

Press release

Zurich, 21 September 2015

The Kunsthaus Zürich in 2016 – Highlights from Rist and Picabia to Giacometti

The Kunsthaus Zürich's annual programme for 2016 presents exhibitions on contemporary art and historical positions, including two displays marking 100 years of the Dada movement. Monograph highlights such as Miró and Tomi Ungerer begin in 2015, with Pipilotti Rist, Francis Picabia and Alberto Giacometti to follow in the new year. There are also thematic presentations devoted to the self-portrait and the architectural image.

JOAN MIRÓ – WALL, FRIEZE, MURAL. 2.10.15 – 24.1.16

This exhibition presents some 70 large-format murals in the context of Miró's oeuvre as a whole, to offer a new understanding of his idiosyncratic approach to painting. The creative process of this multifaceted artist is concerned primarily with 'pure', simple forms and the surface of the wall – the starting point and origin of his painting. His relationship to the wall as support explains the care with which he selected and prepared the base for his works. Groups executed on grounds of similar colour (the celebrated 'blue pictures'), or using similar materials such as sand and burlap, can now be seen together. The exhibition includes works from the 1920s to the 1970s, with a particular highlight being the dazzling late work surrounding the Zurich ceramic mural 'Birds Taking Flight' (1971/72). Miró's gestural, savage painting on sometimes vast canvases bears witness to a truly titanic creativity with which only the late Picasso can compare. A contribution to culture by Credit Suisse – Partner of the Kunsthaus Zürich

TOMI UNGERER, INCOGNITO. 30.10.15 – 7.2.16

Who is Tomi Ungerer? We know him as a children's book illustrator, provocative graphic artist, sharp-tongued author and creator of erotic illustrations; but his art – assemblages, collages and sculptures – is less familiar. Featuring many hitherto unseen positions from the artist's own collection, this exhibition is the first comprehensive appraisal of an important area in Ungerer's work.

PICTURE BALLOT! SELF-PORTRAITS AND PICTURE BALLOT! ARCHITECTURE
27.11.15 – 28. 2.16 and 23.9. – 11.12.16

What prompts artists to turn their attention to themselves? Our first 'Picture Ballot!' exhibition offers an insight into the fascinating, dazzling and also inscrutable topic of the self-portrait. Ranging from the 18th century to the present day, it addresses themes such as staging, introspection, disguise and the unmasking of one's own identity through a total of 40 artistic positions. The second 'Picture Ballot!' looks at the architectural image, which has a long

tradition in art. The leitmotif is chosen by the members of the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft from a selection of six works in the collection, from the Baroque to the present day. The subject is not just the depiction of architecture but also art that, beyond depiction, presents itself as the architecture of forms.

DADAGLOBE. RECONSTRUCTED. 5. 2. – 1.5.16

'Dadaglobe' brings together the more than two hundred artworks and texts that were sent to Tristan Tzara by artists in 1921. This epochal but hitherto unpublished book project is finally being realized to mark the 100th anniversary of Dada's foundation. Featuring items assembled from around the world, the exhibition is a milestone in recent Dada research. It comprises self-portraits, photomontages and collages, drawings, book page designs, poems and essays as well as manuscripts, printed matter and historical documents. 'Dadaglobe' is an impressive survey of the artistic diversity, socio-political relevance and art-historical impact of Dada. With contributions by Hans Arp, André Breton, Max Ernst, Hannah Höch, Sophie Taeuber-Arp and some 30 other artists. The exhibition is transferring from the Kunsthaus to the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

PIPILOTTI RIST. 26.2. – 8.5.16

Pipilotti Rist (b. 1962) is a pioneering figure in video art and has achieved international fame for her sensual and audacious video installations that tackle conventions and taboos in an entertaining, ironic and self-confident way. The exhibition presents key works from the beginning of her international career, including the early single-channel videos with which she became known in the 1980s. Pipilotti Rist is creating a large-format installation in the expansive space of the Bührlle gallery specially for Zurich, in which she explores new artistic and technical avenues.

Supported by Swiss Re – Partner for contemporary art

AKRAM ZAATARI. 20. 5. – 31. 7.16

The presentation at the Kunsthaus Zürich is Akram Zaatari's first solo exhibition in Switzerland. In his photographs, videos and (film) installations, Zaatari deals with the impact of war and territorial conflicts, particularly in the Middle East. He investigates the logic of religious and national resistance, while at the same time reflecting on the status of image production and circulation today. Born in southern Lebanon in 1966, Zaatari is a co-founder of the Arab Image Foundation. He has become widely known thanks to major group exhibitions including documenta 13 and the Venice Biennale 2013, and solo shows at MoMA and other venues. He lives in Beirut.

FRANCIS PICABIA. A RETROSPECTIVE. 3.6. – 25.9.16

This ground-breaking exhibition is part of events to mark the 100th anniversary of the Dada movement, which came into being in Zurich. The retrospective explores Picabia's (1879–1953) early successes as an Impressionist painter and his essential contribution to Dada, and moves via his controversial pin-up girls to the abstract works created after the Second World War. Picabia remains a hotly debated figure among the great artists of the 20th century. Throughout his life he set his face against mechanisms of value judgment that distinguished high art from kitsch and conservatism from radicalism. Often self-critical and with acerbic humour, he questions the very basis of the modern. While the works from Picabia's Dada years are well known, there is no shortage of surprises among his work as a whole. In addition to some 100 paintings, the exhibition includes works on paper, avant-garde magazines and examples of his film and theatre production. The exhibition is a collaboration with the Museum of Modern Art, New York, where it will be on display from November 2016.

HANS JAKOB OERI. 12.08. – 23.10.16

'Hans Jakob Oeri – A Swiss Artist in Paris, Moscow, Zurich' at the Kunsthaus Zürich is the first exhibition to feature this long underappreciated and forgotten artist and draughtsman. During his lifetime (1782–1868), his art was respected and admired not just in his home city of Zurich but throughout Europe. His works were sought after by collectors and to this day are regarded as some of the finest and most innovative examples of Swiss art from the first half of the 19th century. In Paris in 1806 Oeri completed 'Chloe', his masterpiece in the French neo-classical style, based on an idyll by Salomon Gessner. Around 1807, the year of his return to Switzerland, he painted 'The Studio in Paris'. Despite the uneasy confinement of the space and the bitter poverty in evidence, Oeri managed to produce an evocative image of family and friendship in which the dignity of art triumphs over privation, enforced competition and rank.

ALBERTO GIACOMETTI: MATERIAL AND VISION. 28.10.16 – 15.1.17

Fifty years on from the death of Alberto Giacometti (1901–1966), a major temporary exhibition illuminates the fundamental aspects of this world-famous Swiss artist's oeuvre and technique. At the heart of the presentation are 75 precious original plasters from the artist's estate, which have been researched and restored at the Kunsthaus as part of a multi-year project. For Alberto Giacometti, plaster was of great importance as a material – far more than just an intermediate stage between clay model and bronze cast. It allowed him to paint or rework his objects in a wide variety of ways; indeed, a significant number of his sculptures exist only in a plaster version. Through numerous masterpieces from every stage of his career, the exhibition focuses on Giacometti's approach to the material nature of his chosen media, affording an insight into the creative process of one of the century's greatest artists. While

the precious and fragile plasters are the centre of the display, the presentation also includes many works in other materials, such as marble, wood and bronze. The exhibition complements the holdings of the Kunsthaus with important loans from elsewhere, notably the non-public Fondation Alberto et Annette Giacometti in Paris, which are being shown for the first time on this scale in Switzerland. A contribution to culture by Credit Suisse – Partner of the Kunsthaus Zürich

PETER WECHSLER. DRAWINGS. 11.11.16 – 22.1.17

Peter Wechsler (b. 1951) is one of a generation of abstract artists who, following on from minimal and conceptual art, have been opening up new and contemplative fields of expression for the medium of drawing as system and sensory experience. Such artists address a fundamental question: how can the systematic deployment of the draughtsman's means create spaces and structures that engage and challenge the viewer's sensory perception? The exhibition reconstructs a cycle of impressive large-format pencil drawings (1994–2008). The Kunsthaus is also the first art museum to present a selection of recent, unframed ink brush drawings.

THE COLLECTION: FROM THE MIDDLE AGES TO CONTEMPORARY ART

The Kunsthaus is structured as both museum and art gallery, and contains an important collection of paintings, sculptures and site-specific installations. It holds works of Western art from the 13th century to the present day. The Old Master collection comprises medieval sculptures, Rembrandt, Rubens, Ruisdael, Claude Lorrain, Domenichino, Lanfranco, Tiepolo, Guardi, Hans Asper and Henry Fuseli.

Swiss artists include Rudolf Koller and Robert Zünd, Arnold Böcklin, Augusto Giacometti and Felix Vallotton, Ferdinand Hodler, Giovanni Segantini and Alberto Giacometti; in terms of scope and quality, there is no better place than the Kunsthaus Zürich to appreciate Giacometti's work.

The Kunsthaus holds an extensive collection of French paintings of exceptional quality. It begins with major works by Géricault, Corot, Delacroix, Courbet and Manet and culminates in a large group of works by Claude Monet. Important canvases by Gauguin, Cézanne, van Gogh, Bonnard and Vuillard lead the way to Classical Modernism, with groups of works by Matisse, Picasso, Léger and Chagall. Among the Expressionists, there are particularly impressive assemblies of works by Edvard Munch and Oskar Kokoschka. Surrealism is represented by Max Ernst, Joan Miró, Salvador Dalí and René Magritte. The Zurich Concrete Artists developed and advanced the geometric Constructivism of Mondrian and De Stijl.

The post-war New York School is represented by major artists – Pollock, Rothko, Newman – as is Pop Art (Hockney, Hamilton; Rauschenberg, Johns, Warhol, Lichtenstein). The expressive turn in painting of the 1980s is represented by Georg Baselitz, Anselm Kiefer, Sigmar Polke and Cy Twombly.

Photographs, video and other installations by artists such as Jeff Wall, Pipilotti Rist and Peter Fischli/David Weiss lead the way into the 21st century. Admission to the collection is free on Wednesdays!

The programme can be downloaded from www.kunsthhaus.ch. News of the many current events can be found on Facebook, in the electronic newsletter and in the online events calendar.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Kunsthhaus Zürich, Heimplatz 1, CH-8001 Zurich

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

Fri-Sun/Tues 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Wed, Thurs 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Public holidays: see www.kunsthhaus.ch.

Admission to the collection including audioguide (in English, German, French or Italian): CHF 15 / CHF 10 (concessions and groups). Exhibitions up to CHF 22 / CHF 17 (concessions and groups). Combination tickets including the collection and exhibition CHF 27 / CHF 20. Admission free to visitors up to the age of 16.

Free admission, discounts and other benefits with a 2016 annual membership: adults CHF 115 / couples CHF 195, children and young people up to 25 years of age CHF 30.

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/kunsthhaus-zuerich.

Zurich Tourism: hotel room reservations and ticket sales, Tourist Service at Zurich Main Railway Station, tel. +41 44 215 40 00, information@zuerich.com, www.zuerich.com.

INVITATION TO EDITORS

The annual media conference, including a detailed briefing from the curators and a financial review and outlook, takes place at 11 a.m. on 14 January 2016. Registration is not required. Visual materials are available at www.kunsthhaus.ch > Information > Press.

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