fnac: sales points in Switzerland: Rives, Balexert, Lausanne, Fribourg, Pathé Kino Basel, www.fnac.ch; France: Carrefour, Géant, Magasins U, 0 892 68 36 22 (EUR 0.34/min), www.fnac.com; Belgium: www.fnac.be.

NOTE TO MEDIA

Illustrations and a detailed media release on the current exhibition can be found at www.kunsthaus.ch under Information > Press.

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