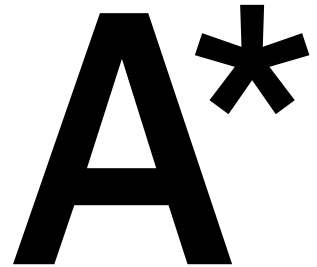


**Press release**

Aarau, April 2022



## **Before · Between · Beyond**

### **The collection in transition**

**15 May – 7 August 2022**

**Aargauer Kunsthaus, Aarau**

**The Aargauer Kunsthaus collection keeps growing, it already consists of over 20,000 pieces. The special exhibition in Aarau presents a selection of the latest additions – in combination with other key contemporary works. *Before · Between · Beyond* reflects the collection in three chapters: past, present and future. A new Augmented Reality offering gives visitors an in-depth view of selected exhibits.**

The collection – the cornerstone of the Aargauer Kunsthaus – is growing apace, and today consists of over 20,000 pieces of Swiss art dating from the 18th century to the present day. In recent years, notable donations and loans—such as those from the Ringier Collection, the Federal Art Collection, the Walter A. Bechtler Foundation, or from patrons of the Aargauische Kunstsammlung – have contributed enormously to the outstanding importance of the collection in the European art scene. These additions, including many works by contemporary artists, serve as a source of fresh inspiration and form surprising associations within the holdings.

Spread throughout the gallery space of 3000 m<sup>2</sup>, the exhibition *Before · Between · Beyond*. *The collection in transition* describes new narrative arcs in three chapters, reflecting the past, questioning the present, and venturing a glimpse of the future – sometimes gleefully departing from venerable principles of chronological order in the process. In conjunction with the conflict surrounding space and temporality, the title also refers to installation questions broached in many of the exhibits.

Major new arrivals confront key works of modern art dating back to the 1960s, and the effects of the juxtaposition are dramatic. The display combines photography, sculpture, painting, video, printed graphics, and drawing with large-scale installations and location-specific works that were created especially for this event. The exhibition offers remarkable glimpses into the holdings of this most extensive public collection of Swiss art and encourages lively encounters and new discoveries.

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In his large graphic work *Sphinx, 1931, 1935/1947* (2014/2022), **Marc Bauer (\*1975)** traces the historical legacy of the Swiss painter **Karl Ballmer** (1891-1958) whose work the National Socialists classified "degenerate" in the 1930s. In his installation, Bauer addresses the remembrance of a personal past, but also of that which we commonly call "History". In Bauer's drawings, the individual and the general blend together – private photos and recordings of historical events are superimposed on the image plane. What is fiction and what is fact remains unresolved, and so the exhibit shows how history is "made". The notion that history may sometimes lead to the abyss of human existence is also explained in **Valérie Favre's (\*1959)** artistic approach of self-determined death in 33 visually stunning paintings from her *Suicide cycle* (2003-2013). A completely different break with the space-time continuum is revealed in the film-inspired video work *Eight* (2001) by **Teresa Hubbard (\*1965) and Alexander Birchler (\*1962)**. Thus, as the visitor circles the lower level the poetic conflict between the collective and the most intimate realisation of memory unfolds, a theme which has been reproduced in the visual arts since time immemorial.

On the ground level, *Before · Between · Beyond* also pays tribute to the courage of omission, in fact literally with **Urs Fischer's (\*1958)** site-specific wall intervention *The Intelligence of Flowers* (2003/2005), which offers unusual insights and perspectives. Two donations from the Ringier Collection, which will be exhibited in Aarau for the first time, offer clues as to where the potential for future expansion of the collection lies: For example, as of recently the museum is home to the neon exhibit *Glamour* (1996) or the acrylic painting *Does my butt look big in this?* (2003), two important works by the western Swiss artist **Sylvie Fleury (\*1961)**. Meanwhile, the "walk-in" sculpture entitled *The Dancer and the Dance* (2002) by **Ugo Rondinone (\*1964)** adds one more impressive spatial choreography to the internationally renowned artist's already ample material in the collection.

Thus, an abundance of new additions meet contemporary key works from the Kunsthaus collection in a startling setting, such as **Mai-Thu Perret's (\*1976)** "walk-in", oversized teapot, *Little Planetary Harmony* (2006). For her part, in "Untitled 11-2012" (2012) **Shirana Shahbazi (\*1974)** combines analogue photographs with a geometric-spatial mural to lead visitors into an image space. The public is further immersed in the expanses of an onomatopoeic image world in **Christian Marclay's (\*1955)** intricately animated, large-scale video installation *Surround Sounds* (2014/15). This is the second time it has appeared in Aarau since its initial presentation in 2015. These and other exhibits on the ground floor are designed to render the experience of the time- and space-dependent *Between* with particular intensity.

The exhibition also offers a fine selection of works that invite rediscovery, having lost nothing of their visionary radiance despite their somewhat earlier genesis – most notably works by **Balthasar Burkhard (1944-**

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2010), **Max Matter (\*1941)**, **Hans Schärer (1927-1997)**, and **Hannah Villiger (1951-1997)**.

Besides important exhibits by established Swiss artists, the exhibition also brings together many works by a younger generation, such as **Seline Baumgartner (\*1980)**, **Taiyo Onorato (\*1979)** & **Nico Krebs (\*1979)** or **Francisco Sierra (\*1977)**, whose early career is rooted in the Aargauer Kunsthaus, among other venues.

The large collection presentation will be augmented by two guest contributions. Aargau native **Veronika Spierenburg (\*1981)** will create an ephemeral site-specific installation for the courtyard, and performance and conceptual artist **San Keller (\*1971)**, whose works can also be found in the collection, will make an appearance at the Aargauer Kunsthaus with his *Museum San Keller* before it begins touring as a nomadic project.

With a large number of works by some 60 artists, the exhibition affords matchless insights into the inventories of the most extensive public collection of Swiss art in existence and invites visitors to enjoy lively encounters.

#### **Artists represented in the exhibition (selection)**

John M. Armleder (\*1948), Marc Bauer (\*1975), Seline Baumgartner (\*1980), Balthasar Burkhard (1944 -2010), Miriam Cahn (\*1949), Valentin Carron (\*1977), Julian Charrière (\*1987), Valérie Favre (\*1959), Urs Fischer (\*1973), Fischli / Weiss (\*1952 / 1946 -2012), Sylvie Fleury (\*1961), Franziska Furter (\*1972), Christian Gonzenbach (\*1975), Stefan Gritsch (\*1951), Michael Günzburger (\*1974), Alex Hanimann (\*1955), Andrea Heller (\*1975), Teresa Hubbard / Alexander Birchler (\*1965 / \*1962), Daniel Robert Hunziker (\*1965), San Keller (\*1971), Zilla Leutenegger (\*1968), Urs Lüthi (\*1947), Lutz & Guggisberg (\*1968 / \*1966), Christian Marclay (\*1955), Max Matter (\*1941), Thomas Müllenbach (\*1949), Christian Philipp Müller (\*1957), Karim Noureldin (\*1967), Edit Oderbolz (\*1966), Taiyo Onorato & Nico Krebs (\*1979 / \*1979), Uriel Orlow (\*1973), Mai-Thu Perret (\*1976), Elodie Pong (\*1966), Markus Raetz (1941 -2020), Didier Rittener (\*1969), Giacomo Santiago Rogado (\*1979), Ugo Rondinone (\*1964), Ilona Ruegg (\*1949), Hans Schärer (1927 - 1997), Shirana Shahbazi (\*1974), Francisco Sierra (\*1977), Roman Signer (\*1938), Veronika Spierenburg (\*1981), Christine Streuli (\*1975), Hugo Suter (1943 -2013), Paul Takács (\*1974), Fiona Tan (\*1966), Hannah Villiger (\*1951 - 1997) and others

#### **Curators**

Simona Ciuccio & Katrin Weilenmann

#### **Curatorial Assistance**

Bassma El Adisey

## **Media preview**

Thursday 12 May, 11 am

Tour of the exhibition led by curators Simona Ciuccio & Katrin Weilenmann and Director Dr. Katharina Ammann.

Information and registration: christina.omlin@ag.ch

## **Opening**

Saturday 14 May, 5 pm

Speakers:

Dr Katharina Ammann, Director  
Roberto Belci, Region Head Credit Suisse Aargau  
Simona Ciuccio, curator of the collection

Followed by aperitifs and food in the tent  
Free admission

## **Preview for Art Association members**

Saturday 14 May, 4-5 pm

Exclusively for benefactors and members of the Aargau Art Association

## **Events**

Thursday, 2 June, 6.30 pm

### **Who will become the "Museum San Keller"?**

Together with Marianne and Fritz Keller, the performance artist San Keller presents the history of the *Museum San Keller*. They also answer questions from individuals who would be interested in making the *Museum San Keller* accessible to the public on their private premises for a limited time.

Thursday 16 June, 6.30 pm and 8 pm

### **Fenêtres ouvertes**

A dance performance by the Michal B. Poladian Children's & Junior Dance Theatre

Directed by Michal B. Poladian, in cooperation with Jennifer Schippert Matheja, Rahel Merz, Michaela Kvet, Elisa Peter Rossignoli

Two dance troupes, two concepts which are blended in the Aargauer Kunsthaus to create an artistic visual treat. By turns emotionally exuberant, poetic, mischievous or rather abstract, windows are opened into different worlds, giving the public the space to form their own images and impressions. Dance as dialogue between space, art and emotion.

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### **Augmented Reality - digital experience**

For the unaccompanied tour, visitors may use a newly developed Augmented Reality offering on selected exhibits free of charge.

### **21 - 26 June 2022 Flowers for Art.**

#### **Floral interpretations of works in the collection**

A modified form of the *Before · Between · Beyond* exhibition will be open to viewing during the special *Flowers for Art* event.

Information about the details and possible programme changes at short notice will be provided on our website: [www.aargauerkunsthhaus.ch](http://www.aargauerkunsthhaus.ch).

### **Aargauer Kunsthaus opening hours**

Tuesday - Sunday 10 am - 5 pm, Thursday 10 am - 8 pm  
Closed Monday

### **Opening hours on public holidays**

Ascension Day 26 May 10 am - 5 pm  
Whitsun 5 May 10 am - 5 pm  
Whit Monday 6 June 10 am - 5 pm  
Maienzug Eve 30 June 10 am - 5 pm  
Maienzug 1 July 10 am - 5 pm  
Swiss National Day 1 August 10 am - 5 pm

### **Visual material**

Images are available for downloading from our website  
[www.aargauerkunsthhaus.ch](http://www.aargauerkunsthhaus.ch) > **Medien**. Please observe the photography credits.

### **For further information**

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