

**Zeitschrift:** Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad  
**Herausgeber:** Organisation of the Swiss Abroad  
**Band:** 51 (2024)  
**Heft:** 3: Dayana Pfammatter - blazing a trail as Switzerland's first-ever yodelling graduate

**Artikel:** Something out of nothing  
**Autor:** Steiner, Jürg  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-1077626>

### **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:** 18.04.2026

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

# NIGHTS NOTHING RIENS



## Something out of nothing

The “Nothing” exhibition at the Museum of Communication in Berne shows that nothing is not nothing after all.

“Please move along, nothing to see here,” it says at the bottom of the ramp leading to the small space housing the “Nothing” exhibition curated by Kurt Stadelmann and his team. The entire display is steeped in irony. Or should that be “non-display”? Yet there is nothing pretentious about “Nothing”. It was German author Kurt Tucholsky who once wrote that a hole – the epitome of nothing – can only be a hole where something is not. It cannot exist in isolation. Take away the something, and the hole goes too.

To put it another way: the holes in a piece of Emmental only exist if they are surrounded by cheese.

The innovative Museum of Communication has rigorously applied this principle. There is a sign positioned next to a worthless 500-franc share of the now-defunct Credit Suisse. “Nothing but empty promises,” it reads. “Basically, nothing came of it” next to an origami paper boat made by someone who was bored in a meeting. “Nothing lasts forever” next to a wedding ring.

A map of the world shows the location of Point Nemo in the middle of the South Pacific. Point Nemo is the place in the ocean that is furthest from land. Nemo is Latin for “no one”.

You can put one of the listening cups hanging from the ceiling to your ear. A warm, resonant voice will explain that there is no place in the entire universe in which there is absolutely nothing. Not even in a vacuum. Nothing is never nothing.

It is always something, provided we want to see it. Be it joy, hope, a memory, an idea – or anything else. This is the message that visitors to the exhibition can take home with them. You can make quite a lot out of nothing.

JÜRIG STEINER

Museum of Communication, Berne: “Nothing”. Until 21 July 2024. There is an online game accompanying the exhibition called The Void. It can be played anywhere. Website: [mfk.ch/nothing](http://mfk.ch/nothing)