

Zeitschrift: Annual report / Swiss National Library
Herausgeber: Swiss National Library
Band: 104 (2017)

Rubrik: Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel

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Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel

A passionate interest in science, a complex relationship with faith and caricatures drawn with a few pencil lines: providing insight into the multifaceted work of Friedrich Dürrenmatt is one of the tasks of the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel (CDN). The past year included some prime examples of this.

Friedrich Dürrenmatt is one of the few 20th-century writers and artists who was interested in the sciences. The exhibition *Friedrich Dürrenmatt – L'imaginaire des sciences* revealed how he used his knowledge in the creation of his literary and pictorial output. *Les Fous de Dieu* was devoted to the first work by Dürrenmatt to be performed, *Es steht geschrieben* (1947), and its second version *Die Wiedertäufer* (1967). It set out to show how Dürrenmatt's relationship with faith changed over the course of his life. It was also held to mark 500 years of the Reformation.

The CDN once again welcomed a monumental sculpture to its terrace in 2017. Hewn from a 55-tonne block of marble, Marc Reist's *Globo Uovo* depicts the Earth as an egg. At the same time, the CDN displayed Dürrenmatt's pencil cartoons of eggs with human features. The inauguration was marked by a performance in a vast installation made of eggshells.

The CDN organised 18 events in 2017. Some formed part of events such as the Printemps culturel, the University of Neuchâtel's Journée citoyenne, the European Heritage Days, Museum Night or International Museum Day. The last of these also featured the performance *Living Instruments*, in which micro-organisms served as musical instruments, and the interactive installation *Knodes*, which dealt with the relationship between art and science. The NEC (Nouvel Ensemble Contemporain) staged three concerts at the CDN during the year.

Partnerships play a key role for the CDN. In 2017 events were staged in conjunction with the Haute Ecole ARC Ingénierie, the Museum d'histoire naturelle de Neuchâtel and the Deutsch Club, among others. Collaboration with the Théâtre populaire romand (TPR) enabled a stage reading of *Les Fous de Dieu* (*Es steht geschrieben*) by Anne Bisang. The première took place in La Chaux-de-Fonds. Numerous personalities attended the vernissages or the *Salons Dürrenmatt* at the CDN, including Mario Botta, Claude Nicollier, Pierre Dürrenmatt and Samuel Schmid. The Centre continues to cultivate a multilingual environment, with a number of events conducted in German.

Two *Cahiers du CDN* were published to accompany the temporary exhibitions, and the CDN also initiated publication of the French translation of *Es steht geschrieben* (*Les Fous de Dieu*) by Arche in Paris.

2017 was an extremely good year for the CDN. The exhibitions and events attracted great interest and synergies with other institutions gave them a resonance beyond the immediate region. The CDN received 8012 visitors in 2017 (2016: 8244).



Vernissage of Friedrich Dürrenmatt – *L'imaginaire des sciences*; *Touching the audience* performance by Luca Forcucci, 1.4.2017



Les Fous de Dieu, 1.10.2017–14.1.2018



Globo Uovo, 16.9.2017–15.4.2018