

Press release

Zurich, 15 September 2016

**Kunsthhaus Zürich 2017: Giacometti, Kirchner, French painting on the road to Impressionism – and plenty of action**

**Visitors to the Kunsthhaus Zürich in 2017 can look forward to exciting exhibitions of contemporary art and popular historical positions. Giacometti's masterpieces in plaster, clay, stone and bronze are followed by a meeting of vibrant metropolis and idyllic nature in the early works of Ernst Ludwig Kirchner. Summer's theme is 'Action!' with the finest examples of performance art for a new audience. Next it's 'Cantastorie', an unknown 'total work' of Neapolitan folk art, before various styles of French painting go head to head.**

ALBERTO GIACOMETTI. BEYOND BRONZE. 28.10.16 – 15.1.17

The Swiss sculptor, painter and draughtsman Alberto Giacometti (1901–1966) is a consummate artist. Taking centre stage for the first time are the works that the artist held and crafted with his own hands. While the bronzes were created in the foundry, Giacometti reworked the plasters on which they were directly based himself, changing their shapes and surfaces, painting them and, in so doing, making them unique. In a world première, the Kunsthhaus brings together the core holdings of these remarkable plasters from the Giacometti foundations in Zurich and Paris. They are joined by rare sculptures in other materials the artist also used: masterpieces in clay, plasticine, wood and stone – including many exhibits on loan. While the hand-crafted works are presented and combined in the protective environment of studio-sized units spread around the exhibition gallery, the open spaces in between are devoted to the celebrated bronzes. This novel presentation confronts the underlying works touchingly fashioned by Alberto Giacometti himself with the familiar casts made from them during his lifetime that secured his global reputation.

A contribution to culture by Credit Suisse – Partner Kunsthhaus Zürich

PETER WECHSLER. DRAWINGS. 11.11.16 – 22.1.17

Peter Wechsler (b. 1951) opens up new and contemplative fields of expression for the medium of drawing as system and sensory experience. He sets out to 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 'A World of Small Parts Grows Together' reconstructs a cycle of impressive large-format pencil drawings (1994–2008). The Kunsthhaus is also the first art museum to present a selection of recent, unframed ink brush drawings. Together with a number of early pieces

from the 1970s and 1980s, the exhibition of over 70 works on paper offers a representative overview of the artist's draughtsmanship.

#### ERNST LUDWIG KIRCHNER – THE BERLIN YEARS. 10.2. – 7.5.17

Ernst Ludwig Kirchner (1880–1938) is the master of Expressionism. Comprising some 150 works, 'Vibrant Metropolis/Idyllic Nature. Kirchner – The Berlin Years' examines the young artist's ground-breaking creative phase in Berlin from 1911 to 1917. It focuses on the dichotomy between his twin lives in the bustling capital city and on the tranquil Baltic Sea island of Fehmarn, where he spent the summer months from 1912 to 1914. The contrasts between these two places of inspiration could hardly be greater; yet the works from that period bear witness to Kirchner's quest for a life remote from bourgeois norms, and for a new, primal form of expression. The outbreak of the First World War plunged Kirchner into a psychological and physical crisis in 1915 from which he only gradually emerged in 1917, when he settled in the mountains near Davos and embarked on a new phase of creativity. The exhibition is the first in Switzerland to examine this fascinating chapter in Kirchner's artistic career.

#### MEXICAN GRAPHIC ART 19.5. – 27.8.17

Who said the Kunsthaus only holds Swiss art? A collection of Mexican graphic art donated to the Kunsthaus Zürich comprises works by 65 artists who were born or lived in Mexico. Now, an exhibition presents selected pieces from this collection, centring on important prints produced in a variety of techniques from the late 19th century to the 1970s. Many of these works on paper are being shown for the first time in Switzerland. They touch on issues such as poverty and wealth, love and cruelty, the poetry and hardships of everyday life. In addition to prints by José Guadalupe Posada, there are characteristic Realist works by Leopoldo Méndez, Diego Rivera and David Alfaro Siqueiros as well as abstracts by Rufino Tamayo and Francisco Toledo.

#### ACTION! 23.6. – 30.7.17

After the heyday of happenings and art actions in the 1960s and 1970s, a young generation of artists is revisiting the medium of performance and expressing an interest in ephemeral and process-oriented forms of art. 'Action!' examines this phenomenon and transforms the large exhibition gallery into an action space with live performances, works in which visitors themselves become active participants, and restagings of historical performances. 'Action!' considers the role of the museum and the history of performance, but also invites debate on pressing socio-political issues – with contributions from Francis Alÿs, Nina Beier, !Mediengruppe Bitnik, Trisha Brown, Tania Bruguera, Lucinda Childs, Valie Export, William Forsythe, Simone Forti, Sharon Hayes, Adelita Husni-Bey, Allan Kaprow, San Keller, Laura Lima, Dieter Meier, Musée de la danse/Boris Charmatz, Otobong Nkanga, Yoko Ono, Ahmet Ögut, Adrian Piper, Alexandra

Pirici, Rimini Protokoll, Tracey Rose, Tino Sehgal, Marinella Senatore, Koki Tanaka and others.

Supported by Swiss Re – Partner for contemporary art

CANTASTORIE. 25.8. – 8.10.17

The precious 'Cantastorie', a fascinating and unknown accumulation of images and image cycles, were handed down from one generation to the next in two families of minstrels and puppeteers from Naples and Foggia who used them to place great cultural issues literally before an audience. In a way they were the first comics, full of beautiful princesses, valiant knights, chaotic battles and voracious monsters. The 100 magnificently colourful masterpieces of folk art were created in the early decades of the 20th century. The 'Cantastorie' are a sensuous, humorous and instructive feast for the eyes, but they also need explanation to bring their content to life. We'll therefore be setting up a stage in the middle of the exhibition, transforming the large exhibition gallery into a marketplace, a venue for lively exchange, with concerts, events and parties.

REFORMATION: HOW ART (RE)ACTS. 29.9.17 – 14.1.18

2017 marks 500 years since Martin Luther wrote the theses that sparked the Reformation. In honour of the occasion, Picture Ballot! turns its attention to the topic, as 20,000 members of the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft, the patron association of the Kunsthaus Zürich, choose their favourite from six works proposed. Who will be the centrepiece of the exhibition? In the running are the Master of the Churwalden Altar, El Greco, Ludwig Vogel, Albert Anker, Rembrandt, and also Ferdinand Hodler. The result of the ballot will be announced at the start of 2017.

PRAISED AND RIDICULED. FRENCH PAINTING 1820–1880.

10.11.17 – 28.1.18

Romanticism, Realism, Naturalism, 'plein air' painting, Impressionism – these are still the main stylistic labels attached to French painting of the 19th century. The artists working in those styles – figures such as Géricault, Delacroix, Corot, Daumier, Millet, Courbet, Manet, Sisley, Monet and Renoir – turned their backs on the officially sanctioned painting of the era, with its academic and neoclassicist style. Highly controversial in their day, these artists are now hailed worldwide as the 'precursors of Modernism'. But 19th-century French painting offers a profusion of other equally important artists who, at that time, enjoyed greater recognition and the plaudits of art critics and audiences alike. Although indebted to traditional painting techniques, artists such as Delaroche, Couture, Meissonier, Cabanel, Gérôme and Bouguereau were in some cases highly innovative. For the first time in Switzerland, the exhibition brings together these

various and hotly debated approaches in French painting to create a rich and diverse panorama of the era's genres.

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

## THE COLLECTION

The Kunsthaus is structured as both museum and art gallery, and offers an important collection of paintings, sculptures and site-specific installations. It includes works of Western art from the 13th century to the present day.

### **Middle Ages and Swiss art**

The Old Master collection comprises medieval sculptures, Rembrandt, Rubens, Ruisdael, Claude Lorrain, Domenichino, Lanfranco, Tiepolo, Guardi, Hans Asper and Henry Fuseli. Swiss artists include internationally famous figures such as Felix Vallotton, Ferdinand Hodler, Giovanni Segantini and Alberto Giacometti; in terms of scope and quality, the Kunsthaus Zürich is an excellent place to study Giacometti's work.

### **French painting, Expressionism, Surrealism**

The collection of French paintings starts with 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. From 25.11.2016 to 26.2.2017 a small exhibition of significant works on long-term loan documents the relationship between the Esche family of Chemnitz, and Edvard Munch and Henry van de Velde. Surrealism is represented by Max Ernst, Joan Miró, Salvador Dalí and René Magritte.

### **De Stijl, Concrete Artists, New York School**

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).

### **Contemporary art**

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.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The programme can be downloaded from [www.kunsthhaus.ch](http://www.kunsthhaus.ch). The brochures will also be available in the museum from 5 October. News of the many current events can be found on Facebook, in the electronic newsletter and in the online diary.

Kunsthhaus Zürich, Heimplatz 1, CH-8001 Zurich

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

Fri-Sun/Tues 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Wed, Thurs 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. For public holiday opening see [www.kunsthhaus.ch](http://www.kunsthhaus.ch).

Admission to the collection including audioguide (in English, German, French or Italian): CHF 16 / CHF 11 (concessions and groups). Exhibitions: up to CHF 23 / CHF 18 (concessions and groups).

Combination tickets including the collection and exhibition CHF 26 / CHF 19.

Admission free to visitors up to the age of 16.

Free admission, discounts and other benefits with a 2017 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](http://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](mailto:information@zuerich.com), [www.zuerich.com](http://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 12 January 2017. Registration is not required. Visual materials are available at [kunsthhaus.ch](http://kunsthhaus.ch) > Information > Press.

For further information, contact:

Kunsthhaus Zürich, Kristin Steiner

[kristin.steiner@kunsthhaus.ch](mailto:kristin.steiner@kunsthhaus.ch), tel. +41 (0)44 253 84 13