

Press release
Zurich, 4 April 2013

Kunsthaus Zürich presents 'Kelly Nipper – Black Forest': a performance and installation in dialogue with drawings by the movement theorist and choreographer Rudolf von Laban

From 5 April to 16 June 2013, the Kunsthaus Zürich presents the first solo exhibition in a German-speaking country by the American artist Kelly Nipper. The starting point for her group of new works is the drawings of Rudolf von Laban, a co-founder of modern expressive dance. The presentation centres on the performance 'Black Forest.'

In her videos, installations, photographs and performances Kelly Nipper (*1971 in Edina, Minnesota) investigates the relationship between the human body, movement, space and time. She is interested in ritual gestures and processes. Her practice repeatedly refers back to the origins of experimental dance and in particular to the theories of Rudolf von Laban (1879–1958). Together with Emile Jaques-Dalcroze (1865–1950) and Mary Wigman (1886–1973), Laban is regarded as one of the founders of modern expressive dance. Kelly Nipper's recourse to his movement theories is part of her on going reflection on communication patterns and the development of communication in modern society.

IMPORTANT LABAN COLLECTION

The Kunsthaus Zürich holds an important collection of drawings and watercolours by Rudolf von Laban. They form part of the Perrottet archive, which contains Laban's works on paper as well as numerous documents and photographs on the origins of modern dance and the period of the artists' colony on Monte Verità near Ascona in Switzerland. Suzanne Perrottet (1889–1983) lived and worked with Rudolf von Laban as he set up the 'Laban Garden – School of Movement' in Hombrechtikon and the 'Laban School' in Zurich. Her archive was acquired by the Kunsthaus thanks to Harald Szeemann in 1990; parts of it were shown for the last time 20 years ago.

DIALOGUE SPANNING A CENTURY

Today, a young generation of artists is increasingly working in the medium of performance. One of them is Kelly Nipper, whose work refers back directly to Laban and the 'Labanotation' – the system for analysing and recording human movement that he developed. Key issues of this system as well as of Kelly Nipper's work are time and the relation of the body with time, which of course changed drastically with new communication technologies in recent years. Exhibition curator Mirjam Varadinis has brought together two artists whose work

is separated by some 100 years but still has a lot in common. The dialogue between them takes place in the Kunsthaus collection galleries that were built shortly after the turn of the 20th century – at the same time as Rudolf van Laban's experiments in dance.

NEW PERFORMANCE, COSTUMES AND SCULPTURES

Kelly Nipper takes this context and Laban's fragile, small-format drawings (crayon and pencil on paper) as the starting point for a group of new works that were created especially for the Kunsthaus exhibition. At their heart is the performance 'Black Forest,' which was produced in association with the Glasgow International Festival and the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles. The works by Laban are displayed alongside costumes, objects and sculptures.

FORETASTE OF THE PROGRAMME FOR THE KUNSTHAUS EXTENSION

In recent years, Kelly Nipper has taken part in major international group exhibitions at venues including Performa in New York (2007) and the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris (2011). In 2013 she also features in the programme of MoMA, New York. The exhibition in the Kunsthaus Zürich is her first solo show in a German-speaking country. The extension to the Kunsthaus Zürich, which is scheduled to open in 2017, will offer even more space for performance and exhibitions of contemporary art. Kelly Nipper and her 'Black Forest' project are a prime example of the increased scope for dialogue between collection holdings and contemporary art in the Kunsthaus of the future.

PERFORMANCE AND GUIDED TOURS

'Black Forest' will be performed live on 6 April at 2 a.m. and on 1 June at 3 a.m., with dancer Marissa Ruazol.

Public guided tours take place on Sunday 7 April at 12 midday and Sunday 26 May at 11 a.m.

Supported by Swiss Re – Partner for contemporary art, by the Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation and by the Dr. Georg and Josi Guggenheim Foundation.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Kunsthaus Zürich, Heimplatz 1, CH-8001 Zurich

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

Exhibition opening hours: Sat, Sun, Tues 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Wed, Thurs, Fri 10 a.m.–8 p.m. For public holiday opening see www.kunsthaus.ch.

Admission incl. collection: CHF 15 / CHF 10 (concessions) / CHF 10 per head for groups of 20 or more (subject to change). 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.

Zurich Tourism: Tourist Service in Zurich main railway station, tel. +41 44 215 40 00, www.zuerich.com.

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.

MEDIA CONTACT

Visual material is available for download at www.kunsthhaus.ch under Information > Press.

Contact: Kunsthhaus Zürich, Press & Public Relations, Kristin Steiner, kristin.steiner@kunsthhaus.ch, tel.: +41 (0)44 253 84 13