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Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel



In 2009 the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel (CDN) was host to some remarkable intellectual encounters at meetings and exhibitions devoted to the work of Pier Paolo Pasolini, Martial Lederer, Bosc, Chaval, Sempé and Tomi Ungerer. – The series of *Concerts Résonances* inaugurated a new and promising formula, and the year featured a full calendar of events.

The year under review was a success at a number of levels. The CDN received 9784 visitors, or some 600 more than in 2008 (9172 visitors), despite a month's closure. The provenance of visitors is less homogeneous as before as the relative proportions of those from the German-speaking region of Switzerland and those from the French-speaking region are significantly more balanced. The CDN has teamed up with numerous other institutions and associations with an eye to offering the public a greater variety of high-quality events. And finally, the Centre has raised its academic profile by organising conferences and lectures as well as by participating in a range of colloquia.

Every other year the CDN mounts a major exhibition dedicated to an artist who has worked in the media of text and image alike. A writer, director, poet and painter, Pier Paolo Pasolini embodied just this sort of interdisciplinarity. *Pier Paolo Pasolini – Who is me* trained a spotlight on his manifold creativity with photographs, paintings, archival documents and a video fresco exploring his cinematic œuvre.

The CDN demonstrated its interest in newspaper cartoons with two exhibitions in 2009, *Caricatures: Bosc, Chaval, Sempé et Ungerer* and *Martial Lederer – Guerres*, mounted jointly with the Musée d'art et d'histoire de Neuchâtel. While the CDN presented the newspaper cartoons, the MAHN displayed "free" works of art.

The *Concerts Résonances*, an innovative type of duet, were an experiment crowned with success. Percussionist Pierre Favre and trombonist Samuel Blaser kicked off the series, and Béatrice Graf and Luzia Hürzeler presented a spectacular multimedia performance. The series closed with an interweaving of sound and text by percussionist Fritz Hauser and actor Klaus Brömmelmeier. The CDN's collaboration with the Nouvel Ensemble Contemporain (NEC) continued with three concerts under the aegis of *Littérature et Musique*.

Of the 18 events held in 2009, the following merit special mention:

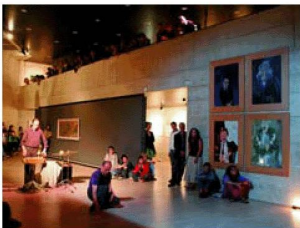
- the *Festival du Février des Auteurs*
- the *Anekdote, Biographie, Kanon* conference organised jointly by the University of Bern and the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg in collaboration with the Swiss Literary Archives
- *Dans le sillage de Friedrich Dürrenmatt*, IMVOCS' audiovisual soirée
- a performance by the *co.ainsi.danse* company during the Museums' Night
- the *Schreiben und Streichen* conference organised by the SLA and the University of Basel
- a dramatic reading of *The Tunnel*
- an evening devoted to Djibril Diop Mambéty
- *Guerre et Paix chez Friedrich Dürrenmatt*, a lecture by Pierre Bühler.

The CDN's terrace, meanwhile, was graced with the temporary presence of *Textura Grande*, a sculpture by Marc Reist in which interlaced ribbons of steel play on the border between stasis and movement.

The philosophical works in Friedrich Dürrenmatt's library, some 3000 volumes, were catalogued as part of the 'authors' libraries' project. Each book is described in *HelveticArchives*, its bibliographic information often accompanied by photographs of significant pages from the volume in question.



Caricatures: Bosc, Chaval, Sempé et Ungerer exhibition, photographs: Audrey Gerber



The Night of Museums at the CDN, photograph: Duc-Hanh Luong