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THE ARTS

EXHIBITION space for the International Fair for 20th century art, ART 11'80, to be held from June 12 to 17, is at a premium. On the ground floor of the large Round Court Hall of the Swiss Industries Fair in Basle, where traditionally pictures and sculptures by the "classical moderns" are on show, there is not one square metre still available.

On the first floor too, where apart from graphic art, editions and art books as well as photographs, the progressive galleries are showing new and the very latest art under the title "New Trends", reserves of space have become very small.

The reason? A large number of galleries that took a break from exhibiting in the last two years want to take their old regular place once again, and others who have never taken part would now like to exhibit for the first time.

Art has barely room to bloom in Basle this June

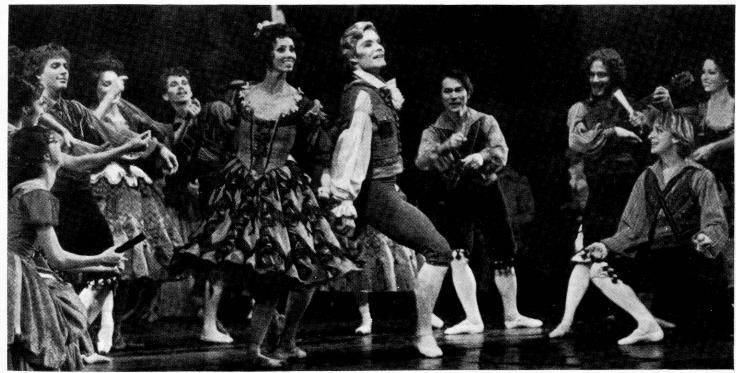
As always, the largest delegations are from the Federal Republic of Germany and from Switzerland itself. But it is conspicuous that this time a particularly large number of Italian galleries have registered with progressive programmes, and that the participation from Holland and Austria has also grown.

The French, English and Spanish art trades are well represented but American art dealers, with a few exceptions, are abstaining from exhibiting as a result of the pressure of their weak currency.

Among the special displays this year are the national show "Austria" and the "Perspective", for which the Swiss Industries Fair makes 16 exhibition booths available free of charge. Here 16 young, mostly unknown artists can show their works or set up a layout at their own discretion. They are invited by the Swiss Industries Fair to do so at the suggestion of a committee of progressive galleries.

With numerous parallel events in the month of June Basle offers art lovers an extraordinarily varied artistic calendar. The 21st KAM, the official Art and Antiques Fair of Switzerland, is taking place at the same time as ART 11'80. And another attraction will be an international exhibition of sculptures to be held in the park of the Wenken estate in Riehen near Basle.

An exhibition of young Italians can be seen in the Basle Kunsthalle, while the Basle Art Gallery (Kunstmuseum) is showing the works of the early alpine painter Caspar Wolf, who was only rediscovered a few years ago.



Deoborah Dobron and Jonas Kage in Don Quixote

Zurich Opera for Britain

LESS than two years after Zurich Opera's first appearance at the Edinburgh International Festival in a programme of Monteverdi operas, Zurich Opera House is bringing its ballet company for a visit to Britain from June 23 to July 5 at the London Coliseum in a season with Rudolph Nureyev.

The programme will include Nureyev's production of Don Quixote and a triple bill of works by Balanchine. Nureyev's "Don Quixote" was first performed in Zurich last October. During the ballet's visit to London Nureyev will dance the title role at every performance. Among other dancers, special mention should be made of Jonas Kage, who frequently appears with London Festival Ballet by kind permission of Zurich Opera House, as well as of Madeleine Stierli, the only Swiss solo dancer in the company.

The provisional Balanchine

programme includes Rubies, Who Cares and Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme. Nureyev will also dance at every performance.

The ballets will be produced by Patricia Neary, the ballet director who was one of the principal ballerinas of Balanchine's New York City Ballet for seven years.

Before joining Zurich Opera House she was for several years ballet director of the Grand Theatre de Genève.