

Contemporary art and the state

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CONTEMPORARY ART AND THE STATE

On 23rd and 24th August, at Wengen (Bernese Oberland), leaders in the fields of creative art, education for art, literature and music held a convention in order to discuss the subject "Contemporary Art and the State" in lectures, debates and round table discussions. The event was open to the public and its aim was to assemble representatives of public institutions, creative arts, critics, collectors and cultural planners. The subject seemed particularly topical in view of the numerous and often passionate controversies which have arisen in recent years in Switzerland in the fields of literature and art and also in view of the most recent events of a cultural-political nature. These subjects are to be further discussed during future meetings. The convention was under the sponsorship of Federal Councillor Tschudi, the Bernese Director of Education, the Mayor of Wengen and of representatives of organisations of creative artists as well as of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich.

[S.N.T.O.]

IN SEARCH OF A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

Just a year ago the "Centre Le Corbusier" was inaugurated in Zurich in the presence of important people from the four corners of the globe. Its unusual shape and colours make it as much a conversation piece as does its aim. Thus, thanks to the indefatigable efforts of Heidi Weber, a Swiss interior decorator, the world famous city planner, creative builder and artist Le Corbusier has received an impressive memorial in the beautiful lakeside Zurichhorn Park. At the same time it is his last architectural work. It is the first materialisation of an idea which he had been developing toward perfection in his mind for dozens of years. Although the great architect who hailed from La Chaux-de-Fonds in the Neuchâtel region of the Jura Mountains had always maintained friendly links with Zurich, he was never able to have one of his projects executed here in his lifetime. The Centre now stands here like a bequest of his mind which until his old age loved to experiment and look toward the future. In the meantime, it has become a great attraction in Zurich for devotees of modern architecture and modern art. The building, a fascinating interplay of steel and glass, houses exhibitions and collections, among them paintings, tapestries and sculptures of its creator and is also equipped for lectures and film showings. A roof quite independent of the building protects it from rain and sun. The pavilion is used for temporary exhibitions of various kinds. In the summer of 1968 there is a review of Le Corbusier's work as a painter. In September there is a photographic exhibit on Chandigarh, the city in India created by the great architect, while in the winter season 1968/69 an exhibition is planned which will afford an insight into projects for the future in the field of city planning and new possibilities of changing our environment.

[S.N.T.O.]

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A GREAT SWISS ARTIST

The National Horse Show at Tramelan, which has become one of the most important events in the Swiss equestrian calendar, agreed to extend its patronage to an art exhibition entitled "The Horse in the Work of Hans Erni". No fewer than 88 paintings, 37 original lithographs as well as various ceramics, mosaics and art books, representing the work of this artist, are on view at this exhibition, held in the wonderful setting of Bellelay Abbey (Bernese Jura). This event, which opened on 21st July, had already recorded 10,000 visitors after the first ten days; it will be closing on Monday, 30th September.

[O.S.E.C.]

"GOLDEN ELEPHANT" FOR SWISS POSTERS

At this year's international exhibition of touristic posters in the Sicilian town of Catania, in which 31 countries participated with a total of 438 posters, three Swiss posters were awarded the first prize in the form of the "Golden Elephant", ahead of Spain and France. These were the modern posters of the Swiss National Tourist Office, "Holidays in Switzerland put you on top", created by the young graphic artist Peter Kunz; the poster of the Tourist Office of the city of St. Gall, a much discussed collage of the Old City of St. Gall by Robert Geisser, as well as the poster of the Tourist Office of Geneva by Michel Schüpfer. This delightful collective success on an international level once again confirmed the quality of graphic art in Switzerland.

[S.N.T.O.]

NEW HOTELS IN ZURICH

Recently, construction was started in Zurich of a new luxury hotel scheduled to be opened in 1970. The "Atlantis", located at the foot of the wooded Uetliberg, will be in a particularly quiet location. It will have several convention and banqueting rooms with a total of 170 to 280 seats. — In very central position, a first class commercial hotel was opened on 1st September. It is called Hotel Continental, and with its 250 beds will be the second largest hotel in Zurich. In order to do justice to its particular designation of "commercial hotel" it is planned to run a special service to and from the airport at reasonable rates. — Two more big hotels are under construction — the Hotel Zurich and the Zurich Airport Hilton.

[S.N.T.O.]

A HOLIDAY SETTLEMENT IN THE TICINO

Between Melide and Morcote on the shore of Lake Lugano, a big holiday settlement is going up. On an area of more than 100,000 sq. metres, for the time being about 100 holiday cottages have been built on a steep slope rising from the lake. Below the lakeshore road, the first part of an apartment hotel has been opened which can accommodate 65 people, has a large lakeside terrace, a heated swimming pool, park and beach gardens. In the future, further buildings will go up on the site, including a restaurant, shops, kindergarden, etc., on the mountain side of the lakeside road.

[S.N.T.O.]