

Collateral Event of the 55th International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia

Salon Suisse

Curator: Dr. Jörg Scheller

Location: Palazzo Trevisan degli Ulivi

Complementing Valentin Carron's exhibition at the Pavilion of Switzerland at the 55th International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia, the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia organizes the Collateral Event entitled «Salon Suisse» at the Palazzo Trevisan degli Ulivi.

The «Salon Suisse» is inspired by the tradition of art and literary salons in past centuries and aims to encourage an international dialogue among artists, specialists, scholars, students and other interested visitors from all over the world. This year's «Salon Suisse» is curated by Berne-based art historian Jörg Scheller who put together a challenging programme of events focusing on the legacy of Enlightenment in the globalized art world and looking at the history of the Biennale.

The events will include panel discussions, lecture performances, film screenings, a visual music festival and a reenactment, but also more informal elements encouraging encounters and discussions. The «Salon Suisse» is a forum for theoretical discourse as well as a welcoming environment for a wide audience to exchange views on impressions and insights gained at the Biennale.

The first «Salon Suisse» talk, entitled «The Loss and Gain of Place. Contemporary Art in a Translocal Perspective», will take place on 1 June at 11am in the presence of Valentin Carron and Giovanni Carmine and will be preceded by a brunch. Jörg Scheller will meet Monica Juneja, Professor of Global Art History at the University of Heidelberg, and discuss with her the 'burden of representation' contemporary art is still confronted with, and ask how a 'translocal' and 'transcultural' art could look. This talk will be followed by a second panel discussion entitled «Shifting Views. Art Beyond the Anthropic Principle» on 2 June at 11am. Jörg Scheller will speak to German philosopher and postmodernism specialist Wolfgang Iser about concepts and examples of art that serves humans precisely by not idealizing them.

The second series of events (13 to 15 June) will be entitled «New Aesthetics and Research» and focus on up to date forms of Fluxus art, performance lectures and artistic research. The third series (12 to 14 September) will have the title «Power and Economy» and will ask questions around capitalism and art. The fourth series of events (17 to 19 October) is entitled «History and Contemporaneity» and will include, amongst other things, a book presentation and panel discussion with Vienna-based historian, novelist and journalist Philipp Blom; while the last series of the «Salon Suisse» 2013 (21 to 23 November) will focus on «Criticism and Dissent», including a reenactment of the exhibition



«La nuova arte sovietica» from the Biennale of Dissidents (1977), organized by Matteo Bertelé and Sandra Frimmel.

Three evenings, entitled «Time Slices», will take place as part of an autonomous series within the «Salon Suisse». They will include panel discussions on the Swiss and further pavilions at the Venice Art Biennale focusing on three particular years in this history: 1932, 1954 and 2005. In summer 2013 the Swiss Institute for Art Research (SIK-ISEA) will publish «Die Biennale von Venedig: Die Beteiligung der Schweiz von 1920 bis 2013», a publication on the history of Switzerland's contributions to the Venice Biennale. Volume 1 contains essays, and Volume 2 materials.

For the duration of the five series of events, the «Salon Suisse» will be open on three days a week from Thursday to Saturday from 6.00pm to 10.00pm no matter whether an event will take place this particular evening or not. For the detailed programme of the «Salon Suisse» please visit: www.biennials.ch

As partner of the «Salon Suisse», Laufen Bathrooms AG is contributing to the events at the Palazzo Trevisan with the intention to participate in and encourage an international dialogue in the fields of arts and architecture.

Supporters and sponsors of the «Salon Suisse»: The last evening in the series «New Aesthetics and Research» is sponsored by the ZHdK, Zurich University of the Arts. The «Time Slices» are supported by SIK-ISEA, the Swiss Institute for Art Research, Zurich. Sponsor: Cassina

Note to editors

The curator, Dr. Jörg Scheller

The curator of the «Salon Suisse» 2013 is Jörg Scheller (b. 1979 in Stuttgart, Germany), an art historian, journalist and musician based in Berne. From 2007 to 2009 he held a grant from the German Research Foundation. Subsequently, he worked as a researcher at the Swiss Institute for Art Research in Zurich and as assistant professor at the University of Siegen. He was awarded his PhD for a thesis on the myth of Arnold Schwarzenegger. In 2012, he was appointed permanent lecturer for art history and cultural studies at the Zurich University of the Arts. His reviews and essays are regularly published in mayor German-speaking newspapers and magazines. Jörg Scheller co-organized conferences in Germany, Romania, Poland and the U.S. and gave numerous lectures at universities as well as museums throughout Europe and abroad.

The Palazzo Trevisan degli Ulivi in Venice

The second floor Palazzo Trevisan degli Ulivi at 'Zattere' in Venice belongs to the Swiss Confederation and houses the offices of the Swiss Consulate. Initiated by Pro Helvetia, the accompanying programme to the exhibition in the Swiss Pavilion, the «Salon Suisse» is held in the main room of the Palazzo as of 2012. Palazzo Trevisan degli Ulivi, Dorsoduro 810, is close to Campo S. Agnese. The nearest vaporetto stop is Zattere.