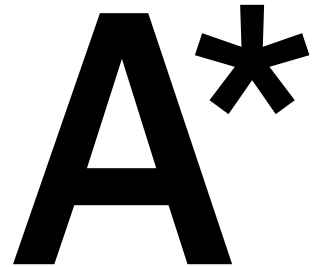


Media release
Aarau, May 2021



Swiss Sculpture since 1945

12 June - 26 September 2021
Aargauer Kunsthaus, Aarau

The exhibition at the Aargauer Kunsthaus presents a survey of the diverse forms of sculptural production in Switzerland from 1945 to the present. 230 works by 150 artists from all over the country can be discovered along the exciting exhibition route which starts inside the museum and leads via the roof terrace to the adjacent Rathausgarden. Tradition, avant-garde, postmodernism: The recent history of Swiss art unfurled here is characterised by innovation, diversity and close ties to the international art scene.

Unlike a painting, a sculpture appears first of all as a real object. We enter into a spatial relationship with it; the encounter becomes an experience. Not surprisingly, recent art criticism has attached particular importance to this immediacy: Sculpture is seen more than ever as a supreme discipline of art.

Nowadays, the concept of sculpture is defined very broadly. The exhibition reflects the wide array of forms of expression, yet it also meets expectations by presenting sculptural works which have become classics of the art form: bronze figures by Alberto Giacometti which throw us back onto our fragile existence; the geometric bodies of Max Bill; and the kinetic junk machines of Jean Tinguely. But we also encounter the shapeless groping bags of Doris Stauffer and the polyester aliens of the Academy Award winner H.R. Giger. Beyond the classical media, Dieter Roth's slowly rotting self-portrait cast in chocolate comments on the transience of art and life, while Pipilotti Rist's video footage projected onto objects and the party horn concert arranged by Delphine Reist blur the boundaries with other disciplines.

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The comprehensive exhibition at the Aargauer Kunsthaus focuses on Swiss sculpture from 1945 to the present and features 230 works by 150 artists from all over the country. Starting out from leading artists of the immediate post-war era such as Jean Arp, Max Bill, Alberto Giacometti and Germaine Richier, as well as "traditionalists" like Karl Geiser and Remo Rossi who at the time still largely dominated the Swiss art scene, the exhibition leads on to the manifold artistic trends of the 1960s. The work of a Walter Bodmer or Bernhard Luginbühl laid the foundation for - and continues to influence - the still ongoing Swiss iron sculpture movement. At the same time, new avant-gardes emerged, including Nouveau Réalisme with its protagonists Jean Tinguely, Niki de Saint Phalle, André Thomkins and its intertwining with the Fluxus movement (think of Dieter Roth and Daniel Spoerri). In the 1970s, the plurality of styles further increased. Construction, abstraction, dematerialised concept, or expressivity and inwardness: anything was possible now, to the point that everyday life found its way into art, culminating in the 1980s and conquering the international art scene, with Fischli/Weiss as the most prominent pioneers. Among the youngest generations two different attitudes or approaches can be observed: on the one hand the (postmodern) creative drive born from the liberating realization that all forms of sculpture have already been around before; and on the other the renewed interest in the material and its handcrafting. What connects them is the artists' awareness of their contribution towards a deeper understanding of our diverse, complex and even contradictory world.

The exhibition route follows a loose chronology, but frequently pauses to examine certain forms of expression, materials or subjects through arranged adjacencies. This is certain to involve some rediscoveries. A special spatial layout transforms Herzog & de Meuron's 2003 extension into a light-flooded "sculpture hall": the works installed here interact with one another, with the exhibition space and with the audience. The interplay of sculpture and surroundings changes once again with the passage from interior to exterior: additional exhibits can be discovered in the museum's foyer, and twenty-four works are installed outdoors, from the museum terrace to the furthest corners of the adjacent Rathausgarten.

Artists Included in the Exhibition

Selim Abdullah (*1950); Eva Aeppli (1925-2015); Maia Aeschbach (1928-2015); Hans Aeschbacher (1906-1980); Jürg Altherr (1944-2018); John M Armleder (*1948); Jean Arp (1886-1966); Theodor Bally (1896-1975); Otto Charles Bänninger (1897-1973); Vincenzo Baviera (*1945); Paolo Bellini (*1941); Raffael Benazzi (*1933); Ueli Berger (1937-2008); Daniel Berset (*1953); Max Bill (1908-1994); Vanessa Billy (*1978); Rudolf Blättler (*1941); Walter Bodmer (1903-1973); Rolf Brem (1926-2014); Serge Brignoni (1903-2002); Carl Bucher (1935-2015); Heidi Bucher (1926-1993); Gianfredo Camesi (*1940); Valentin Carron (*1977); Davide Cascio (*1976); Julian Charrière (*1987); Claudia Comte (*1983); Louis Conne (1905-2004); Carlo Cotti (1903-1980); Liliiane Csuka (*1935); Arnold D'Altri (1904-1980); Trudi Demut (1927-2000); Martin Disler (1949-1996); Herbert Distel (*1942); Angel Duarte (1930-2007); Marcel Dupertuis (*1941); Latifa Echakhch (*1974); Franz Eggenschwiler (1930-2000); Anton Egloff (*1933); Olivier Estoppey (*1951); Urs Fischer (*1973); Peter Fischli & David Weiss (*1952/1946-2012); Sylvie Fleury (*1961); Annemie Fontana (1925-2002); Corsin Fontana (*1944); Urs Frei (*1958); Gunter Frentzel (1935-2017); Karl Geiser (1898-1957); Giovanni Genucchi (1904-1979); Charlotte Germann-Jahn (1921-1988); Alberto Giacometti (1901-1966); H.R. Giger (1940-2014); Christian Gonzenbach (*1975); Stefan Gritsch (*1951); Michael Grossert (1927-2014); Mariann Grunder (1926-2016); Fabrice Gygi (*1965); Peter Hächler (1922-1999); Eric Hattan (*1955); Barbara Heé (*1957); Christian Herdeg (*1942); Thomas Hirschhorn (*1957); Gottfried Honegger (1917-2016); Daniel Robert Hunziker (*1965); Schang Hutter (*1934); Leiko Ikemura (*1951); Hans Josephsohn (1920-2012); Zoltán Kemény (1907-1965); František Klossner (*1960); Isabelle Krieg (*1971); Friedrich Kuhn (1926-1972); James Licini (*1937); Walter Linck (1903-1975); Bernhard Luginbühl (1929-2011); Ingeborg Lüscher (*1936); Urs Lüthi (*1947); Andres Lutz & Anders Guggisberg (*1968/*1966); Christian Marclay (*1955); Rémy Markowitsch (*1957); Nicole Martin-Lachat (1919-2010); Sara Masüger (*1978); Silvio Mattioli (1929-2011); Jean Mauboulès (*1943); Christian Megert (*1936); Charles de Montaigne (*1946); Wilfrid Moser (1914-1997); Josef Felix Müller (*1955); Otto Müller (1905-1993); Robert Müller (1920-2003); Shahryar Nashat (*1975); Yves Netzhammer (*1970); Edit Oderbolz (*1966); Josef Maria Odermatt (1934-2011); Marianne Olsen (1924-2011); Meret Oppenheim (1913-1985); Flavio Paolucci (*1934); Erica Pedretti (*1930); Mai-Thu Perret (*1976); Carmen Perrin (*1953); Fred Perrin (*1932); Guillaume Pilet (*1984); Antoine Poncet (*1928); Gilles Porret (*1962); Václav Pozárek (*1940); Henri Presset (1928-2013); Jakob Johann Probst (1880-1966); Markus Raetz (1941-2020); Augustin Rebetez (*1986); Peter Regli (*1959); Erwin Rehm (1921-2020); Delphine Reist (*1970); Germaine Richier (1902-1959); Heiner Richner (*1944); Pipilotti Rist (*1962); Ugo Rondinone (*1964); Remo Rossi (1909-1982); Dieter Roth (1930-1998); Christian Rothacher (1944-2007); Nelly Rudin (1928-2013); Christoph Rütimann (*1955); Marguerite Saegesser (1922-2011); Niki de Saint Phalle (1930-2002); Katharina Sallenbach (1920-2013); Lucie Schenker (*1943); Klaudia Schifferle (*1955); Georges Schneider (1919-2010); Pierino Selmoni (1927-2017); Albert Siegenthaler (1938-1984); Roman Signer (*1938); Kurt Sigrist (*1943); Matias Spescha (1925-2008); Daniel Spoerri (*1930); Anselm Stalder (*1956); Emilio Stanzani (1906-1977); Jürg Stäubli (*1948); Doris Stauffer (1934-2017); Gerda Steiner & Jörg Lenzlinger (*1967/*1964); Rosa Studer-Koch (1907-1991); Hugo Suter (1943-2013); André Thomkins (1930-1985); Jean Tinguely (1925-1991); Ben Vautier (*1935); Not Vital (*1948); Isabelle Waldberg (1911-1990); Aldo Walker (1938-2000); Hugo Weber (1918-1971); Thea Weltner (1917-2001); Gillian White (*1939); Oscar Wiggli (1927-2016); Eva Wipf (1929-1978); Andrea Wolfensberger (*1961); René Zäch (*1946); Rémy Zaugg (1943-2005); Beat Zoderer (*1955); Pierre-Alain Zuber (*1950)

Publication

The exhibition is accompanied by a publication which outlines the range of subjects of sculpture in Switzerland. Essays by well-known authors highlight issues of art geography and art historical aspects, while also examining the production conditions and the specific reception aesthetics of sculpture. A well-developed reproduction and illustration layout enriches the publication.

Schweizer Skulptur seit 1945

Edited by Peter Fischer and the Aargauer Kunsthaus

Texts by Marianne Burki, Christoph Doswald, Peter Fischer, Franz Müller, Anouchka Panchard, Peter Schneemann, Simone Soldini, Walter Tschopp

Cologne: Snoeck, 2021

ca. 320 pp., in German and French

CHF 49.- (CHF 42.- for members of the Aargau Art Association)

Guest Curator

Peter Fischer

Co-Curator

Anouchka Panchard, Aargauer Kunsthaus

Research Assistant

Sabrina Negroni, Aargauer Kunsthaus

Preview for the Media

Friday, 11.6., 11 am

Guided exhibition tour with the curators Peter Fischer and Anouchka Panchard

Information and registration: christina.omlin@ag.ch

Events

A number of events are being planned and adapted to the current situation on an ongoing basis. Before visiting, please check the information on our website at www.aargauerkunsthaus.ch. Registration is required and the number of participants is limited for all events.

Opening Hours Aargauer Kunsthaus

Tuesday–Sunday 10 am – 5 pm; Thursday 10 am – 8 pm

Mondays closed

Holiday Opening Hours

Open 10 am – 5 pm:

Eve of Maienzug 1.7.2021

Maienzug 2.7.2021

Swiss National Holiday 1.8.2021

Images for the Media

Images are available for downloading on our website
www.aargauerkunsthhaus.ch> Media. Please consider the copyright.

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