

Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel

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Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel

The number of visitors remains steady compared to the previous year, although the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel did not host any large exhibitions in 2006. The catalogue of Dürrenmatt's visual works will be published in French at the beginning of 2007.

The CDN had some 10,000 visitors in 2006, almost identical to the previous year, although no large exhibitions were scheduled. The exhibition on theatre drawings of Dürrenmatt's work at the Schauspielhaus Zurich by the artist Hanny Fries received the biggest response from the public and the press – especially in the German-speaking region of Switzerland. The biggest editorial work was the French version of the catalogue on Dürrenmatt's visual works (CDN collection). We found, with Buchet-Chastel publishing house, a partner that is adding the book to an existing series (*Les cahiers dessinés*) ensuring proper distribution. The work was completed in 2006 and is scheduled for publication at the start of 2007.

The CDN pursued a series of complementary goals with a multitude of event programs. The publication of previously unpublished Dürrenmatt texts in French and accompanying events are intended to increase the Swiss-German author's fame in the French-speaking region of Switzerland. For example, the *Monstervortrag über Gerechtigkeit und Recht* was published in French in 2006; a prominently booked event on the topic of *justice* took place as part of the publication activities.

The goal is to stimulate thought on contemporary cultural, philosophical and political topics by approaching issues raised in Dürrenmatt's work. The event cycle *Das Hirn/Le cerveau* pursues this goal, dedicated as it was in 2006 to artificial intelligence. Dürrenmatt's text *Das Hirn* was published in parallel in French.

The CDN further networks regionally, nationally and internationally and beyond cultural circles. An example of this is the CDN's contribution to the Neuchatoi project of the Canton Neuchâtel. The CDN asked African residents of the canton to take pictures of what they considered typical Neuchâtel citizens; the participants received instructions from professional photographers with the pictures presented in a small exhibition. The subjects of the photographs – mostly prominent residents – were invited as well; and appeared with just a few exceptions. This small project embodied three dimensions. First, it encouraged the participants to tackle photography; second, it established contact between the local populace and immigrants from other cultures and, finally, it helped the CDN network with other cantonal institutions.

For the concert series *Résonances*, this year conducted for the 6th time, the CDN opens its doors to contemporary music. It offers contemporary composers a platform to conduct their own works.

Whereas the bulk of the events at the CDN were targeted at a culturally interested public and did not require specific professional knowledge other than an interest in the content itself, the *summer academy* organized and conducted by the SLA is a professional symposium that is primarily tailored to literary studies specialists. It was conducted for the second time in 2006 and was dedicated – in line with the SLA's theme for the year – to the mystery novel: 20 under and postgraduates discussed the mystery novels by Friedrich Glauser, Friedrich Dürrenmatt, Patricia Highsmith and Hansjörg Schneider over the course of a week with experts in the field.

In addition to events designed and organized by the CDN, the centre also opens up its facilities to other companies and institutions for their own events. On the one hand as a means to generate more income, while promoting the institution's renown as a place of exchange and debate extending well beyond the cultural milieu.