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Main Events – a Selection

Parkett. 101 Contemporary Art Books

2.3.–29.6.2018

This exhibition presented, for the first time, all 101 issues of the art magazine *Parkett*, a Swiss publication that gained a global reputation. It was also a chance for visitors to look back at the history of contemporary art from 1984 to 2017. In addition to every issue of the magazine, the exhibition showed a selection of works created exclusively for the Parkett publishing house by artists such as Andy Warhol, Bruce Nauman and Pipilotti Rist. These were complemented by information on the history of *Parkett* and the changes in the art press since the 1980s. Conceived in close collaboration with the publishers, the exhibition was accompanied by the digitisation of every issue of *Parkett*; these are now freely available online at www.e-periodica.ch.



The exhibition also presented works created exclusively for the Parkett publishing house

Museum Night: "Kultur retour"

16.3.2018

The 2018 Museum Night in Bern revolved around the European Year of Cultural Heritage. In an exciting treasure hunt through the Federal Archives of Historic Monuments, visitors of all ages discovered historical photographs and got to the heart of our cultural heritage. Other highlights of the event included concerts by Tim & Puma Mimi, guided tours of the NL's historical buildings, and the puppet show *Wilhelm Kasperli Tell*.

Annual meeting and conference of the European DDC Users Group

26.–27.4.2018

Almost fifty people from eleven countries attended the meeting of the European DDC Users Group, which is dedicated to the topic-based Dewey Decimal Classification system. Issues discussed include the value of the system, automatic classification, and use of the standard by the NL.



Museum Night: the duo Tim & Puma Mimi performing in the NL reading room

Annual general meeting of the SBVV

14.5.2018

The annual general meeting of the SBVV was held for the first time at the NL and brought together some 170 participants, who had the chance to take two guided tours of the stacks. There was also a small exhibition of around 60 books including the first volume sent to the NL for conservation by each of the participating publishers.

Netzwerke: Korrespondenzen

17.05.2018

The second workshop on this topic organised by the Swiss Literary Archives (SLA) brought together researchers and specialists in both archives and literary correspondence from France and Switzerland. It focused primarily on analysing writers' correspondence networks and the ways in which they sometimes served to affirm and consolidate literary groupings. Examining a number of specific cases including Flaubert, Proust, Hesse, Robert Walser and Georges Borgeaud, the workshop considered the main issues involved in the networks of communication between writers. Important questions were also raised concerning the shift towards digital communication and its future impact on exchanges of letters.



A special atmosphere in front of the NL, with classic cars from the Oldtimer Club Bern shuttling between the various locations taking part in Museum Night



Literally an interface archive:
Niklaus Meienberg, "Dialog
auf einem Papier-Tischtuch",
Restaurant Kropf, Zurich, 1992

Visit from the University of Florence

4.–5.6.2018

A group of students from the "Università degli studi" in Florence led by Mauro Guerrini (Ordinary Professor of Library Science) visited the NL. After a general introduction, the group looked at issues of indexing (rules, processes for electronic resources, standardised data), networking our data with external databases, and our cooperation with other libraries in the area of cataloguing.

International workshop: the future of philology in a changing media world

5.–7.7.2018

This workshop on archives as interfaces ("Schnittstelle Archiv") was organised in association with Uwe Wirth, Professor of German Literature and Cultural Theory at the Justus-Liebig University, Giessen, and Thomas Strässle from the Bern University of the Arts. The image of the interface as "apparatus, support and process" reveals remarkable parallels with the technical and social context of archival processes, such as digitising texts and making them available online, around which a real consensus has emerged among researchers under the umbrella of "digital humanities". Representatives of universities and archives in Switzerland, Germany and Austria all spoke on the topic.

LSD. Ein Sorgenkind wird 75

7.9.2018–11.1.2019

Albert Hofmann's best-selling book *LSD, mein Sorgenkind* served as the starting point for this exhibition on the eventful history of LSD. In 1943 Hofmann, a Swiss chemist, discovered the drug's hallucinogenic effects after taking it himself. LSD has influenced literature, art, music and society like no other chemical product. In an irony of history, the first partial ban on LSD in Switzerland dates back to 1968, a year that is famous for very different reasons! The exhibition also looked at the current uses – both illegal and medical – of a substance that one day could still go from "enfant terrible" to child prodigy. A number of the objects on display, both from the NL's collections and on loan, were being shown to the public for the first time. The exhibition attracted a record number of visitors.



Accompanying the exhibition
"LSD. Ein Sorgenkind wird 75",
the book by chemist Albert
Hofmann was presented
in a number of editions and
languages

Federico Hindermann, Tra caos, cristallo

13.9.2018

The SLA devoted the literary soirée *Tra caos, cristallo* to the poet and intellectual Federico Hindermann (1921–2012), whose work is currently the subject of various research and publication projects. The anthology *Sempre altrove*, published by Marcos y Marcos in Milan in 2018, is an important aid to understanding Hindermann's poetic oeuvre and includes around a third of the poems published between 1971 and 2012. Notable figures attending the event included the poet and literary critic Fabio Pusterla, editor of the poetry series *Le Ali* and author of the introduction to the anthology published as part of the series, and literature researcher Matteo M. Pedroni, who edited it.

Eros des Briefeschreibens: Friederike Kretzen, Matthias Zschokke, Robert Walser

19.10.2018

To mark the publication of the new, three-volume "Bern edition" of the correspondence of Robert Walser (Suhrkamp), writers Friederike Kretzen and Matthias Zschokke talked to Ulrich Weber from the SLA about their correspondence practice and the literary quality of Walser's letters.

Vernissage of Quarto no. 45: Rundreise am Lago Maggiore

14.11.2018

Issue 45 of *Quarto. The Journal of the Swiss Literary Archives* is devoted to literature with a connection to Lake Maggiore. At the vernissage, Daniel Rothenbühler offered an appreciation of the publication, actor Graziella Rossi read from the texts of a literary collage, and Michael Wiederstein (Zurich) talked to Corinna Jäger-Trees from the SLA about Monte Verità, the refuge for a number of generations of the marginalised. The issue was also presented in Ascona at the Casa Serodine in association with the Ascona Museums and the Fondazione Monte Verità (18.10.2018).



Federico Hindermann soirée:
Annetta Ganzoni (SLA),
Fabio Pusterla and Matteo Pedroni

The Cercle Starobinski in Quebec

16.11.2018

In 2018, for the first time, the meeting of the *Cercle d'études Jean Starobinski* took place across the Atlantic in Quebec, thanks to a collaboration with the Université de Laval (Institut d'études anciennes et médiévales / Groupe de recherche sur l'Antiquité). Amid the first snow squalls of the Canadian winter and with the temperature dropping below minus 25 outside, Pierre-Olivier Méthot, Stéphanie Cudré-Mauroux, Anne-France Morand, Guillaume Pinson, François Dumont and Aldo Trucchio each took their places at the podium. The theme for the study day was *Jean Starobinski: between the languages of science and aesthetics*. The various speakers' contributions can be found in the 2019 *Bulletin du Cercle*.

Study day: Jean-Marc Lovay, Laisser parler les monstres minoritaires

30.11.2018

This was the first study day on the important oeuvre of Jean-Marc Lovay, which was initially published by Gallimard but has always had a reputation for being inaccessible. The event was organised in Fribourg in association with the university's French department. It brought together researchers from a range of countries (Switzerland, France, Belgium), who all shed new light on various little-known aspects of this body of work: its links to counter-culture, the obsession with ecological disaster, writing on mourning, and the use of unexpected genres such as the "radiophonic" pieces or magazines. The day ended with a round-table discussion moderated by Fabien Dubosson at which three authors – Jérôme Meizoz, Frédéric Wandelère and Julien Maret – discussed their relationship with Lovay's work.



An evening on the topic of
correspondence, with figures
including Friederike Kretzen
and Matthias Zschokke

Gioco e impegno dello "scriba". L'opera di Giovanni Orelli – Nuove ricerche e prospettive

6.–7.12.2018

Giovanni Orelli (1928–2016) was one of the most eclectic and productive writers in the Italian language in Switzerland. He explored numerous literary genres and combined his extensive culture with innovative contemporary trends and with playful and satirical approaches, all the while retaining a strong political commitment.

Speakers representing a number of generations from Switzerland and Italy examined numerous aspects of his work. Manuscripts of Orelli's first novel, *L'anno della valanga* (1965), as well as objects and photographs testifying to the writer's life, were exhibited at the NL.