

Press release  
Zurich, 17 April 2012

**Kunsthhaus Zürich presents first-ever joint exhibition of restored sculptures by Aristide Maillol and Auguste Rodin**

**From 17 April to 16 December 2012 the Kunsthhaus Zürich will be exhibiting six bronze sculptures and a terracotta figure by Aristide Maillol which have been restored over the last twelve months. Alongside Auguste Rodin, Maillol is considered the most important French sculptor of the early modern era. Now, for the first time, the works of the two artists are to be exhibited together in a group of around a dozen pieces from the Kunsthhaus collection.**

The Kunsthhaus Zürich holds seven works by Aristide Maillol (1861-1944) – together with Auguste Rodin one of the leading bronze sculptors of the transition from the 19th century to the modern era – covering almost all periods of his career. Maillol's work is characterized by rounded forms, compact surfaces and classical poses informed by a sensually Mediterranean vision of woman.

**VENUS RESTORED TO HER FULL GLORY**

Among the sculptures in the Kunsthhaus collection two in particular stand out: the unorthodox 'Monument à Cézanne' (1907), donated by Werner and Nelly Bär, and the life-sized 'Vénus au collier,' created between 1918 and 1929 and now one of the artist's best-known works. With its combination of grace and voluptuousness, the standing figure of a woman bears witness to an artist at the height of his powers. One of few examples from the period, this valuable bronze was acquired direct from its creator as far back as 1931 and kept in the open air for a long time, causing substantial weathering of its surface. It has now undergone a thorough cleaning and restoration similar to the work carried out some years ago on Rodin's 'Gates of Hell.' Following careful and intricate retouching of the surface, beautiful Venus can once again take her rightful place among the bronzes of Maillol and Rodin and be exhibited as part of the collection for the first time in decades.

**FIRST – AND LAST – MAJOR APPEARANCE BY MAILLOL AND RODIN BEFORE THE KUNSTHAUS EXTENSION OPENS**

Five other works affected by dust, dirt and minor damage over the years have been restored. Details of the multi-stage process can be found on [www.kunsthhaus.ch](http://www.kunsthhaus.ch) and in a special brochure. The Kunsthhaus's entire collection of Rodin sculptures has already been restored over recent years, thanks to the ongoing support of the BNP Paribas Suisse Foundation. Now, collection curator Philippe Büttner has brought these together with the Maillols to create a presentation of around a

dozen works that impressively demonstrates the power of French sculpture from the Impressionist period to the early modern era. The Maillol holdings will be on show in their entirety, together with the essential elements of the Rodin collection, until 16 December. The opening of the Kunsthaus extension in 2017 will create space for a major, long-term presentation with French art, amid contemporary works, providing an attractive focal point.

The restoration was supported by the BNP Paribas Suisse Foundation. As a long-standing and valued patron of museums, the BNP Paribas Suisse Foundation is committed to preserving their artistic treasures and making them accessible to the public at large. As part of its 'BNP Paribas pour L'Art' programme, the Foundation therefore supports publications on museum collections as well as the restoration of their masterpieces.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Kunsthaus Zürich, Heimplatz 1, CH-8001 Zurich

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

Open: Sat, Sun, Tues 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Wed, Thurs, Fri 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

1 May, Ascension 16 / 17 May: 10.00 a.m.–6 p.m.

Admission: CHF 15 / 10 (concessions). Children and young people up to the age of 16 free of charge.

Public guided tours: Friday 20 April, 6 p.m., Sunday 6 May, 11 a.m.

Private guided tours by arrangement: +41 (0)44 253 84 84 (Mon–Fri 9 a.m.–midday)

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 ground line), [www.sbb.ch](http://www.sbb.ch).

Magasins Fnac: sales points in Switzerland: Rives, Balexert, Lausanne, Fribourg, Pathé Kino Basel, [www.fnac.ch](http://www.fnac.ch); France: Carrefour, Géant, Magasins U, 0 892 68 36 22 (EUR 0.34/min), [www.fnac.com](http://www.fnac.com); Belgium: [www.fnac.be](http://www.fnac.be).

### NOTE TO MEDIA

Illustrations to accompany the press release are available for download from [www.kunsthhaus.ch](http://www.kunsthhaus.ch) under Information > Press > Press Images.

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