

Press release
Zurich, 24 August 2017

Kunsthhaus Zürich presents 'Cantastorie. Knights, robbers and sorceresses – folk art from southern Italy'

From 25 August to 8 October the Kunsthhaus Zürich is presenting large-format picture stories from southern Italy. Dating from the early years of the 20th century, some 70 colourful panels depict the great themes of culture: mythology, creation, heroism and battles – and not just between the sexes. These masterpieces of folk art, which were used by two families of puppeteers as advertising for their performances, are receiving their first showing in Switzerland. The exhibition is accompanied by a theatre and concert programme. Advance ticket sale is available.

'Cantastorie' are a fascinating collection of pictures and picture cycles from the folk art of southern Italy that, for many years, were owned by two families of street singers and puppeteers in Foggia and Naples. Achille Parisi, his son Rinaldo and two other sons painted the sceneries on paper using distemper paint. Created in the first decades of the 20th century, worn away from heavy use, folded and tattered, they were consigned to obscurity when the puppet theatre tradition was supplanted by cinema and television. Measuring up to 1.5 metres in height and 3 metres in width, they are receiving their first museum exhibition in Switzerland at the Kunsthhaus Zürich. Beautiful princesses, valiant knights, chaotic battles, fabulous animals and supernatural manifestations combine in a cheerful yet sometimes macabre spectacle. Connoisseurs of Italian literature may identify familiar personages and stories among the figures of Orlando, Guido Santo, Dolores, Martuffo, Fioravante, Palmerino, Erminia della Stella, Gattamugliera, Gennaro Sorrentino and the fishers of Pusillico. But the puppeteers of the time were primarily concerned with entertainment. Puppet theatre was the cinema of the day; the 'bench singers' and their songs the contemporary version of the hit parade. The main thing was to give the audience some idea of the existential events portrayed; even so, similarities with individuals either living or historical were less than purely coincidental.

EARLY COMICS

Guest curator Daniela Hardmeier and Kunsthhaus Director Christoph Becker have arranged these early 'comics' into a sensuous, humorous and instructive visual treat. The large exhibition gallery of the Kunsthhaus is transformed into a marketplace at which the approximately 70 large-format works on loan from the Würth Collection are offered up to visitors. A mighty brightly coloured and quite loud historical fairground organ plays each afternoon at 3 p.m. Equipped with a big stage for theatre and concert performances, the gallery becomes a place of

lively exchange, with artists as diverse as La Lupa, Lotte Reiniger, the Marcel Oetiker Trio, Theater Sgaramusch, Töbi Tobler, Etta Scollo, Theater Gustavs Schwestern, members of the Tonhalle Orchestra and many others. Tickets are available at the Kunsthaus and from Ticketcorner.

The exhibition is a cooperation with Adolf Würth GmbH & Co. KG

CONCERT AND THEATRE PROGRAMME

La Lupa: Ars amandi – the art of love, after Ovid

Saturday 26 August 2017, 7 p.m.

Thursday 5 October 2017, 8 p.m.

A celebrity not just in Zurich but far beyond, the incomparable La Lupa – she of the characterful voice and sparkingly vibrant appearance – brings one of the great poets of Antiquity to the stage of the Kunsthaus: Ovid, and his epic poem 'Ars amandi'. Hieronymus Schädler has devised a musical composition to accompany a special translation and adaptation, in which you're sure to recognize some of the most popular Neapolitan songs and hits. Expect a theatrical evening packed with love songs!

Admission CHF 26 / CHF 19

With the generous support of Pro Ticino Zurigo

Collegium Novum / Lotte Reiniger: The Adventures of Prince Achmed

Silhouette film (1926) with live performance of the 1926 score by Wolfgang Zeller in an arrangement for the Collegium Novum Zürich conducted by Johannes Kalitzke

Thursday 31 August 2017, 8 p.m.

See the wonderful and legendary silhouette animation film 'The Adventures of Prince Achmed' by Lotte Reiniger with the original score by Wolfgang Zeller specially adapted by Jens Schubbe for the Collegium Novum Zürich. The first animated feature film, it remains popular to this day and is one of the high points of cinema history; but it is the music that truly makes it complete. Sixteen musicians will sweep you along with Prince Achmed as he travels to the world of One Thousand and One Nights on his flying horse. A rare performance of this cinematic masterpiece with a live orchestra.

Admission CHF 26 / CHF 19

Marcel Oetiker Trio

With Marcel Oetiker (accordion), Rätus Flisch (double bass) and Christian Zünd (drums)

Saturday 2 September 2017 (Museums at Night)

Sunday 8 October 2017, 11.30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

New Swiss folk music meets jazz meets hard rock, in an encounter of the familiar and distinctly unfamiliar. A past master of the schwyzerörgeli – a beautiful traditional Swiss accordion – star folk musician Marcel Oetiker from Ausserschwyz skilfully accomplishes the leap to a very unconventional sound and audio experience that's full of surprises. His work is a perfect match for the 'Cantastorie' and the colourful southern Italian folk art adorning the walls of the large exhibition gallery – something of a première, in fact.

Admission included in the exhibition ticket.

With the generous support of Helvetia Insurance

Dingdonggrüezi

Theater Sgaramusch

Director Corsin Gaudenz; players: Nora Vonder Mühl, Stefan Colombo

Wednesday 6 September 2017, 2 p.m., for all aged 5 and over

Jäggi and Partner have a house in which we find Patrizia, Ennio, a bathroom, a mouse and the moon. A giraffe ambles across the roof. Things do not go smoothly. Ennio causes a fire while Patrizia has a dead hare in her bed. Mrs Huber is picked up by a helicopter. Amidst all the madcap goings-on, even the giraffe has trouble keeping up. Fortunately, Jäggi and Partner have a plan: 'Dingdong, Grüezi' – 'ding dong, hello'. This is a show about building a house for everyone aged five and over, a fun-filled presentation of fabulous narrative, expressive and movement theatre by Theater Sgaramusch.

Admission included in the exhibition ticket.

I Musichieri

With Christof Brunner and Roman Strassmann (violin), Regula Maurer (cello), Christoph Elsaesser (double bass), Raimund Wiederkehr (piano and vocals) and Mario di Sorrento (percussion)

Thursday 7 September 2017, 8 p.m.

In an Italian dialect, 'i musichieri' roughly means 'musicians who play at a festival', and that's precisely what they are: six classically trained music professionals from Switzerland known from their many concerts both at home and abroad play the finest pieces of salon music with inimitable verve, here in the extended line-up of the real 'Viennese formation', with vocal interludes and a programme specially tailored to the exhibition.

Admission CHF 26 / CHF 19

With the generous support of UNIQA Fine Art Insurance Switzerland

Johannes Brahms: Magelone the Fair

In an arrangement for three voices, narrator and chamber orchestra
With Julian Prégardien (tenor) and members of the Tonhalle Orchestra
Saturday 9 September 2017, 7 p.m.
Sunday 1 October 2017, 7 p.m.

'Magelone the Fair' is the drama-filled love story of the King of Naples' daughter and Count Peter of Provence that, after many twists and turns, finally arrives at a happy ending. Originally a romance from the late Middle Ages, it remained hugely popular for centuries. Johannes Brahms (1833–1897) set fifteen of the poems from Ludwig Tieck's 1861 extensive literary adaptation to music, originally for tenor and piano, creating a masterpiece of lieder art. In our exhibition we present a more recent arrangement for orchestra, three singers and a narrator that transforms 'Magelone the Fair' into a chamber music experience. When it comes to creating exceptional lieder programmes, lyric tenor Julian Prégardien is one of the most sought-after names in the business, and we are delighted that he has agreed to perform 'his' Magelone twice with a full line-up.

Admission CHF 26 / CHF 19

With the generous support of JTI

Nuova Compagnia di Canto Popolare

With Fausta Vetere (vocals and guitar), Carmine Bruno (percussion), Gianni Lamagna (vocals and guitar), Corrado Sfogli (stringed instruments, guitar, bouzouki, mandolin), Michele Signore (violin, lyre, mandolin), Marino Sorrentino (stringed instruments, flute, shawm, bagpipes, trumpet), Pasquale Ziccardi (vocals and bass)

Friday 15 September 2017, 7 p.m.

Saturday 16 September 2017, 7 p.m.

The celebrated Nuova Compagnia di Canto Popolare ensemble (NCCP) is travelling to Zurich from Naples specially for these two evenings. Founded in Naples in the late 1960s and now famed far beyond Italy, it exemplifies the rediscovery of the Neapolitan folk music tradition. Its repertoire extends from successful reinterpretations of familiar songs such as 'Tammurriata Nera', or Italian folk melodies and traditional dances as 'villanelle' and 'tammurriate', to its own, uniquely styled compositions. The ensemble is known for its collaboration with countless Italian musicians including Pino Daniele, Edoardo Bennato, Tullio De Piscopo and Enzo Avitabile. At the Kunsthaus it will be appearing in a full line-up and with an astonishing variety of instruments.

Admission CHF 26 / CHF 19

With the generous support of accurART Fine Art Insurance Broker Ltd.

Töbi Tobler: Dulcimer

Sunday 17 September 2017, three performances between 11.30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

A Töbi Tobler concert promises dulcimer playing of outstanding quality. Moving easily between genres, he uses music as a medium of authentic expression; for us he has devised a musical performance with song that he will perform in the middle of the exhibition. Töbi Tobler has been playing the dulcimer professionally for 40 years. At a time when this traditional Alpine instrument was largely neglected he began using it to produce modern, contemporary music and now plays in a wide array of line-ups and musical styles. At the Kunsthaus we can expect a solo performance of consummate perfection.

Admission included in the exhibition ticket.

With the generous support of Helvetia Insurance

Etta Scollo

With Etta Scollo (vocals and guitar), Fabio Tricomi (various instruments) and Max Urlacher (narrator)

Thursday 21 September 2017, 8 p.m.

The powerful voice of Etta Scollo transports us, through music, to southern Italy with all its contrasts and contradictions, its untamed beauty and magic. The journey takes the form of songs, stories, narrations and descriptions from the pens of both local authors and celebrated visitors to the region. The dazzling spectrum extends from the French paladins of medieval high culture and early operas to the popular music of soulfully beautiful clichés and the modern 'Cantastorie', accompanied and instrumentalized with baroque and old folk instruments from southern Italy. Through her stage presence, Etta Scollo creates a highly atmospheric performance that ties in with the great themes of our exhibition.

Admission CHF 26 / CHF 19

With the generous support of the Italian Cultural Institute in Zurich

Landstreichmusik

With Matthias Lincke (dance violin) and Dide Marfurt (various historical instruments), Simon Dettwiler (accordion), Christine Lauterburg (violin and vocals), Elias Menzi (dulcimer) and Matthias Härtel (double bass and violin)

Thursday 28 September 2017, 8 p.m.

Landstreichmusik are a group of itinerant musicians led by 'Giigämaa' (violin man) Matthias Lincke. They have been following in the footsteps of historical wandering violinists and players since 2010. With their breadth of styles and dazzling variety of instruments they serve up a cornucopia of traditional yet cheerfully experimental Swiss folk music. Picked up by the roadside over the

centuries, handed down from musician to musician and transformed, this is a rousing treasure trove of 'earthy' tunes and songs from Switzerland and across the Alpine region: music for strings from Appenzell mixes with the strains of the accordion from Central Switzerland, natural yodelling and dance music that harks back to medieval and Renaissance melodies.

Admission CHF 26 / CHF 19

With the generous support of Helvetia Insurance

Fritz Franz & Ferdinand: Ein Hühnermärchen

Theater Gustavs Schwestern. Director: Priska Praxmarer, players: Sibylle Grüter and Jacqueline Surer

Friday 29 September 2017, 4 p.m. For all aged 6 and over

Why are there so few princes in this country? Triplets Fritz Franz & Ferdinand have the answer: the three princes have been turned into chickens as a punishment for their cockiness. Only a kiss from a real princess can save them. The trio of feathered friends set off on a journey full of adventures through the fairytale world – a risky undertaking with Red Riding Hood's wolf hard on their heels, ravenously hungry for – of course – chicken! Will they make it? Theater Gustavs Schwestern presents its captivatingly absurd puppet show on the 'Cantastorie' stage at the Kunsthaus!

For children aged 6 and over and everyone who loves unconventional marionette theatre.

Admission included in the exhibition ticket.

OPENING HOURS, ADMISSION, ADVANCE SALES

Kunsthaus Zürich, Heimplatz 1, 8001 Zurich

Opening hours: Fri–Sun/Tues 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Wed, Thurs 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

Admission to the exhibition: CHF 23 / CHF 18 (concessions and groups). 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: hotel room reservations and ticket sales, Tourist Service at Zurich Main Railway Station, tel. +41 (0)44 215 40 00, information@zuerich.com, www.zuerich.com.

Kunsthaus Zürich, Heimplatz 1, CH-8001 Zurich, tel. +41 (0)44 253 84 84, www.kunsthaus.ch

CONCERT AND FILM TICKETS INCL. ADMISSION TO THE EXHIBITION

Tickets for all evening events can be purchased in advance from ticketcorner.ch and at the Kunsthaus cash desk. Admission to the exhibition is included. Places limited. Seats are not numbered.

GUIDED TOURS AND PUBLICATION

Public guided tours in German take place on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. and Sundays at 11 a.m. (with exception of 17.9. and 8.10.). There are guided tours in English at 1 p.m. on Saturday 9 September and in Italian at 4 p.m. on Sunday 17 September.

Private guided tours, also in other languages, can be organized on request.

The exhibition catalogue in German with contributions by Heike Gfrereis, Etta Scollo, Florian Reichert and Martin Dumke is published by Verlag Swiridoff and is available from the Kunsthaus shop for CHF 28.

NOTE TO MEDIA

This press release as well as a selection of at least a dozen illustrations are available to download from the 'Information' > 'Press' section of www.kunsthhaus.ch.

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