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Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel

During the course of 2007, three exhibitions were successfully staged at the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel (CDN), where the correlation between writing and visual forms was explored, in line with Friedrich Dürrenmatt's concerns. The CDN was visited by a total of 9,010 people, and with its many different cultural activities the Centre was able to meet the expectations of its varied public.

The *Les Mythes de Dürrenmatt* ('The Dürrenmatt Myths') Exhibition (10.2. – 30.4.2007) showed a series of drawings that came from Charlotte Kerr Dürrenmatt's private collection, which were created from 1983 onwards – the date marking the author's meeting with Charlotte Kerr. The drawings on show pictured Midas, Uranus, Gaia but, and most of all, the famous Pythias and the Minotaur.

The *A la limite de la langue – Collection Annette et Peter Nobel, Press Art* ('At the limits of language –') Exhibition (19.5. – 2.9.2007), accompanied by a publication, raised the question of the link between pictures published in the media and reality – an ambiguous subject matter that has received a great deal of attention by numerous 20th Century artists. The exhibition made a good job of getting across the question of text&picture, the main theme that the CDN is exploring and which constitutes the basics on which the institution was founded. Part of the exhibition highlighted the rapport that Dürrenmatt himself had with the press.

With over 4,000 visitors, the *A la limite de la langue* exhibition was an enormous success with the general public. A survey carried out amongst the visitors made it possible to define the relevance of this type of prestigious exhibition, with 77% of the people who replied saying that this was their first visit to CDN, 90% considering the exhibition very interesting and a great success, 29% coming from abroad, 44% from the German-speaking part of Switzerland, and 27% from the French-speaking part.

From 18th October 2007 until 18th January 2008, the Kafka Cycle, created by the Slovak artist, Pavel Schmidt, was put on show for the first time ever in Switzerland. A series of events was organised during this time, amongst them *Kafka verschrieben* ('Dedicated to Kafka') by the Swiss Literary Archives. The publication *Vous connaissez le Trocadéro* ('You know the Trocadero') accompanied the exhibition.

Conferences, lectures and concerts, as well as other events, all succeeded in attracting a very varied professional as well as general public. Especially worthy of note were Ulrich Weber's conference on *The writing of Play Strindberg* (18.1.2007), that of Stéphane Tendon on *The Frontiers of Language* (22.2.2007) and the audio-visual creation *Vallon de l'Ermitage* by Jonas Kocher (8./9.9.2007), inspired by the book of the same title by Friedrich Dürrenmatt.

Collaboration with contemporary composers, which has been a highlight of the CDN's activities since its inception, continued with the 7th cycle of *Résonances* concerts (29.3.07 – Hans Koch, 26.4.07 – Martin Schütz, 13.9.07 – Fredy Studer). The principle has remained unchanged since the very beginning of the series. The musicians stay at the CDN for three or four days in order to immerse themselves in Friedrich Dürrenmatt's literary and pictorial work, as well as in Mario Botta's architecture, and then they create a concert *in situ*. For the first time ever, each of the *Résonances* musicians gave the students from the Neuchâtel Conservatory a Masterclass, typical of CDN's not only national and international, but also local, mission. We should also highlight its involvement in the 'Neuchâtel Museums Night' (19.5.2007), the 'International Museum Day' (20.5.2007), the 1st of August soirée on the terrace and the lecture and concert to celebrate CDN's seven years of activity, on the 2nd of December.



Photos of the exhibition
A la limite de la langue

