

Media release

Zurich, 21 September 2023

Kunsthhaus Zürich presents an exhibition on 'Time. From Dürer to Bonvicini'

From 22 September 2023 to 14 January 2024, the Kunsthhaus Zürich is staging a major exhibition exploring the intellectual history of time, its measurement, and time as subjective experience. The artistic positions represented range from the Renaissance to the present day. Their aesthetic preoccupations are informed by biology, sociology, philosophy, politics and economics.

Time is one of the great mysteries in the history of humankind, and is defined in multiple ways in fields as diverse as philosophy, biology, economics, politics – and indeed art. The 'great pause' during the pandemic lockdown abruptly forced us to confront space and time in their extremes and rendered existential questions of time acutely relevant.

FIVE MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT?

Conceived by Kunsthhaus curator Cathérine Hug over three years in dialogue with international experts David Rooney (London), Mónica Bello (CERN, Meyrin), Nathalie Marielloni and Régis Huguenin-Dumittan (MIH, La Chaux-de-Fonds), this sensory journey through the history of time features paintings, films, installations, performances and historical watches. They attest to the ephemeral nature of life, the scope for meditation opened up by painting, the changing seasons, and financial markets that are now synchronized down to the last picosecond. Starting with the clock as an instrument for measuring time, the presentation goes on to examine perspectives such as the physical, biological and palaeontological, along with personal perceptions, in six chapters covering all of the 1,200-square-metre exhibition space. Participatory performances and installations offer an appealing way for Kunsthhaus visitors to debate different visions of the future against the backdrop of an Anthropocene epoch marked by increasing speculation about how much time both individuals and humanity as a whole have left to ensure their survival on – and with – Planet Earth.

LIGHT SPEED AND TIME CONFETTI

Languages tend to be full of terms containing the word 'time': 'time-saving', 'timely', 'overtime', 'time zone', 'time out', 'time-lapse', 'time bomb' and many more besides. Their popularity waxes and wanes – over time. 'Time sickness' is a recent addition to the linguistic agenda; 'time pressure', by contrast, has been with us for centuries, and shows no sign of letting up.

The exhibition does not set out to answer the question 'what is time?' Instead, it offers multiple thought-provoking ideas that encourage visitors to relate the various facets of 'time' to each other. Is it a physical phenomenon? Is it an absolute quantity describing the speed of light? Or is it a subjective and diffuse sensation that is perceived as 'proper time', as opposed to 'time confetti', over the course of an increasingly fragmented day? As this exhibition at the Kunsthaus shows, artists' engagement with the concept of time is limitless in its variety.

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS AND ARTISTS

The exhibition is a collaboration with the Musée international d'horlogerie (MIH), La Chaux-de-Fonds. Over a hundred artists are represented with some 230 works, including Sinzo Aanza, Cuno Amiet, Maja Bajevic, Black Quantum Futurism, Abraham-Louis Breguet, Marie José Burki, Giorgio de Chirico, Jean Dubuffet, Natalia Goncharova, John Harrison, Alicja Kwade, Jürg Lehni, MANON, Maya Minder, Jonathan Monk, Eadweard Muybridge, Jos Näpflin, Natasza Niedziółka, Claes Oldenburg, Roman Opalka, Katie Paterson, Cyril Schäublin, Fatma Shanan, Elisa Storelli, Una Szeemann, Taiyo Onorato & Nico Krebs, Ben Vautier and Tim Zulauf/KMU Produktionen.

Supported by Swiss Re – Partner for contemporary art and Credit Suisse – Partner Kunsthaus Zürich.

EVENTS

Details of public guided tours as well as a wide-ranging programme of accompanying events are available online at kunsthaus.ch. They include collaborations with 'Shared Campus', the 'Rethinking Art History through Disability' research group in the Institute of Art History at the University of Zurich, GPHG Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève, the University of St. Gallen and Arthouse Cinemas.

PUBLICATION

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue in German (with English translations) containing contributions by Ann Demeester, Cathérine Hug, Monika Leonhardt, Mónica Bello, Sébastien Vivas, along with conversations between

Rüdiger Safranski and Stefan Zweifel, Anna Elsner and Helga Nowotny, and Cathérine Hug and Josef Teichmann. There are also short texts on exhibits by Estelle Fallet, Cathérine Hug, Régis Huguenin-Dumittan and Nathalie Marielloni. It is published by Snoeck Verlag Cologne (320 pages, approx. 250 illustrations), and is available from the Kunsthaus shop and bookstores, price CHF 49.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Kunsthaus Zürich, Heimplatz, CH-8001 Zurich

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

Fri-Sun/Tue 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Wed/Thu 10 a.m.–8 p.m. For public holiday opening see www.kunsthhaus.ch.

Admission: CHF 23 / CHF 18 (concessions and groups). Children and young people under the age of 17 free of charge.

Free admission with a 2023 annual membership (includes 2024 if taken out from 1 October onwards).

Advance ticket sales (optional): www.kunsthhaus.ch/tickets

Zurich Tourism, tourist information office in Zurich main railway station, tel. +41 44 215 40 00, info@zuerich.com, www.zuerich.com.

CONTACT FOR THE MEDIA

Media releases and images to download as well as an overview of dates for upcoming media briefings can be found at www.kunsthhaus.ch/en/medienbereich/media-corner.

For further information, contact: Kunsthaus Zürich, Kristin Steiner, kristin.steiner@kunsthhaus.ch, tel. +41 (0)44 253 84 13

ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME

Public guided tours

Public guided tours in German take place on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. and Sundays at 11 a.m. English: Sat 14 October, 1.30 p.m. and 18 November, 11 a.m. French: Sat 30 September, 11 a.m. and 21 October, 1.30 p.m.

Wed 27 September, 6.30 p.m.

From idea to exhibition

A conversation between Kunsthhaus curator Cathérine Hug and Vice-Director Christoph Stuehn. In German.

CHF 10 / CHF 8 concessions, CHF 4 with a valid exhibition ticket and for members.

Fri 29 September, 6.30 p.m.

Are we contemporary?

Panel discussion in cooperation with Shared Campus, with participants Dr Burkhard Meltzer (ZHdK), Matheus Rocha Pitta (artist, Berlin), Dr Julie Ren (Senior Scientist, Department of Geography, UZH) and Fatma Shanan (artist, Julis, Tel Aviv and Zurich), moderated by Cathérine Hug. In English.

CHF 15 / CHF 10 concessions, CHF 5 with a valid exhibition ticket and for members.

Wed 18 October, 6.30 p.m.

Crip Time: Self-Empowerment of own time in a life with restrictions

Panel discussion in cooperation with Dr Charlotte Matter of the Rethinking Art History through Disability research group in the Institute of Art History at the University of Zurich, Kamran Behrouz (artist, University of Linz), Chris Heer (procurement lawyer for the City of Zurich and inclusion expert) and others, moderated by Cathérine Hug. In English.

CHF 15 / CHF 10 concessions, CHF 5 with a valid exhibition ticket and for members.

Wed 25 October, 6 p.m.

Future Food

Performance by Maya Minder with a tasting by Lisa Jankovics (head chef) and film screening with Ewen Chardronnet. In German.

CHF 15 / CHF 10 concessions, CHF 5 with a valid exhibition ticket and for members.

Wed 22 November, 6 p.m.

Chronological or transhistorical?

Panel discussion on (experiences of) time and how they are presented in museum collections, with Ann Demeester (Director of the Kunsthaus Zürich), Rosa Barba (artist, ETH Zurich), Prof. Sabine Folie (Director of the Art Collections of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna) and Marc-Olivier Wahler (Director of the Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, Geneva), moderated by Cathérine Hug. In English/German.

CHF 15 / CHF 10 concessions, CHF 5 with a valid exhibition ticket and for members.

Fri 1 to Sun 3 December, whole day

GPHG Grand Prix d'horlogerie de Genève

The GPHG is the leading award in the world of watchmaking. Vernissage of the award-winning timepieces on 1 December at 7 p.m. with a welcome by Kunsthaus Director Ann Demeester, speeches (French/English) by Dr Régis Huguenin-Dumittan (Director of MIH) and Raymond Loretan (President of the Fondation du GPHG), see also gphg.org. Admission free.

Wed 13 December, 6.30 p.m.

Time does not stand still: Restorers in conversation

discussion among experts with restorers Tobias Haupt and Eléonore Bernard about how they deal with time from a conservation perspective, moderated by chief restorer Kerstin Mürer. In German.

CHF 10 / CHF 8 concessions, CHF 4 with a valid exhibition ticket and for members.

Wed 10 January 2024, 5 p.m.

Time is Money?

Dialogue guided tour and panel discussion (from 6.30 p.m.) in cooperation with the University of St. Gallen and professors Anna Elsner and Jamie Gloor along with guests Sinzo Aanza (artist, Kinshasa/Zurich), Prof. Caroline Dorn (physicist, ETH Zurich), Dr Florian Eitel (anarchism researcher and curator at NMB Neues Museum Biel) and Prof. Josef Teichmann (financial mathematician, ETHZ), moderated by Cathérine Hug. In English/German.

CHF 15 / CHF 10 (concessions), CHF 5 with a valid exhibition ticket and for members.

Time in cinema

A six-part film programme curated by Pia Watzenböck, Cathérine Hug and Esther Braun-Kalberer in cooperation with the Arthouse Cinemas. Further information and tickets from September at www.kunsthaus.ch/zeit and www.arthouse.ch.