

**Zeitschrift:** Annual report / Swiss National Library  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss National Library  
**Band:** 109 (2022)  
  
**Rubrik:** Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel

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# Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel

The Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel (CDN) can look back on a pleasing year with three exhibitions and 26 events that proved popular with both the public and the media. The offerings that were launched to mark the centenary of the birth of Friedrich Dürrenmatt in 2021 went down so well that some of them, such as access to Dürrenmatt's study on Saturdays, have become permanent. Publications, podcasts and videos also allowed the CDN to reach audiences beyond the museum.





**Friedrich Dürrenmatt – Caricatures**  
Temporary exhibition

### Outreach

The CDN presented three exhibitions in 2022. First there was **Friedrich Dürrenmatt – Caricatures**, which concluded the exhibition series on humour in the works from the CDN's collection. It was also shown at partner museums in Germany, France and Switzerland. It was followed by **Friedrich Dürrenmatt – The Playwright's Arsenal**, which explored the way in which Dürrenmatt combined his love of painting and writing in the theatre. And finally, the exhibition **Friedrich Dürrenmatt – Le Jeu** pre-



**Friedrich Dürrenmatt – The Playwright's Arsenal**  
Opening of the temporary exhibition: a performance  
by Juliette Vernerey and Simon Bonvin

sented the many aspects of play in Dürrenmatt's work by comparing it with the works of artists Valérie Favre, Jacques Chessex, Guy Debord, Hannes Binder and Benjamin Gottwald. All the exhibitions were accompanied by an event programme, publication and an episode of the *Friedrich Dürrenmatt* podcast. The travelling exhibition *Helvetismen – Sprachspezialitäten* continued and was shown at a secondary school in La Chaux-de-Fonds and at the Musée Grütli in 2022.

The CDN staged a number of performances in the year under review, including *Conversation entre deux promeneurs solitaires* as part of a *Salon Dürrenmatt* on Rousseau and Dürrenmatt, the musical *Le Minotaure* adapted from the work by Friedrich Dürrenmatt, and the staged reading *Artistes suisses à procès. Promenade audiovisuelle avec Friedrich Dürrenmatt et Plinio Martini*: a fictional encounter between two icons of Swiss culture. In addition, CDN staged two concerts on its terrace on Swiss National



Day: an event by Jardins musicaux and a jazz concert.

In December 2022, the CDN organised a discussion enhanced with multimedia content in conjunction with the *Salon Dürrenmatt – A dialogue between image and text*. Participants in the discussion included German ambassador to Switzerland S.E. Michael Flügger, artist Valérie Favre, publishers Philipp Keel and Gerhard Steidl, professor Régine Bonnefoit and experts from the CDN. The discussion took place to mark the publication of the third and final volume of *Wege und Umwege mit Friedrich Dürrenmatt – Das bildnerische und literarische Werk im Dialog*, a publication by the CDN in collaboration with the publishers Steidl and Diogenes. This publication offers a comprehensive overview of Dürrenmatt's work and extraordinary expressive power for the first time.

Throughout the year under review, the CDN also offered a

number of projects outside of the museum: the travelling exhibition *L'Épidémie virale en Afrique du Sud de Dürrenmatt en images* was presented at the town hall in Neuchâtel as part of the anti-racism week. In collaboration with Passion Cinéma, the CDN organised a screening at the Festival du Sud of the film *Hyènes* by Djibril Diop Mambéty, which is based on Dürrenmatt's *The Visit*. The event *Eine Reise zu Dürrenmatt*, held on the train from Bern to Neuchâtel featuring Gusti Pollak as tour guide, took place 11 times in 2022. The series to mark the dual centenary of Friedrich Dürrenmatt and Leonardo Sciascia continued in 2022 with events at the Istituto Svizzero di Roma, the



#### Friedrich Dürrenmatt – Le Jeu

Opening of the temporary exhibition: (from left to right) Madeleine Betschart (CDN), Thomas Facchinetti (Ville de Neuchâtel), Carine Bachmann (Federal Office of Culture) and Damian Elsig (Swiss National Library)



#### Friedrich Dürrenmatt – Le Jeu Temporary exhibition

University of Bern, the Biblioteca cantonale di Bellinzona, the Teatro Foce in Lugano and the cantonal school in Enge, Zurich. The Swiss National Sound Archives contributed audio documents and a video to the centenary series.

Once again in 2022, the CDN focused on cultural outreach activities in schools throughout Switzer-

land and offered workshops in German, French or both. After a visit to the museum, the activities were held in Dürrenmatt's former studio, which has been specially adapted for schoolchildren and students aged between five and 18.

### User services

The CDN welcomed 11,107 visitors in 2022 (2021: 13,221), which is a very good average. Over the course of the year, the CDN organised 26 public events (2021: 21), 164 guided tours (2021: 167) and 36 school workshops (2021: 48).

### Networking

In 2022, the CDN continued its collaboration with cultural institutions in the region, in particular with the Bibliothèque publique et universitaire de Neuchâtel and the Les Jardins musicaux festival, and with associations such as Passion Cinéma, Visarte and Musique au cœur. It also initiated new partnerships, e.g. with the Festival du Sud and the Istituto Svizzero di Roma.



**Friedrich Dürrenmatt – Writer and painter**  
Permanent exhibition