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Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
Federal Office of Culture FOC

Swiss Grand Award for Art / Prix Meret Oppenheim 2016
14–19 June 2016
Messe Basel, Hall 4

An exhibition by the Federal Office of Culture
Award ceremony 13 June 2016, 5.30 pm
Opening 13 June 2016, 7 pm

The Swiss Grand Award for Art / Prix Meret Oppenheim 2016 goes to Adelina von Fürstenberg, Christian Philipp Müller and Martin Steinmann

The Federal Office of Culture (FOC) is presenting the sixteenth Swiss Grand Award for Art / Prix Meret Oppenheim to outstanding Swiss culture practitioners: curator Adelina von Fürstenberg, artist Christian Philipp Müller, and architect and author Martin Steinmann. They, and this year's winners of the Swiss Art Awards, will receive their accolades on 13 June 2016 in Basel.

The Swiss Grand Award for Art / Prix Meret Oppenheim has been presented on the recommendation of the Federal Art Commission since 2001 to figures from the worlds of art, art mediation and architecture whose work is of particular relevance and importance to contemporary art and architecture. Each award carries prize money of CHF 40,000.

As last year, the Swiss Grand Award for Art / Prix Meret Oppenheim is presented in parallel to Art Basel and ahead of the opening of the Swiss Art Awards 2016 exhibition. The exhibition, which presents the participants in the second round of the Swiss Art Competition, also includes film portraits of the Swiss Grand Award for Art / Prix Meret Oppenheim 2016 recipients.

The award winners

Adelina von Fürstenberg (mediation)

International curator Adelina von Fürstenberg was born in Istanbul in 1946. She founded the Centre d'Art Contemporain in Geneva in 1974 and remained its director until 1989, chiefly exhibiting conceptual art, Fluxus, Arte Povera and performance art. At the 45th Biennale di Venezia in 1993 she received an award for her work as director and head of the school of curators at L'Ecole du MAGASIN in Grenoble from 1989 to 1994. At the 56th Biennale di Venezia in 2015 she was awarded the Golden Lion for Best National Participation as curator of the Armenian Pavilion.

Adelina von Fürstenberg is one of the first Swiss curators to demonstrate an interest in non-European art, paving the way for a multicultural approach with a particular awareness of social issues. After curating "Dialogues of Peace", the art exhibition marking 50 years of the UN in Geneva, she set up ART for The World, an NGO whose aim is to promote cultural exchange and dialogue between cultures and world views through the universal language of contemporary art and cinema.

Christian Philipp Müller (art)

Conceptual artist Christian Philipp Müller was born in Biel in 1957 and now lives in Berlin. He was a master student of Fritz Schwegler and assistant to Kaspar König at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf. He gained international recognition with his participation in the 45th Biennale di Venezia (1993, Austrian Pavilion) and documenta X (1997). The Kunstmuseum Basel staged a retrospective devoted to Christian Philipp Müller in 2007.

His works are represented in collections such as MOCA (Los Angeles), the Museum Ludwig (Cologne), mumok (Vienna) and, in Switzerland, the Kunstmuseum Basel and the Migros Museum. In addition to numerous lectures and publications, from 2013 to 2015 Christian Philipp Müller taught performative sculpture at the Kunsthochschule Kassel, where he was appointed rector in 2011. Since 11 June 2016 the Nidwaldner Museum

is staging a solo exhibition of the work of Christian Philipp Müller, in which the artist engages with the museum's rich and diverse collections. He is also participating in the anniversary exhibitions of the kestnergesellschaft in Hanover in May and the Museum Ludwig in Cologne in August.

Martin Steinmann (architecture)

Architect and author Martin Steinmann was born in Zurich in 1942. He has been working on recent (particularly Swiss) architecture for more than four decades, engaging in research, producing publications and organising exhibitions. After studying at the ETH Zurich, he worked as an architect and, from 1968, as a research assistant at the Institut gta, where he built up the CIAM Archive. He completed this work in 1978 with a dissertation that won him the ETH Medal. From 1980 to 1986 he edited the journal "archithese", before founding the Arge Baukunst practice with Irma Nosedà in Zurich; from 1987 to 2006 he was Professor of Architecture and Architecture Theory at the ETH Lausanne, where he was involved in the journal "Faces" and continues to work on the annual publication "matières".

The author of numerous publications, Steinmann has been an influential figure in the debate on architecture both in Switzerland and abroad: he brought the Ticino school to international attention with his 1975 exhibition "Tendenzen – neuere Architektur im Tessin". Steinmann has worked on a variety of projects with artist Hugo Suter, photographer Walter Mair and, especially, architect Roger Diener, and was involved in the expansion of the Stadtmuseum Aarau from 2006 to 2015.

Jury Statements

Adelina von Fürstenberg founded and directed the Contemporary Art Center of Geneva and, in doing this has largely contributed to the visibility of the local art scene, whilst also hosting many international artists. Through her work, Geneva has become a flagship city for contemporary art and many of its artists have later gained European fame or more. The jury distinguishes her as an outstanding personality, whose numerous initiatives have encouraged the Swiss art scene.

Christian Philipp Müller is an internationally acclaimed artist, with a unique artistic personality and the ability to constantly renew his practice. He is one of the few artists who analyses the context in which he is working and integrates this into his projects through the use of different media. Müller also dedicates himself to art education and actively supports the work of a new generation of artists. With this award the jury recognises the versatility of the artist, who is considered an important practitioner of contemporary conceptual art.

Martin Steinmann has a profound knowledge of the Swiss architectural scene and has influenced it during his tenure as a professor at EPFL (Lausanne) with a variety of texts and publications. As editor of various magazines and co-organiser of exhibitions he has repeatedly dealt with the perception of architecture. Together with Diener & Diener architects and Felix Josef Müller he recently realised the acclaimed expansion of the Municipal Museum Aarau.

Publication

Coinciding with the award ceremony on 13 June 2016, the Federal Office of Culture is publishing "Swiss Grand Award for Art / Prix Meret Oppenheim 2016", containing portraits of the award winners and interviews conducted by Philip Ursprung with Christian Philipp Müller, Daniel Kurz with Martin Steinmann and Samuel Schellenberg with Adelina von Fürstenberg.

136 pages; ISBN 978-3-9524508-3-3; German, English, French;
Editorial: Manuela Schlumpf; Graphic Design: Marc Hollenstein;
Photography: Tabea Feuerstein.

Free copies of the publication are available in the exhibition Swiss Art Awards 2016 or can be ordered by email: swissart@bak.admin.ch

Film Portraits

The exhibition Swiss Art Awards 2016 presents film portraits of the laureates of the Swiss Grand Award for Art / Prix Meret Oppenheim 2016. French / Swiss German with subtitles. Duration: approx. 6 min each. Concept and realisation: Jessie Fischer

Further information and press images

High-resolution portraits of the winners are available at:
<http://www.bak.admin.ch/aktuelles/01832/03512/05793/>

Swiss Grand Award for Art / Prix Meret Oppenheim and
Swiss Art Awards presentation ceremony:

13 June 2016, 5.30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

The laudatory speeches will be given by Roger Mayou, Patrizia Keller
and Roger Diener.

Swiss Art Awards 2016 exhibition

Vernissage: 13 June 2016, 7 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Exhibition from 14 to 19 June 2016, daily from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Admission is free.

Hall 4 of the Messe Basel exhibition centre

Journal: www.swissartawards.ch

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Swiss Grand Award for Art / Prix Meret Oppenheim

The Swiss Grand Award for Art / Prix Meret Oppenheim was created in 2001 to honour achievements in the fields of art and architecture. It is presented to artists and architects, curators and researchers whose work has exerted a lasting influence on our perceptions and played a key role in enhancing engagement with art and architecture. The award winners have fostered cultural dialogue in Switzerland and beyond, questioning the norms and forms of art and architecture to offer the best possible responses to the challenges of our time.

The award, which carries prize money of CHF 40,000 in each case, is presented by the Federal Office of Culture on the recommendation of the Federal Art Commission.

Previous winners of the Swiss Grand Award for Art / Prix Meret Oppenheim

2015	Christoph Büchel Olivier Mosset Urs Stahel Staufer/Hasler	2006	Dario Gamboni Markus Raetz Catherine Schelbert Robert Suermondt Rolf Winnewisser Peter Zumthor
2014	Anton Bruhin Catherine Quéloz Pipilotti Rist pool Architekten	2005	Miriam Cahn Alexander Fickert & Katharina Knapkiewicz Johannes Gachnang Gianni Motti Václav Požárek Michel Ritter
2013	Thomas Huber Quintus Miller & Paola Maranta Marc-Olivier Wahler	2004	Christine Binswanger & Harry Gugger Roman Kurzmeyer Peter Regli Hannes Rickli
2012	Bice Curiger Niele Toroni Günther Vogt	2003	Silvia Bächli Rudolf Blättler Hervé Graumann Harm Lux Claude Sandoz
2011	John Armleder Patrick Devanthery & Inès Lamunière Silvia Gmür Ingeborg Lüscher Guido Nussbaum	2002	Ian Anüll Hannes Brunner Marie José Burki Relax (Marie-Antoinette Chiarenza, Daniel Croptier, Daniel Hauser) Renée Levi
2010	Gion A. Caminada Yan Duyvendak Claudia & Julia Müller Annette Schindler Roman Signer	2001	Peter Kamm Ilona Rüegg George Steinmann
2009	Ursula Biemann Roger Diener Christian Marclay Muda Mathis & Sus Zwick Ingrid Wildi Merino		
2008	edition fink (Georg Rutishauser) Mariann Grunder Manon Mario Pagliarani Arthur Rüegg		
2007	Véronique Bacchetta Kurt W. Forster Peter Roesch Anselm Stalder		

Nadia Schneider Willen is the collection curator at the Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst. She was previously the curator for modern and contemporary art at the Musée d'art et d'histoire in Geneva, ran and curated the Kunsthaus Glarus (2001–2007), and was involved in the project space Kombirama and the Klein Helmhaus in Zurich in the 1990s. She has curated numerous solo and group exhibitions with both international and Swiss artists. Nadia Schneider Willen was born in 1971 and lives in Zurich. She has been chair of the Federal Art Commission since 2012; she was also a member of the commission for several years before that.

Giovanni Carmine has been director of the Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen since 2007. He previously worked as a freelance curator and art critic. He curated the Swiss Pavilion at the 55th Biennale di Venezia in 2013. In 2011, as part of the 54th Biennale di Venezia, he was the artistic coordinator of the exhibition ILLUMInations and co-editor of the Biennale catalogue. He is co-curator of Meeting Points 8, which will take place in Brussels, Cairo, Beirut and Istanbul in 2016/2017. Giovanni Carmine was born in Bellinzona in 1975 and lives in Zurich. He has been a member of the Federal Art Commission since 2013.

Julie Enckell Julliard studied in Lausanne, Rome and Paris and completed her PhD on Italian Art in the Middle Ages in 2004. In 2001, she received a diploma at the Haute Ecole d'Art et de Design, Geneva, in the field of Critical Curatorial Cybermedia (CCC). After a teaching post at the University of Geneva, she was curator for modern and contemporary art at the Musée Jenisch in Vevey from 2007 until 2012 – she has been the museum's director since 2013. She is also the art advisor for the Collection Nestlé. For the last ten years, Julie Enckell Julliard has researched drawing and presented the results in the form of publications and exhibitions. Julie Enckell Julliard was born in Lausanne in 1974. She has been a member of the Federal Art Commission since 2013.

The Swiss architect Andreas Reuter was born in 1964 in Mainz (Germany) and completed his studies in 1991 at the ETH in Zurich. He subsequently worked for various architects in Zurich, Basel and Berlin, including Herzog & de Meuron, until he founded his own award-winning studio, sabarchitekten, together with Dominique Salathé in 1997. Andreas Reuter lives in Basel. He has been a member of the Federal Art Commission since 2012 and before that time had served as an expert in the field of architecture.

Anne-Julie Raccoursier studied at the Ecole Supérieure d'Art Visuel in Geneva and the California Institute of the Arts in Los Angeles. She has exhibited widely, including Château de Gruyères (2016), the Kunsthaus Langenthal (Loop Line, 2011) and the Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2011); selected group exhibitions include "Die Dada La Dada She Dada", Forum Schlossplatz, Aarau (2014), "The Weak Sex – How Art Pictures the New Male", Kunstmuseum Bern (2013), "Making Space. 40 ans d'art video", Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts, Lausanne (2013), and

"Shifting Identities", CAC Vilnius and the Kunsthaus Zürich (2009). Anne-Julie Raccoursier lectures the CCC – Research-Based Master Programme – Critical Curatorial Cybermedia at the Haute Ecole d'Art et de Design (HEAD) in Geneva. She was born in 1974 in Lausanne and now lives and works in Geneva. She has been a member of the Federal Art Commission since 2015.

Anselm Stalder's work questions visual possibility, the exhibition as a medium, expanded language and the periphery as a setting. These issues are dealt with in a wide array of media and owe more to leaps of the imagination than stylistic logic. Anselm Stalder lectures in fine arts at the Hochschule der Künste Bern. The artist lives and works in Basel. He has been a member of the Federal Art Commission since 2012.

Noah Stolz works as a freelance curator, producer and critic. In 2004 he founded La Rada, an independent space for contemporary art in Locarno, and was responsible for its programme until 2011. He currently works for the project Stella Maris, a platform for production and distribution, which was initiated and implemented in cooperation with numerous Swiss and international institutions. Noah Stolz has been a member of the Federal Art Commission since 2009.