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Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel



In 2010 the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel marked its tenth anniversary. The celebration got underway on the weekend of 25 and 26 September, among other things with the vernissage of the show *L'esprit Dürrenmatt*. Its summer academy, the exhibition devoted to Günter Grass and the series of Concerts Résonances were further landmarks during a year in which the CDN welcomed 12 164 visitors.

The year in review at CDN accorded the life and work of Friedrich Dürrenmatt a central position in three shows: an exhibition of his caricatures, in which his often black humour was comprehensively documented; a travelling show devoted to Dürrenmatt's play *Die Panne* ("Traps"), in productions at three theatres in French-speaking Switzerland; and *L'esprit Dürrenmatt*, an exhibition of photographic portraits that reveal, each in its own way, the personality of the writer and painter.

Artists working across disciplines and the relationships between text and image retain key importance for the CDN, as shown in the exhibition *Günter Grass – Bestiarium*, which presented the main milestones in the work of the winner of the Nobel Prize for literature and talented graphic artist in the original form of animal motifs.

The Concerts Résonances series continued along the lines initiated during the previous year, with several musicians sharing the billing at each performance: percussionist Daniel Humair opened the series in 2010 in an appearance with saxophonist Lucien Dubuis. To celebrate its tenth anniversary the CDN invited Fritz Hauser and Léon Francioli, two tenors specialising in the improvisation of contemporary music, to appear together for the first time. In another anniversary event, Bottlefed Productions, based in London and Bern, drew its inspiration from Dürrenmatt's text *Der Schachspieler* ("The Chess Player") for a surprising performance that mingled music, dance and vocals under the direction of Kathrin Bigler.

The CDN's productive collaboration with the Nouvel Ensemble Contemporain continued with three concerts dedicated to literature and music.

Worthy of particular mention among the events mounted by the CDN during the year in review was an evening spent considering "Dürrenmatt and astrophysics", which united two different but mutually enriching perspectives: that of Pierre Bühler, a professor of theology intrigued by the heavens as a source of fascination in the work of Dürrenmatt, and that of Sylvia Ekström, an astrophysicist, who presented certain aspects of current research in her field in such a way as to echo some of the Swiss writer's preoccupations.

In his installation-cum-performance *Play the Physicists*, meanwhile, produced during the Night of Museums, artist Kyung Roh Bannwart played with space, gravity and textual fragmentation when he invited actors from the Haute école de théâtre de Suisse romande to select and read aloud dialogue suspended in the room.

As it does every other year, the CDN organised a summer academy in collaboration with the Swiss Literary Archives. The 2010 academy, dedicated to the subject of "autofiction", welcomed Serge Doubrovsky, author and creator of the concept, to its opening ceremonies.

For the CDN, 2010 was a year of both celebration and reflection, a year in which it took stock of what it had achieved thus far and embarked on an initial phase of refashioning its permanent exhibition. Ten years on, its visitors remain faithful – and alert.



Views of the *Günter Grass – Bestiarium* exhibition.
Photographs: Duc-Hanh Luong, CDN

