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Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel

Friedrich Dürrenmatt often drew on Greek myths for his work. Within his family, he liked to invent stories with his children; in his public life he was also prepared to take a stand, as in 1968. In 2018, the CDN highlighted these various facets of Dürrenmatt's life and invited other artists and personalities to discuss them.

For all ages

Four temporary exhibitions were held last year: *Friedrich et Ruth Dürrenmatt – Tel père, telle fille?* considered the multidisciplinary work of Ruth Dürrenmatt; *Friedrich Dürrenmatt – 1968. Mouvement étudiant, Théâtre de Bâle, Printemps de Prague* looked at Dürrenmatt's politics; *Jean-Pierre Zaugg – Arte Facta* paid homage to an artist and scenographer who was a key figure in the Neuchâtel cultural scene; and *Kokoschka – Dürrenmatt: Le mythe comme parabole* explored two artists and writers who drew inspiration from mythology to discuss their own times.

There was a particular focus on children and schools in 2018. The exhibition *Friedrich et Ruth Dürrenmatt* presented a story written by Friedrich Dürrenmatt together with his children and was accompanied by a reissue of the book. Creative workshops were added to the existing cultural mediation programme. A performance inspired by the Dürrenmatt family's tale proved very popular with school groups and families.

Dürrenmatt in history

Another principal element of the events programme was a commemoration of 50 years since the Prague Spring, which was attended by the ambassadors of the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic in Switzerland as well as the Union of Czech and Slovak Associations in Switzerland. The exhibition *Friedrich Dürrenmatt – 1968* led to a number of partnerships. Several institutions in Neuchâtel had already arranged events to mark 50 years since May 1968, and the CDN launched a joint communications initiative that resulted in a programme and a website.

Other artists

The CDN continued its policy of exhibiting artists other than Friedrich Dürrenmatt. Jean-Pierre Zaugg (1928–2012), whose late work explores the relationship between text and image, also had a distant relationship with the Ermitage where the CDN is located. A partnership was established with the Neuchâtel Museum of Ethnography, which organised an exhibition on his career as a scenographer.

Kokoschka – Dürrenmatt included a mediation project carried out by art history students from the University of Neuchâtel under the guidance of their professor, Régine Bonnefoit, who was entrusted with curating the exhibition. The CDN also collaborated with the Kunsthau Zürich, which was presenting an Oskar Kokoschka retrospective at the same time, on a series of events in the two museums.

In 2018, the CDN published five works in the *Cahiers du CDN* series, including two new translations of texts by Friedrich Dürrenmatt: *Vallon de l'Ermitage* and *Midas ou l'écran noir*.

Overall, 2018 was a very positive year for the CDN in terms of visitor numbers, media coverage and audience diversity. The expansion of the programme for children delivered very good results, encouraging the CDN to pursue this avenue further. In all, 26 events – concerts, discussions, performances and guided tours – took place in 2018, with the CDN attracting almost 9000 visitors.



Friedrich Dürrenmatt's daughter Ruth Dürrenmatt presented her work in dialogue with her father's



Creative workshops were added to the existing cultural mediation programme



Kokoschka – Dürrenmatt: two artists who drew on mythology to speak of their own times