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Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel

Historical personalities, contemporary artists, theatre, painting, debates and performances: the 2016 programme at the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel (CDN) was rich and varied. Fruitful partnerships were begun, new event formats successfully launched, and four publications issued.

The exhibition *Ionesco – Dürrenmatt. Peinture et théâtre* revealed the – mainly friendly – ties between these two greats of post-war theatre, both of whom also created a lesser-known pictorial oeuvre. For the exhibition *Matières*, the French artist Jean-Christophe Norman worked on Dürrenmatt's autobiographical production, focusing on the relationship between writing and walking and extending across various forms of artistic expression. The CDN also worked with the neighbouring Botanical Garden, and presented an installation of the exhibition *Land Art Neuchâtel*.

It pursued its policy of collaboration with other institutions and associations, for example organising a film and discussion series with Deutsch Club. International artists worked together on an interdisciplinary music and dance production for the performance *Bodyscape*. Events such as the *Salons Dürrenmatt* examined certain exhibition topics in depth. The 7th Swiss Literary Archives summer academy also took place at the CDN, and was devoted to the avant-garde in culture. The CDN participated in Museum Night and Museum Day, and continued its partnership with the NEC by hosting two concerts.

New event formats were launched at the CDN in 2016. They included the first edition of *Un dimanche au CDN*, an open day with an extensive mixed programme that proved a great success. A theatre festival, with guided tours, discussions, music and catering was organised in collaboration with the programme to promote Colombian culture in Switzerland. The traditional 1 August jazz concert was accompanied by a guided tour of the current exhibition and attracted a record number of visitors. In 2016, the CDN also took part for the first time in the European Heritage Days; the guided tours conducted jointly with the Botanical Garden drew many people to the Centre.

The year was also a fruitful one in terms of publications, with four *Cahiers du CDN*: *Friedrich Dürrenmatt, un suisse universel. Son oeuvre et son rayonnement, un regard synoptique*; *Mes rencontres avec Friedrich Dürrenmatt* (Bernhard Böschenstein); *Ionesco – Dürrenmatt. Explorations lithographiques*; *Jean-Christophe Norman – Matières*.

The year ended with a positive overall result. The new event formats were an audience success and attracted a new visitor segment – residents of Neuchâtel in the 20 to 35 age group – to the CDN. In 2016 a total of 8244 people visited the CDN (2015: 9387), in line with the average. Also of note was a visit by the National Council *in corpore* accompanied by Federal Councillor Alain Berset.



Jean-Christophe Norman –
Matières,
2.10.2016–26.2.2017



Ionesco – Dürrenmatt.
Peinture et théâtre
12.6.2016–11.9.2016



Un dimanche au CDN,
2016