

# The arts

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## Belgian special at ART 14'83

THE 14th International Fair of 20th Century Art, ART 14'83, will open in the Round Court Building of the Swiss Industries Fair in Basle on June 15.

Over 300 galleries from 21 countries will be participating at this annual meeting place for the international art world.

This year the special show to be held within the framework of the fair is dedicated to art works from Belgium. The series of special national exhibitions began in 1973 with a "Special Show of New American Paintings" arranged ad hoc by the art dealers Ernst Beyeler and Leo Castelli (with works falling under the heading Action Paintings and Pop Art).

Since then, the special shows have been prepared by the individual countries themselves, according to the most varied viewpoints.

The ART has already hosted specials from Italy, Britain, Spain, Germany, France, Switzerland, Austria, Israel and the Netherlands.

# A rare view of Swiss art comes to London

"TWELVE Contemporary Swiss Artists", will be shown at Gimpel Fils Gallery, 30 Davies Street, London W1. (Tel: 01-493-2488), May 25-June 18.

This is a rare opportunity to see a group of modern Swiss paintings and sculptures, as no such exhibition has been presented in London for several years.

Most of the artists are represented by the Gimpel Gallery in Zurich, but its director, Anne Rotzler, has tried to bring together a heterogeneous group which shows diverse trends in Switzerland today, ranging from the work of **Camille Graeser**, who died three years ago at the age of 88, to that of **Klaudia Schifferli**, who was born in 1955.

Constructivism is well represented by Graeser, **Max Bill**, **Wolf Barth** and **Gottfried Honegger** (who will simultaneously have an individual exhibition at the Juda Rowan Gallery).

**Raffael Benazzi's** abstract wooden sculptures will be on

show, as well as **Jürgen Brodwolf's** mysterious reliefs and **Vincenzo Baviera's** monumental small constructions.

For sheer variety in the use of colour as a means of expression, there will be the fine shades of **Christina Fessler** and the bold strokes of **Wilhelm Jaeger**.

For new trends and expression we shall also be able to see paintings and sculptures by younger artists such as **Ruedi Bechtler** and **Not Vital** - whose name, from the Engadine, is most inappropriate as his art is full of vitality!

Films by Max Bill and Raffael Benazzi will be shown during the exhibition.

**Gottfried Honegger's** recent paintings will be on show at the *Juda Rowan Gallery*,

*Tottenham Mews, London W1. (Tel: 637-5517), May 26-June 29.*

A few comments on Honegger's works were included in the previous issue of *Swiss Observer*.

**Charles Dutoit** will make his debut at Covent Garden as conductor of "Faust", June 7, 10, 13, 15, 18 and 21.

**Volkstanz- und Trachtengruppe Trimbach** (14 dancers/singers and three musicians) and **Adolf Haeberli** from St. Moritz will participate in the *International Folklore Festival in Folkestone from June 18-25.*

**Edith Mathis** (soprano) will be singing with the London Symphony Chorus at the *Barbican Centre, July 19, 21 and 23.* The "Coronation Mass".

## New art and architecture guide is out

THE Swiss Society of Art History has published the third and final volume of an updated Art and Architecture Guide to Switzerland. The guide, published only in German, is entitled *Kunstführer durch die Schweiz*.

The Art Guide was first published in 1934 and was the work of Hans Jenny from Canton Glarus. He toured about 2,000 places in Switzerland collecting material for the work and, as he had no car, travelled mainly by train and bus.

The extensively updated version of Hans Jenny's work took 20 years to compile and some 36 specialists from 17 cantons worked on it. In its almost 3,000 pages, the guide provides highly detailed information about Swiss historic buildings, monuments, artefacts and works of art.

The first volume covers east, north and central Switzerland, the second includes western Switzerland and the Italian-speaking canton of Ticino, and the third contains the two half cantons of

Basle, Berne, Fribourg, Jura and Solothurn.

Founded in 1880 in Zofingen in central Switzerland, the Swiss Society of Art History publishes the so-called "black books" on historic monuments of the country. They index a detailed summary of architecture and art from the Middle Ages up to the 19th century.

The Society has 12,300 members, both in Switzerland and abroad, who pay an annual subscription fee of Sfr. 80. It is now

concentrating on a pioneering project on the "Inventory of Newer Swiss Architecture", the first volume of which is expected to be published later this year.

● *The complete three-volume Kunstführer durch die Schweiz costs Sfr. 236 and is obtainable from the Bührler-Verlag, 3084 Wabern, Switzerland. Each volume is available separately - volume 1, Sfr. 68; Volume 2, Sfr. 72; and volume 3, Sfr. 96.*