

Zeitschrift: Annual report / Swiss National Library
Herausgeber: Swiss National Library
Band: 99 (2012)

Rubrik: Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel

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Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel

Four temporary exhibitions, seven concerts, six round-tables, three performances and a summer school were just some of the highlights of a rich and diverse programme that attracted a total of 8987 visitors: 2012 proved to be a very good year for the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel (CDN).

2012 offered an opportunity to explore little-known facets of the pictorial work of Friedrich Dürrenmatt. The year began with the exhibition *Aphorismes illustrés*, which presented the writer and painter's youthful caricatures and drawings. During summer, portraits painted by Dürrenmatt of himself and those close to him were shown in an exhibition that attracted great media interest. There were also temporary exhibitions devoted to two other talented artists: Walter Jonas and Jules Stauber. *Walter Jonas – Peintre et urbaniste visionnaire* showcased both portraits painted by Jonas and one of his avant-garde architectural projects entitled *Intrapolis*, which he developed in the 1960s. For *Tell(e) est la Suisse – das Kreuz mit dem Kreuz*, a selection of the 17 000 press illustrations by Jules Stauber reveals some of his perennial themes, including Switzerland, the clergy and the relationship to money.

Music featured prominently in 2012: in addition to the concerts by the Nouvel Ensemble Contemporain, the CDN twice welcomed musicians in residence as part of its *Résonances* concerts. The Kazakh-born singer Saadet Türköz gave a powerful and moving performance that attracted numerous music-lovers. The year ended in fine form, with an immensely subtle concert by the percussionist Fritz Hauser.

Major events included an evening devoted to the self-portraits of Francis Bacon and Friedrich Dürrenmatt; the multidisciplinary performance *Minotaurus* by Compagnie bo komplex, which combined dance, video and music; the Museum Night, enlivened by a performance created by Ivan Frésard that was inspired by myths and legends in Dürrenmatt and Jonas; and a debate on caricature and the concept of censorship, with the cartoonists Barrigüe and Bénédicte.

The fifth summer school on Swiss literature, organised in association with the Swiss Literary Archives, focused on “Enchanted places: fictional spaces between paradise and hell”, and brought together some twenty students and researchers from around the world. It opened with a conference by Jürgen Fohrmann entitled *Der Ort der Nicht-Orte (Utopien)* and closed with a public round-table attended by two writers from Neuchâtel: Claude Darbellay and Thomas Sandoz.

The CDN expanded its cultural outreach programme, offering workshops in German for secondary-school classes from Neuchâtel. The CDN's collection was substantially enriched by the donation of 512 items making up the collection of Charlotte Kerr Dürrenmatt.

The CDN welcomed 8987 visitors, a very good attendance for a year without a major exhibition. Three quarters of those surveyed stated that they intended to visit the CDN again. The majority of those attending events were from the region, while the exhibitions attracted large numbers of tourists from other parts of Switzerland.



View of the exhibition *Walter Jonas – Peintre et urbaniste visionnaire* (22.04.–15.07.2012)



Minotaurus, a music, video and dance performance by the Compagnie bo komplex (26.04.2012). Photo: Duc-Hanh Luong



View of the exhibition *Friedrich Dürrenmatt – Portraits et autoportraits* (18.07.–16.09.2012)