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Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel

The Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel (CDN) had a defining year in 2023 as it was nominated for the *European Museum of the Year Award 2024*. Three exhibitions and numerous events were organised during the year. A three-year exchange project with Berlin University of the Arts began in the spring. The CDN now also offers virtual tours to make Dürrenmatt's work more accessible. In 2023, the CDN received broad acclaim among visitors and the media.





Friedrich Dürrenmatt – The Game
A look at the temporary exhibition



Friedrich Dürrenmatt's Sistine Chapel
A look at the temporary exhibition

Outreach

The CDN presented three exhibitions in 2023: **Friedrich Dürrenmatt – The Game**. The exhibition with works by Friedrich Dürrenmatt (1921–1990), Valérie Favre (*1959), Jacques Chessex (1934–2009), Guy Debord (1931–1994), Hannes Binder (*1947) and Benjamin Gottwald (*1987) displayed different facets of games as presented by Dürrenmatt and placed his works in relation to those of other artists. The exhibition **Friedrich Dürrenmatt's Sistine Chapel** explored the wall paintings done by the author and painter in the toilet of his house in Neuchâtel. This work was combined with other paintings and

drawings by Dürrenmatt as well as **virtual tours**. The third exhibition, **Friedrich Dürrenmatt – The Rebels**, showed a panorama of the rebel figures created by the writer and painter: from failing heroes to angry gods and Amazons to unequal couples. All the exhibitions included an event programme, a *cahier* (publication) by the CDN and an episode of the Friedrich Dürrenmatt podcast.

In 2023, the CDN also launched a new series of events at a rate of one per month: *CDN en famille*. In parallel to a tour for adults, there was a visit and creative workshop for children.

In 2023, the CDN cooperated with the *MUS-E©* programme

designed to bring schoolchildren closer to art, the objective being to implement this international programme in an academic upper secondary school in western Switzerland for the first time. The CDN hosted an event where works by Friedrich Dürrenmatt were accompanied by music. The CDN was both host and attendee at the *MUS-E©* annual conference.

The play *Pour Václav Havel* by Omar Porras (*1963) based on a text by Friedrich Dürrenmatt was performed twelve times in 2023. It is about the resumption of the play originally performed in 2021 in Dürrenmatt's study to mark his 100th anniversary.

The project, also initiated in 2021, *Dürrenmatt – Sciascia 100* was continued in 2023 with the publication of the picture book *Fritz & Nana – Die beiden Visionäre Friedrich Dürrenmatt und Leonardo Sciascia* (in French, German and Italian) published by Carthusa-Verlag.



Virtual tours

Exploring Friedrich Dürrenmatt's work



Friedrich Dürrenmatt – The Rebels

A look at the temporary exhibition



Friedrich Dürrenmatt – The Rebels
Vernissage of the temporary exhibition

In 2023, the third and last volume of the publication *Wege und Umwege mit Friedrich Dürrenmatt. Das bildnerische und literarische Werk im Dialog (in French and German)* came out. The work was published by the CDN in cooperation with publishers Steidl and Diogenes.

Virtual tours were introduced in 2023 in order to make Friedrich Dürrenmatt's work accessible to all irrespective of location. The tours are in German, French, Italian and English and allow visitors to immerse themselves in the permanent exhibition as well as in special exhibitions held at the CDN in the past.

Cultural outreach for schoolchildren and students aged between five and 18 continued in 2023 with more workshops.

User services

The CDN welcomed 14,517 visitors in 2023 (2022: 11,107), which is a very good utilisation rate. Over the course of the year, the CDN organised 71 public events (2022: 26), 178 guided tours (2022: 164) and 44 school workshops (2022: 36).

Networking

In 2023, the CDN initiated cooperation with Berlin University of the Arts, the foundation WhiteSpaceBlackBox, the Académie de Meuron and *MUS-E©*. It continued cooperation with cultural institutions in the region, especially with the festival *Les Jardins musicaux* and the associations Association Danse Neuchâtel (ADN), Tandem au Musée (TaM) and *Les Lundis des Mots*.

2023 marked the start of a three-year exchange project between the CDN and Berlin University of the Arts (UdK), in which the foundation WhiteSpaceBlackBox and the Académie de Meuron, school for the visual arts, both based in Neuchâtel, are involved. In May, students from the UdK came to Neuchâtel to study the work of Friedrich Dürrenmatt and create art projects related to the work of the author and painter.

In December, the CDN was nominated for the renowned *EMYA – European Museum of the Year Award 2024*, which is awarded by the European Museum Forum. The award is for museums that have newly opened or recently been renovated. The nomination of the CDN came after the renovation work performed in 2021 on the occasion of Friedrich Dürrenmatt's 100th anniversary.