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Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel

2013 saw the launch of a cycle of exhibitions at the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel (CDN) devoted to the theme of the labyrinth. In all, 5900 people visited the CDN, an excellent attendance given that the centre was closed for five months for maintenance work.

The exhibition of caricatures by Jules Stauber *Tell(e) est la Suisse – Das Kreuz mit dem Kreuz*, which opened at the end of 2012, continued until February and attracted large audiences, particularly from German-speaking Switzerland. In March, the CDN inaugurated a series of exhibitions devoted to the labyrinth, which will end in 2014. For the first in the cycle, the CDN continued its approach of embracing the contemporary art scene by giving carte blanche to Augustin Rebetez, who teamed up with Noé Cauderay and Giona Bierens de Haan to create *Ici vous allez trouver ce que nous cherchons*. This exhibition, consisting of installations, drawings, videos, sculptures and texts, created a richly textured universe tinged with mystery and humour. Widespread coverage in the francophone media enlarged the audience for the CDN, particularly among families and young adults.

In December, the major exhibition *Balades avec le Minotaure* marked the reopening of the CDN. Developed in association with the curators Juri Steiner and Stefan Zweifel and featuring a unique exhibition design, it included more than 150 works from the 18th century to the present day by artists of international renown such as Goya, Picasso, Klee, Dürrenmatt, Varlin and Spoerri. It took visitors on a tour of an artistic maze with pictorial allusions to the labyrinth and the Minotaur on all sides, taking as its starting point Dürrenmatt's *Minotaurus*, where poems and drawings engage in dialogue.

Three concerts took place in 2013: the Haute école de musique de Genève performed chamber music from the Vienna school, while the NEC Nouvel ensemble contemporain presented *Madrigaux* and *Circonvolutions*.

Theology professor Pierre Bühler gave three lectures shedding light on various themes in the work of Dürrenmatt: biblical motifs, the responsibility of scientists in *Die Physiker*, and the thought of Kierkegaard as a source of inspiration.

Museum Night saw the vernissage of a book by Augustin Rebetez, a screening of *Hunting Diamond Jo* by Cowboy Noir, and a rock concert. The following day, a brunch, a guided tour and lectures were organised as part of Museum Day.

Young audiences also featured prominently during the year, marking the publication by Passages Piétons of a book of drawings that Dürrenmatt created for his children. At the vernissage, the texts were read by Ruth Dürrenmatt and Nathalie Sandoz.

In cultural mediation, the CDN continued its workshops in German for secondary schools and now offers themed guided tours. The inventory of Dürrenmatt's pictorial works was made available online.³⁵

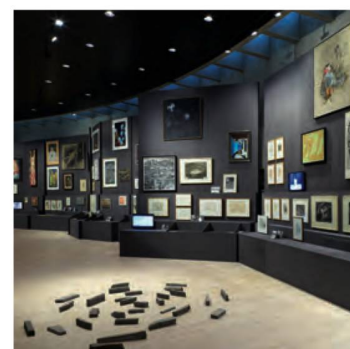
From July to December, work was carried out to improve the air conditioning system. Despite this lengthy closure, 2013 was a very positive year for the CDN, in terms of both visitors – 5900, an average of almost 40 a day – and media coverage.



The exhibition Augustin Rebetez, Noé Cauderay, Giona Bierens de Haan – *Ici vous allez trouver ce que nous cherchons*, 24.3.–23.6.2013



Museum Night at the CDN, 18.5.2013, photo: Lukas Tiberio Klopfenstein



The exhibition *Balades avec le Minotaure*, 6.12.2013–9.3.2014