Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 25 (1998)
Heft: 1

Artikel: The Beyeler Foundation at Riehen, near Basle : artistic gems
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-907505

Nutzungsbedingungen
Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Mehr erfahren

Conditions d'utilisation
L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. En savoir plus

Terms of use
The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. Find out more

Download PDF: 22.08.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, https://www.e-periodica.ch

The Beyeler Foundation at Riehen, near Basle

Artistic gems

The top-quality collection of Hildy and Ernst Beyeler has been given its own museum in Riehen.

The legend of the dishwasher who rose to millionaire has a Swiss version too. Ernst Beyeler's life is an incredible story of a shop assistant who became an art dealer renowned worldwide. Today he is 76 years old and one of the richest men in Switzerland.

To begin at the beginning. In 1940 Ernst Beyeler was working as a salesman for the antiquarian bookseller, Oskar Schloss, a Jewish emigrant from Germany. Five years later the latter died, so Beyeler broke off his studies and took over the antiquarian bookshop. In 1947, he stretched canvases between the many bookshelves and decorated them with Japanese woodcuts.

An extraordinary patron of the arts

Ernst Beyeler enjoyed the confidence of a number of great artists. Picasso allowed him to select himself the works he would like to sell. He also took many risks. How else could he and his wife, Hildy, have become rich enough to be able to donate to the public a museum containing 120 paintings and 45 sculptures extending from the classical period to the modern?

Two of the greatest buying sprees the art industry had ever seen contributed to this fairytale success story. In the post-war years there was an atmosphere of new beginnings combined with a hunger for great paintings. And again in the 1980s art prices broke all possible records.

Monet, Cézanne, Kandinsky, Picasso, Matisse, Klee, Giacometti, Rothko, Braque, Mondrian and many others. The small town of Riehen has provided a huge park as a worthy framework for this great collection of the 20th century. And Italian star architect Renzo Piano, who twenty years ago helped to build the Pompidou Centre in Paris, has realised a magnificent museum structure, costing Sfr. 55 million, on behalf of the Beyeler Foundation. Canton Basle-City will contribute an annual subsidy of Sfr. 1.75 million to operating costs.

This new cultural achievement comes only one year after the inauguration of the Tinguely/Botta Museum, also in Basle. ■

New SRI head appointed

SRI is to become 'Swiss Media International'

SRI is on its way to becoming 'Swiss Media International', says Carla Ferrari, the new director of Swiss Radio International (SRI).

Carla Ferrari's many years with Ticino Radio and Television, her management experience as the interim director of the Swiss 4 television channel and her international experience over many years as a foreign correspondent all paved the way towards this pioneering step.

"I brought the world to Switzerland for 18 years" says Carla Ferrari, the first woman director at the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation, "and now I am bringing Switzerland to the world". As the successor to Ulrich Kundig, she will join the general manager and the six other radio and television directors on the management team that governs the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation.

According to Carla Ferrari, all forms of electronic media must be used to achieve SRI's overriding goal: to create a platform open to the world where there is dialogue with Switzerland and via Switzerland. Next to radio, the Internet is a key area:

- On radio, SRI's aim is to become the most important source of current information on Switzerland for its citizens living abroad. For its foreign public, SRI is to become the "medium of reference for comprehensive information on Switzerland". This implies a significant role for partnerships with overseas channels.
- Thanks to the Internet, SRI is aiming to become a dialogue-oriented, interactive medium. This is a suitable consept for worldwide, networked production which will also call for collaboration with the print media and television.

Carla Ferrari's wish: leading SRI to become 'Swiss Media International'

Carla Ferrari did not wish to give more details on SRI's plans in the area of television. "I know from experience that television productions require considerable resources and are expensive", she said. For this reason, she first wishes to develop a financially sound and feasible project. However, she believes that Switzerland can only achieve a multi-media presence abroad through radio, internet and television – and more precisely in the form of 'Swiss Media International'.

Manuel Küffer, Communication and Marketing Services SRI ■