

Worklist

Gallery perimeter

Christoph Büchel

Known for his provocative work Christoph Büchel tests the freedom of expression by combining different elements that are in the abstract harmless, into a constellation that unmasks mechanisms of fear. At a stall in front of Swiss Institute, an Iraq War veteran sells a bootleg version of the book "Total Resistance", a legendary work by the famed Swiss expert on guerrilla warfare, Major H. von Dach. The money is collected in a Swiss pressure cooker.

Lobby

Philip W. Sauber

German artist Harun Farocki, a fellow student at the German film academy in Berlin, remarked that the conflict of Philip W. Sauber between aesthetic determination and political activism is clearly recognizable in this early work. Sauber, who was of good Swiss stock, eventually went underground to fight capitalism. Acting as a RAF sympathizer, he was killed in a gunfight with the German police in 1975.

Dieter Meier

Coinciding with the opening of an art show in 1971, Dieter Meier stood in the entrance hall of the New York Cultural Center pointing a gun towards visitors in the entrance door. At his feet laid the written statement: THIS MAN WILL NOT SHOOT. Despite the high crime rate in New York at the time, the artist did not get arrested.

Main Gallery | Lower level

Olivier Mosset

The sculptures by Olivier Mosset are cardboard copies of concrete anti-tank obstacles (also known as dragon's teeth) used by the Swiss army in fortified areas. In military jargon these constructions are often referred to as 'Toblerone lines', after the triangular Swiss chocolate bar. Mosset's Toblerones merge the physical realities of war and abstract sculpture.

Karlheinz Weinberger

These photographs were taken at a Stones concert in Zurich on 14 April 1967. It was the first grand scale rock concert ever to be staged in Switzerland. The event is widely regarded as an important benchmark in Swiss youth underground culture of the 1960s; the first of a series of violent riots took place that very night.

Gianni Motti

In 1986, the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded in the skies above Florida. Gianni Motti contacted press agencies and laid claim to the disaster. On 28 June 1992, a magnitude 7.3 earthquake occurred in California. The artist alerted the Keystone agency and said he was responsible for the quake. Motti questions the different evaluation of damage, of catastrophe and terrorism.

Thomas Hirschhorn

Combining found imagery and texts, Thomas Hirschhorn props imagistic assaults in a DIY-fashion. "On Sabotage as One of the Fine Arts" is based on an inflammatory text that can be found on the Internet. It is enigmatically signed by Asturian Institute of Comparative Vandalism, obviously a reference to Danish artist Asger Jorn's post-situationist practice.

Valentin Carron

Valentin Carron questions the construction of tradition and identity in a globalized consumer world. Death race 2000 is an adaptive tricycle used by physically disabled riders, which the artist turned into a deadly weapon through the addition of blades. Ben Hur's legendary chariot race is evoked, mingling images of the heroic and the disabled body, entertainment and sabotage.

Main Gallery | Upper Level

Fischli/Weiss

Peter Fischli and David Weiss made their pioneering work *Der Brand von Uster* (The Fire of Uster) as part of their very first collaboration entitled the Sausage Series in 1979. The photograph is an ironic rendering of the fire laid by factory workers in the town of Uster in 1832 to protest against the rapid advance of industrialization.

Roman Roman Signer has been creating his unique sculptures for over 30 years, earning praise and recognition all over the world. For *Explosion einer Schachtel*, Signer uses two well-known objects of everyday life in Switzerland: a compost wire cylinder and a standardized PostPac, which is available at any Swiss Post Office. In a simple act he bursts the box with explosives, leaving behind a controlled pattern of destruction created by chance.

Andreas Züst

The photographs of Andreas Züst document the spray-painted stick figures of Harald Nägeli, a legendary street artist in the late '70s in Zurich. Nägeli later said that he saw his graffiti as political statements against the increasing anonymity in the city. A warrant of arrest was issued against Nägeli for willful damage to property. He spent over six months in Swiss prison.

Fabrice Gygi

Gas & Gaz is an almost didactic display with two different types of containers: jerry cans and gas cylinders. It is at once a pun (as the French and English spelling and meaning differ from each other), and a highly explosive display turned into art.

Albert Steiner

Albert Steiner became famous for his wonderful black and white photographs of the Swiss mountains in the Engadin valley that were widely reproduced. In his times, he was one of the most important promoters of Swiss alpine landscapes, respected for his use of the highest technological and aesthetic standards.

Lower Level Gallery

Jean Tinguely

Though set in the isolation of the desert outside Las Vegas, Jean Tinguely's early Land Art piece *Study for the End of the World no. 2* (1962) was telecast by National Broadcasting Company (NBC) camera crews. The Swiss artist blew up an entire apparatus with an impact mingling the work of Rube Goldberg and the effects of nuclear annihilation.

Elodie Pong

The video *Je Suis un Bombe* shows a person dressed in a panda bear costume performing an erotic pole-dancing act. The absurd dance seems to become more and more obsessive until it abruptly ends. The mask comes off and a woman looks straight into the camera. She rises and sketches a female image that is at the same time, powerful and vulnerable, explosive and inflammatory.