

Media release

Zurich, 24 September 2020

Kunsthhaus Zürich presents 2021 annual programme

2021 sees the Kunsthhaus Zürich welcome Gerhard Richter, the world's best-known contemporary artist. William Forsythe provides interaction with the audience, while 'Earth Talks' sets up a platform for critical voices from the field of nature and environmental protection. 'Klimt & Hodler. The Wiener Werkstätte in Zurich' reminds us that there is no barrier between 'high' and applied art, and one of the world's biggest indoor sculptures moves into the large exhibition gallery. These and more surprises from a rich and diverse programme are a prelude to the opening of David Chipperfield's Kunsthhaus extension and the new presentation of first-class collections.

The 2021 season begins with two exhibitions – one thematic, the other devoted to a female artist – that open in November 2020.

13.11.20–14.2.21

WILD AT HEART. ROMANTICISM IN SWITZERLAND

With over 150 works, this exhibition spans the arc from Henry Fuseli to Alexandre Calame and the early Arnold Böcklin. It reveals the considerable contribution made by Swiss artists to the development of European landscape painting, follows them to academies abroad, and explores the close ties between them. The overview also incorporates famous Romantics from other countries such as Caspar David Friedrich, Eugène Delacroix and J.M.W. Turner, thus adding an international perspective to our appreciation of Swiss Romanticism.

Supported by Credit Suisse – Partner Kunsthhaus Zürich

18.12.20–5.4.21

OTILIE W. ROEDERSTEIN

A Swiss woman artist is rediscovered. During her lifetime, Otilie W. Roederstein (1859–1937) was a successful and independent painter whose portraits and still lifes were highly regarded in Switzerland and Germany but who also, from 1883 onwards, showed her paintings to great acclaim in Paris. In 1912 she was the only female artist representing Switzerland at the seminal international art exhibition of the Sonderbund in Cologne – alongside male colleagues including Ferdinand Hodler, Giovanni Giacometti and Cuno Amiet. Yet despite her considerable

international renown, Roederstein lapsed into obscurity almost immediately after her death. More than 80 years on, the exhibition of some 70 works at the Kunsthaus Zürich is the first monographic presentation in Switzerland to place this artist's stylistically diverse oeuvre once again before a wider audience.

A collaboration with the Städel Museum in Frankfurt am Main.

26.3.–18.7.21

GERHARD RICHTER. LANDSCAPE

Gerhard Richter is the best-known artist of the present day. He creates fascinating visual worlds that are unmistakable in their originality and artistry, with abstraction and representation shading into and blending with each other. An exploration of Richter's work through the prism of the landscape genre, to which he has remained faithful for over sixty years, offers a vivid insight into the underlying developments in his painting styles and visual forms. To this day, he continues systematically experimenting with photography and with certain techniques of blurring and scraping. While all the world's leading institutions have devoted exhibitions to Richter's work over the years, there has, astonishingly, been only one museum presentation that has dealt with his landscapes. The Kunsthaus is therefore filling a major gap, with an exhibition that includes works on paper and three-dimensional objects as well as paintings.

A cooperation with the Bank Austria Kunstforum Wien.

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

23.4.–24.5.21

WILLIAM FORSYTHE: ENTRÉE

2021 sees the opening of the Kunsthaus extension. For the first encounter with the new museum building, the Kunsthaus Zürich has invited the artist and choreographer William Forsythe to produce a new work. It places visitors centre stage, and invites them to take a unique choreographic tour of the still unoccupied Chipperfield architecture. 'Entrée' comprises a large number of short, choreographic recommendations, encouraging visitors to engage directly with subtle changes in their attitude, behaviour and locomotion during their time in the museum. Forsythe creates a narrative from the unconscious contributions of visitors that come about through the interplay of human being, architecture and art.

21.5.–29.8.21

KLIMT & HODLER. THE WIENER WERKSTÄTTE IN ZÜRICH

During the heyday of painting in Vienna in around 1900, its most prominent artist Gustav Klimt (1862–1918) called for the abolition of the traditional distinction between 'high' and 'applied' art. The most enduringly influential driver of that aspiration was the design cooperative known as the Wiener Werkstätte, which was

founded in 1903. One of its customers was Ferdinand Hodler (1853–1918). Hodler had been well acquainted with the ideas of the Vienna Secession since his breakthrough exhibition there in 1904. Taking this as its starting point, the presentation at the Kunsthaus sheds fresh light on Switzerland's national artist from a Viennese perspective. Hodler ordered the furniture for his apartment in Geneva from the Wiener Werkstätte in 1913. Its presence in Switzerland culminated in 1917 in the establishment of a branch on Zurich's Bahnhofstrasse. This exhibition is the first to explore the story of that branch, through some 180 works including paintings, designs, furniture, jewellery and more.

27.8.–20.2.22

WALTER DE MARIA. THE 2000 SCULPTURE

'The 2000 Sculpture' by Walter De Maria (1935–2013) is one of the largest horizontal sculptures designed to be shown indoors anywhere in the world. It comprises a total of 2,000 white plaster rods each 50 cm long and 18 cm high. Despite their identical dimensions, the individual elements are different and have five, seven or nine sides. They are arranged in a uniform pattern on a surface measuring 500 square metres to create a dynamic composition of zigzag lines and diagonals. Seemingly cohesive and monumental at first glance, the work resolves itself into a plethora of visual impressions as the viewer moves around it, creating a tension between predictable regularity and individual perception.

4.10.–6.2.22

EARTH BEATS. THE CHANGING FACE OF NATURE

'Earth Beats' is an artists' plea to preserve the Earth and its natural resources, born out of the urgency of the present situation. Nature, in the form of landscape painting, is firmly embedded in the art history of the modern age. In works from earlier centuries we generally encounter it as idyllic scenery, but since the 1970s it has been depicted with ever greater clarity as an entity threatened by human intervention and therefore deserving of protection. The exhibition explores artists' engagement with the Blue Planet and its vulnerability. It considers both the history of ideas and future-oriented scenarios for the sustainable use of natural resources. With some 50 works by Joseph Beuys, Ursula Biemann, Laurence Bonvin, Herbert Brandl, Julian Charrière, Anna Jermolaeva, Ruth Kaaserer, Ana Mendieta, Uriel Orlow / Mikhail Karikis, Katie Paterson, Oliver Ressler, Félix Vallotton and others.

As a lead-in to the exhibition, the Kunsthaus issues an invitation to 'Earth Talks' (22.8.–19.9.21). Well-known international figures from the fields of climate research, consumption (fashion, nutrition, living), forestry, urban planning and mobility research as well as activists from the worlds of film and literature debate issues of nature protection and sustainability. The focus is on knowledge production and the development of concrete solutions, with the audience being

actively involved. For the first time, the venue will be the garden of the Chipperfield building.

Supported by Swiss Re – Partner for contemporary art

10.12.–6.3.22

BAROQUE BRILLIANCE

Giovanni Benedetto Castiglione merits a prominent place in the pantheon of Italian draughtsmen. He commits his compositions to paper with a breathtaking nonchalance almost unparalleled among Baroque artists. At the same time, he is a pioneering experimenter in the field of printmaking. The monotype process which he developed was still being used in the 19th century by artists such as Edgar Degas and Paul Gauguin. The Kunsthaus Zürich is now devoting a solo show to this virtuoso of art on paper, looking in particular at his relationship with his great role model, Rembrandt.

NEW PRESENTATION OF THE COLLECTION

The Kunsthaus is structured as both museum and art gallery, and is home to an important collection of paintings, sculptures and installations – works of Western art from the 13th century to the present day. By the time the extension opens, many of the rooms in the existing building will have been rearranged, starting with a new permanent presentation of works by Alberto Giacometti – the largest the Kunsthaus has ever realized, and on show from 6 October 2020.

KUNSTHAUS OPENING IN THREE STAGES

With the extension by David Chipperfield, the Kunsthaus Zürich becomes the largest art museum in Switzerland. The new building opens in three stages:

Handover of the keys with a weekend's free viewing of the extension architecture: 12/13 December 2020.

Preview months April/May 2021, starting with a ball on 10 April and continuing with performances, behind-the-scenes tours and presentations of individual works that are not climate-sensitive.

Opening on 9/10 October 2021: first-time presentation of the post-1960 collection holdings and the private Bührle, Merzbacher and Looser collections in the Chipperfield building. Full operation of the new Kunsthaus on both sides of Heimplatz.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Kunsthaus Zürich, Heimplatz 1, CH-8001 Zurich

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

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

Admission from: CHF 16 / CHF 11 (concessions and groups).

Admission free to visitors under the age of 17. Information subject to change.

KUNSTHAUS ZÜRICH

Free admission, discounts and other benefits with a 2021 annual membership (valid from 1.10.2020 until 31.12.2021): adults CHF 115 / couples CHF 195 / children and young people up to 25 years of age CHF 30.

Advance ticket sales: www.kunsthhaus.ch

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

SBB RailAway combination ticket, with discount on admission when travelling by public transport: www.sbb.ch/kunsthhaus-zuerich.

CONTACT FOR THE MEDIA

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

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