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Prints and Drawings Department



Lausanne, 2017
(photo: Michael Blaser)

The new website kleinmeister.ch presents Kleinmeister from the Prints and Drawings Department in virtual showcases. The images are in high resolution and can be enlarged steplessly. The project is being funded by the Stiftung Graphica Helvetica.

Virtual showcases at kleinmeister.ch

Implemented by the Prints and Drawings Department (PDD), the website kleinmeister.ch is a novel way of presenting graphic art that has attracted widespread attention. The website enables users to explore the PDD's holdings of Schweizer Kleinmeister. The high-resolution images can also be enlarged to reveal details that are barely visible to the naked eye. The first showcase, devoted to the traditional Swiss culture festival of "Unspinnen", went live in August 2017. The second, on "Wine", followed in October, and a third, on "Glaciers" in November.

The NL is grateful to the "Stiftung Graphica Helvetica" foundation for funding the project. The Foundation Board has also agreed to continue supporting research projects in which the PDD is involved.

Collection

The poster artist Claude Kuhn donated the entirety of his poster output to the PDD. Beginning in the early 1970s he developed a highly distinctive, minimalist style characterised by clearly delineated areas of colour that has influenced many younger poster designers. The gift consists of posters, designs and preliminary sketches.

The photographers Michael Blaser, Gian Paolo Minelli, Christian Rijs Ruggaber and Dominique Uldry spent a number of years exploring Swiss regions and supplied extensive series of photographic studies to the PDD. The photo acquisition project, which ran from 2012 to 2017, aimed to capture the geographical area of Switzerland in pictures as a cultural space, and to document its transformation. The resulting photo series complement the traditional collection of photographs of landscapes and places.

The PDD continued its involvement in the "Artists and Books (1880–2015). Switzerland as a Cultural Platform" research project.

The Verein Gesamtkatalog Schweizer Plakatsammlungen (Association for the Swiss Poster Collections Union Catalogue, VGKSP/ACCSA) laid further foundations during 2017. It developed and approved the policy documents, collection strategy and conservation guidelines provided for in its articles of association. The annual colloquium, entitled *Le graphisme suisse, jeunes pouces et maîtres anciens! / Schweizer Plakatgrafik von alten Hasen und jungen Küken!*, was held at the Médiathèque Valais in Sion on 19 May.

User Services

The number of users fell slightly, from 516 to 505, but information and research requests rose by 8.3% (2017: 891, 2016: 823).



Lausanne, 2017
(photo: Michael Blaser)