

Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel

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Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel

During an especially productive year, the CDN took as its starting point the figure of Friedrich Dürrenmatt (1921–1990), with an exploration of both typically Swiss words and expressions and the symbolism of meals and Greek myths for the writer and painter. Adapted into film, dance, slam and music, Dürrenmatt’s literary and pictorial oeuvre continues to inspire the artists of today, as the museum’s diverse programme attests.

The CDN presented four temporary exhibitions in 2019: *Kokoschka – Dürrenmatt: Le mythe comme parabole*, devoted to two great artists and writers; *Helvétismes – Spécialités linguistiques*, a light-hearted and participatory exhibition devoted to linguistic characteristics specific to Switzerland; *Martin Disler – Rituels oubliés*, dedicated to a Swiss painter, draughtsman and sculptor of the 20th century with an enduring passion for writing; and finally *Friedrich Dürrenmatt – Le grand festin*, which explored various aspects of the topic of food in the life and work of the writer and painter.

Among the most successful events of the year were the contemporary flamenco performance *Los laberintos de Dürrenmatt*, as part of the *Hiver de danses*, and a Chukchi shamanic ceremony organised during the *Printemps culturel*. Some twenty events were staged during the year, including a number of *Salons Dürrenmatt*, discussions that brought together specialists, contemporary witnesses and audiences, a performance entitled *Dürrenmatt en slam* as part of Neuchâtel’s anti-racism action week, tours during the European Heritage Days, and activities marking Museum Night and International Museum Day.

Numerous partnerships were developed, with institutions such as the Kunsthaus Zürich, associations including Visarte, Les Lundis des Mots and the Italian community in Switzerland, and with cultural players in the region: the Jardins Musicaux, the Nouvel Ensemble Contemporain and the Espace Nicolas Schilling et Galerie. Thanks to a partnership with the Forum Helveticum and the Forum pour le bilinguisme, the trilingual travelling exhibition *Helvétismes* moved on to St. Gallen and will be shown in various Swiss cities until 2021.

The CDN organised two *Texte-Image* seminars on topics related to the work of Dürrenmatt. Two *Cahiers du CDN* were also published, the first containing a text by François Loeb recalling his memories of Friedrich Dürrenmatt, the second linked to the exhibition *Le grand festin*.

Activities designed especially for children were introduced, notably during the exhibition on Martin Disler, who had himself put together a collection for pupils of a school in Le Landeron. For the start of the new school year, the CDN also stepped up its cultural mediation programme, launching six new creative workshops for primary and secondary school children. Looking ahead to the centenary of Friedrich Dürrenmatt’s birth in 2021, this initiative reflects the CDN’s desire to open the institution up further to the new generations.

It was an excellent year for the CDN, with exhibitions and events proving very popular with audiences, positive developments in cultural mediation, and widespread media coverage of its activities, which sometimes attracted international attention. The CDN welcomed 12 300 visitors in 2019, one of the highest figures since its creation.



View of the exhibition “Helvétismes – Spécialités linguistiques” at the CDN (14.4.–21.7.2019)



View of the exhibition “Friedrich Dürrenmatt – Le grand festin” at the CDN (2.11.2019–22.03.2020)



“Los Laberintos de Dürrenmatt” contemporary flamenco performance (30–31.3.2019)