

# Prints and Drawings Department

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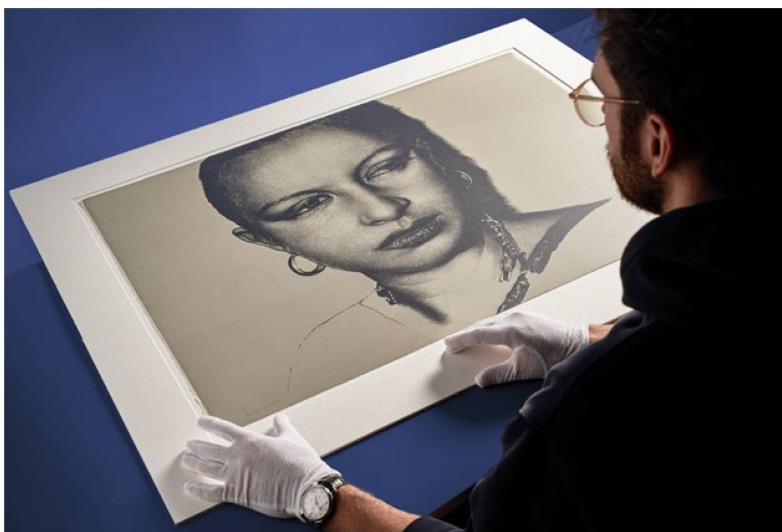
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## Prints and Drawings Department

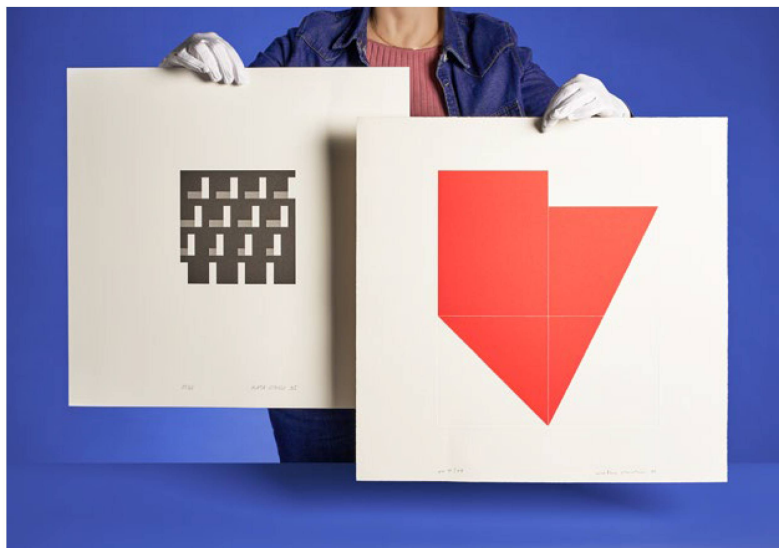
The collection of modern and contemporary prints was substantially expanded in 2022 through acquisitions and donations. Members of staff spent a great deal of time and effort finalising the archival processing of individual collections and archives. The in-demand collection of historical views of Switzerland from the Photoglob-Wehrli collection is now catalogued in detail. Outreach activities on the Federal Archives of Historic Monuments were carried out to mark the *European Heritage Days*.



**Franz Gertsch (1930–2022)**  
*Tabea*, lithograph, 1981



**Christian Scholz (\*1951)**  
 Portrait of Michelle Gisin,  
 silver gelatine print, 2020



**Atelier Fanal**  
 Screen prints by Nelly Rudin (1928–2013)  
 and Maya Stange (1926–2022)

## Collection

A few days before his death, the first print by internationally renowned artist **Franz Gertsch** was acquired (*Tabea*, 1981). Other acquisitions concerned graphic works by Swiss artists such as Sylvia Hostettler, Rosina Kuhn, Zilla Leutenegger, Luigi Archetti, Ata Bozaci and Romain Crelier. Twenty photographs were added to the photographic portrait collection, which comprises 30,000 photos and has existed for 100 years: ten portraits by photographer Julieta Schildknecht (featuring, among others, Christa de Carouge, Ruth Dreifuss and Andreas Spillmann) and ten portraits by photographer **Christian Scholz** (featuring, among others, Doris Leuthard, Michelle Gisin and Tobia Bezzola).

Three extensive donations were received in 2022. From the **Atelier Fanal** in Basel, which was set up by Marie-Thérèse Vacossin (\*1929) in 1966, the Prints and Drawings Department acquired the entire screen printing series of concrete art con-

nected to renowned Swiss and international artists. In addition, the Swiss National Library acquired the extensive work of Bernese artist Peter Stein (1922–2015) containing 400 abstract art prints. It also acquired a selection of 75 sheets from the complete works of Neuchâtel artist Marc Jurt (1955–2006), which reflect Jurt's life, oscillating between East and West.

After several years of work, processing of the extensive **Photoglob-Wehrli** image collection was completed in 2022. It is a comprehensive set containing around 37,000 black and white photographs from the archive of the largest Swiss postcard publisher, born of the merger in 1924 of Photoglob in Zurich and Wehrli in Kilchberg. A selection of 13,500 digital copies



**Karl Walser**

Stage design for *Leonce and Lena* (act three, scene three), lithograph, 1910



**Photoglob-Wehrli**

Lantern slides and photo prints from the Photoglob-Wehrli archive, early 20<sup>th</sup> century

is available to search for via the *HelveticArchives* website. Digitisation of the prints featuring views of places and landscapes in Switzerland was also completed.

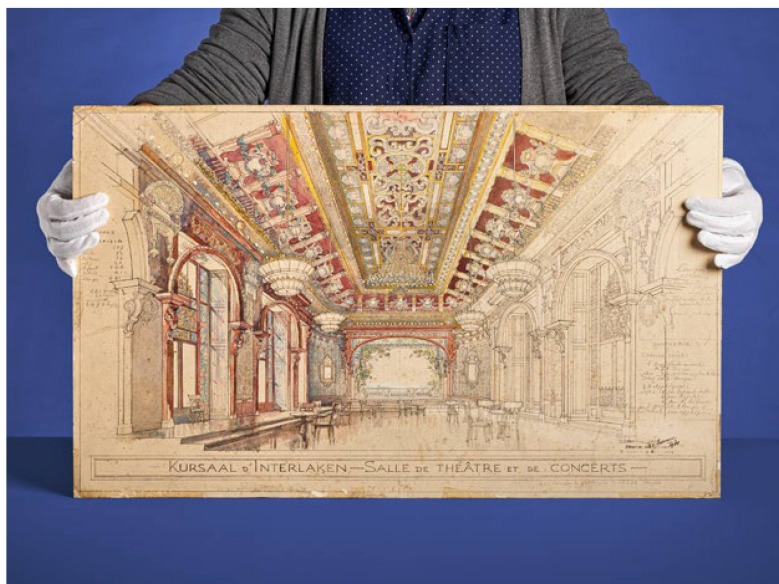
Four larger archives and collections, each of which comprises some of the graphic works of individual artists as well as personal documents, were processed in their entirety. They were *Pilztafelwerk* by Lenzburg researcher and artist Hans Walty (1868–1948), which is also available in digital format; the archive of Bernese painter **Karl Walser** (1877–1943), which contains draft stage designs and costumes, as well as illustrations for literary texts; the complete collection of the diaries of Bernhard Luginbühl (1929–2011); and the archive of artist and architect Bryan C. Thurston (\*1933), which contains sketchbooks and several thousand prints.

## Outreach

During the *European Heritage Days* on the theme of *Leisure*, the Prints and Drawings Department together with the Federal Commission for Monument Preservation presented precious items from the collection of plans and photos, such as the watercolour original plans for the Kursaal in Interlaken by **Paul Bouvier**. It also explored the history of leisure facilities, such as theatres, hotels and spas. The Prints and Drawings Department took part in the *Archive on tour* programme to mark the centenary of the Association of Swiss Archivists and was heavily involved in collecting websites on Swiss artists for the *Web Archive Switzerland*. The *Visual treasures* section on the Swiss National Library's website featured articles on works by Daniel Spoerri, Andreas Züst, Bryan C. Thurston, Fiorenza Bassetti, Paul Bouvier and Karl Gerstner.

## User services

At 745, the number of information and research requests was slightly below the levels of previous years (2021: 775). The collection areas most in demand were monument preservation and photography. The number of visitors on site was higher than the previous year (116 versus 91 in 2021). Some 80 original documents were loaned for ten exhibitions. Particularly worthy of mention are the loans of historical photo documents for the travelling exhibition on the beginnings of photography in Switzerland (*Dal Vero* at the MASI Lugano, *D'après nature* at the Photo Elysée Lausanne), the loan of works by minor masters to the Kornhausforum Bern, and the loan of the Mey-



**Paul Bouvier (1847–1940)**

*Kursaal d'Interlaken, Salle de Théâtre et de Concerts*,  
pencil drawing with watercolour, 1909

denbauer camera to the House of Brandenburg-Prussian history in Potsdam.

The digitised images in the public domain on Wikimedia Commons (WMC) were accessed 13.5 million times, which is at a similarly high level to the previous year (2021: 15.9 million.). The media available on WMC (15,742 files at the end of 2022) are mainly from the Prints and Drawings Department and will be expanded in 2023 to include the collections digitised in 2022.