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Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel

Exhibitions establishing connections between Friedrich Dürrenmatt and other artists of his time and the modern era, the mounting of works by Ruth Dürrenmatt, items on loan to the Musée d'Art moderne de Paris, multidisciplinary events and numerous partnerships: the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel (CDN) had a successful 2024, both in terms of the programme and cultural outreach as well as of media resonance and visitor numbers.



Dürrenmatt, Hesse, Rilke, and Wine
A look at the temporary exhibition

Outreach

The year featured three exhibitions. **Dürrenmatt, Hesse, Rilke, and Wine** demonstrated the role played by wine and its cultivation for the three artists and writers. **Friedrich Dürrenmatt – Animal worlds** examined the relationships between people and animals in Dürrenmatt's art and literary work; works by Ugo Rondinone and Christine Sefoloshia were included in the exhibition. Then there was the **Friedrich Dürrenmatt – Atomic visions** exhibition, which examined Dürrenmatt's perception of nuclear weapons by focusing on the topicality of his thought and showing works by contemporary artists such as Vanessa Billy, Christine Boillat, Miriam Cahn, Alain Huck and Gilles Rotzetter. The last two exhibitions included a CDN cahier, a podcast episode and virtual exhibition tour.

The CDN celebrated the mounting of Ruth Dürrenmatt's *Bienenwelt* paintings. The paintings on wooden panels were originally



Friedrich Dürrenmatt – Atomic visions
A look at the temporary exhibition



Friedrich Dürrenmatt – Animal worlds
A look at the temporary exhibition

made for the bee house on the path between the CDN and the Botanical Garden and are now on permanent display in the museum. The CDN also issued a cahier to mark the occasion.

Works by Friedrich Dürrenmatt were also loaned out to the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris for the *Atomic age* exhibition.

The CDN added new tour formats in 2024: for example, tours with a view behind the scenes at the museum and one wearing a blindfold were on offer. **Le CDN en famille**, which offers a tour and workshop for children once a month, was continued, enabling new groups to visit the CDN. A museum guide in plain language (French/FALC) was also issued.

Cultural outreach involving school pupils aged 5 to 18 was expanded, mainly via partnerships with theatres. This enabled the organisation of discussions in the theatres throughout three of the country's linguistic regions.



Friedrich Dürrenmatt – Animal worlds
Vernissage of the temporary exhibition

As a multidisciplinary cultural centre, the CDN's programme has repeatedly provided a platform to various forms of artistic presentation: music, with a concert by the *Nouvel Ensemble Contemporain* (NEC) in connection with the *Animal worlds* exhibition, a text by Dürrenmatt put to music by the musician Trummer for the *Atomic visions* exhibition, a jazz concert by the collective ARBRE on the national holiday and a concert by *Jardins Musicaux*; literature, with a text written for the CDN by Anne-Sophie Subilia, a reading of texts in cooperation with literary movement *Lundis des mots* and a discussion about the book *Valérie Favre – Malerei*; cinema with the screening of the film *Half-Life in Fukushima*, followed by a *Salon Dürrenmatt*; theatre through video extracts or photographs presented in the exhibitions.



Le CDN en famille
With workshops and tours for children

In 2024, the CDN upgraded its exhibition rooms and converted some of the lighting to energy-saving LED bulbs.

Following its nomination for the *EMYA – European Museum of the Year Award* at the end of the prior year, the CDN was awarded the *Prix Lignum* in 2024. The CDN received the prize for converting the Dürrenmatt swimming pool into a stage for performing arts and for fitting out a room for cultural outreach in what used to be his workshop.



Neuchâtel – Berlin

Presentation day for the exchange project

The CDN team was also able to begin preparing for the museum's 25-year anniversary celebrations, which will be held in 2025.

User services

The CDN welcomed 16,296 visitors in 2024 (2023: 14,517), which is a very good utilisation rate.

Over the year, the CDN organised 67 public events (2023: 71), 200 guided group tours (2023: 178) and 55 school workshops (2023: 44).

Networking

The *Dürrenmatt, Hesse, Rilke, and Wine* exhibition initiated by the CDN was realised in cooperation with Museo Hermann Hesse in Montagnola, the Rilke Foundation in Sierre and the Wine Museum in Sierre and Salgesch. In 2024, the CDN continued its exchange project with Berlin University of the Arts (**Neuchâtel – Berlin**), the foundation WhiteSpaceBlackBox and the Académie de Meuron. The museum also continued its cooperation with partners from the region, the Nouvel Ensemble Contemporain (NEC), the Jardins Musicaux, the Association Danse Neuchâtel (ADN) and Lundis des Mots. In addition, the CDN launched a partnership with Step2blind offering blindfold tours and participated for the first time in the *Let's Doc!* film festival, which takes place throughout Western Switzerland.