

**Swiss Grand Award for Art
Prix Meret Oppenheim 2017
13–18 June 2017
Messe Basel, Hall 3**

**An exhibition by the Federal Office of Culture
Press preview 12 June 2017, 10 am
Award ceremony 12 June 2017, 5 pm
Opening 12 June 2017, 7 pm**



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Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
Federal Office of Culture FOC

**Swiss Grand Award for Art / Prix Meret Oppenheim 2017
goes to Daniela Keiser, Peter Märkli and Philip Ursprung**

This year, the Federal Office of Culture (FOC) is presenting the seventeenth Swiss Grand Award for Art / Prix Meret Oppenheim to outstanding Swiss culture practitioners: the artist Daniela Keiser, architect Peter Märkli, and author and curator Philip Ursprung. They, and this year's winners of the Swiss Art Awards, will receive their accolades on 12 June 2017 in Basel.

The Swiss Grand Award for Art / Prix Meret Oppenheim has been presented on the recommendation of the Federal Art Commission since 2001 to figures from the worlds of art, art mediation and architecture whose work is of particular relevance and importance to contemporary Swiss art and architecture. Each award carries prize money of CHF 40 000.

The Swiss Art Awards exhibition, which showcases the participants in the second round of the Swiss Art Competition, also includes film portraits of the Swiss Grand Award for Art / Prix Meret Oppenheim 2017 recipients.

The laureates

Daniela Keiser

(born 1963 in Neuhausen, lives in Zurich)

Daniela Keiser is a conceptual and installation artist working in the media of photography and language, which she translates into a variety of exhibition and presentation formats.

She studied at the Basel Academy of Art and Design and the Zurich University of the Arts, and has taught at the Bern University of the Arts since 2008. She has completed studio residences and worked abroad at locations including London, Paris, New York, Berlin, Cairo and Turkey. Her work is represented in a number of public collections, including the Fotomuseum Winterthur, the Museum für Gegenwartskunst Basel, and the Swiss National Library in Bern.

Currently living in Zurich, the artist recently launched “In and Out of Translation”, which brought translators of her textual works from previous years together to discuss them from their various perspectives, with the results being combined into the publication. In addition to language, photographic images also play a key role in her art. Through most extensive installations, Keiser challenges the perception of viewers.

Peter Märkli

(born 1953 in Zurich, lives in Zurich)

Peter Märkli is one of the most influential architects of our times. His architecture, drawings and teachings are highly regarded among the younger generation in particular and greatly admired internationally.

He began designing his first constructions, in collaboration with Gody Kühnis, while still a student of architecture at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich. He has run his own studio since 1978, completing small drawings that form part of his design activities but also function in their own right. In 1992 he teamed up with Stefan Bellwalder to build the La Congiunta museum of reliefs and half-length figures of the artist Hans Josephsohn in Giornico that brought him worldwide recognition. The broad spectrum of his work encompasses the Synthes headquarters in Solothurn; the building project for an insurance company at Mythenquai, the Im Gut cooperative housing development, the apartment building on Hohlstrasse and the Belvoirpark hotel management school, all in Zurich; and the visitor centre and Picasso house in Basel. From 2002 to 2015 he was Professor of Architecture and Construction at ETH Zurich. He has lectured and presented exhibitions at venues including Moscow, London, Tokyo and New Delhi and at the Architecture Biennale in Venice.

Peter Märkli sees the professional architect as someone whose art is always implicated in history and society but must also be contemporary and, to some extent, autonomous. Remaining true to oneself, creating buildings that are both good and expressive, eliciting answers from architecture as one would from life, to questions that might be simple or particular yet are never unusual or fashionable—that is and always has been the driving force behind his work.

Philip Ursprung
(born 1963 in Baltimore, lives in Zurich)

Seeking out, probing and transgressing boundaries: Philip Ursprung conducts research within his own discipline and across disciplines. Through the transposition of ideas and concepts, and his experimental investigative methods, he expands the theoretical discourse within research.

He studied art history, general history and German literature in Geneva, Vienna and Berlin, receiving his doctorate from the Free University of Berlin in 1993 and completing his habilitation at ETH Zurich in 1999. Since then he has taught at institutions including the Berlin University of the Arts, ETH Zurich, Columbia University New York, the University of Zurich and the Barcelona Institute of Architecture. He has been Professor for the History of Art and Architecture at ETH Zurich since 2011. During the 1990s, together with Hedy Graber, he curated exhibitions at the Kunsthalle Palazzo in Liestal and was a guest curator at the Museum für Gegenwartskunst in Basel and the Canadian Center for Architecture in Montreal. He is also the editor and author of numerous books on topics including the architectural firms Herzog & de Meuron and Caruso St John as well as the limits to art, with particular reference to Allan Kaprow and the happening and Robert Smithson and Land Art. Since 2015 he has headed the “Tourism and Cultural Heritage: A Case Study on the Explorer Franz Junghuhn” research project at the Future Cities Laboratory of the Singapore-ETH Centre.

In his many and varied functions and through a range of formats he conveys a sensitivity to the ill-defined frontier zones in which rigid definitions break down, vital forces are in motion, and unexpected connections arise—opening up new dimensions of intellectual and creative freedom.

Jury Statement

By awarding the Swiss Grand Art Award / Prix Meret Oppenheim to Daniela Keiser, Peter Märkli and Philip Ursprung—three personalities who in the course of their careers have given us the most marvelous works—we yet again want to pay homage to that vision of diversity and complexity.

The 2017 Swiss Grand Art Award / Prix Meret Oppenheim is awarded to individuals who do not rest on their laurels and who through their work without doubt still have much to teach us, amaze us and inspire us to view art in fresh ways. We thank them for—and compliment them on—all they have gifted us to date.

Giovanni Carmine

Publication

Coinciding with the award ceremony on 12 June 2017, the Federal Office of Culture is publishing "Swiss Grand Award for Art / Prix Meret Oppenheim 2017", containing portraits of the award winners and interviews conducted by Thomas Seelig with Daniela Keiser, Georg Krüger with Peter Märkli and Judit Solt with Philip Ursprung.

198 pages; ISBN 978-3-9522701-3-4;
German, English; Editorial: Manuela Schlumpf; Graphic Design: Larissa Kasper, Rosario Florio und Samuel Bänziger;
Photography: Katalin Deér.

Free copies of the publication are available in the exhibition Swiss Art Awards 2017 or can be ordered by email: swissart@bak.admin.ch

Film Portraits

The exhibition Swiss Art Awards 2017 presents film portraits of the laureates of the Swiss Grand Award for Art / Prix Meret Oppenheim 2017.

German with subtitles.

Duration: approx. 7 min each. Concept and realisation: Matthias Huser, 8horses.

The Prix Meret Oppenheim was established in 2001 by the Swiss Federal Office of Culture in cooperation with the Federal Art Commission. It serves to honor individuals working in art, architecture, art education, research or criticism who have managed to help make Swiss art shine for many years and beyond national borders. The award carries a prize money of CHF 40 000.

Jury Prix Meret Oppenheim 2017

Federal Art Commission

President

Nadia Schneider Willen

Members

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Julie Enckell Julliard

Anne-Julie Raccoursier

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Anselm Stalder

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Gabriela Mazza

Aldo Nalli

2016
Adelina von Fürstenberg
Christian Philipp Müller
Martin Steinmann

2015
Christoph Büchel
Olivier Mosset
Urs Stahel
Staufner/Hasler

2014
Anton Bruhin
Catherine Quéloz
Pipilotti Rist
pool Architekten

2013
Thomas Huber
Quintus Miller &
Paola Maranta
Marc-Olivier Wahler

2012
Bice Curiger
Niele Toroni
Günther Vogt

2011
John Armleder
Patrick Devanthery &
Inès Lamunière
Silvia Gmür
Ingeborg Lüscher
Guido Nussbaum

2010
Gion A. Caminada
Yan Duyvendak
Claudia & Julia Müller
Annette Schindler
Roman Signer

2009
Ursula Biemann
Roger Diener
Christian Marclay
Muda Mathis & Sus Zwick
Ingrid Wildi Merino

2008
edition fink
(Georg Rutishauser)
Mariann Grunder
Manon
Mario Pagliarani
Arthur Rüegg

2007
Véronique Bacchetta
Kurt W. Forster
Peter Roesch
Anselm Stalder

2006
Dario Gamboni
Markus Raetz
Catherine Schelbert
Robert Suermondt
Rolf Winnewisser
Peter Zumthor

2005
Miriam Cahn
Alexander Fickert &
Katharina Knapkiewicz
Johannes Gachnang
Gianni Motti
Václav Požárek
Michel Ritter

2004
Christine Binswanger &
Harry Gugger
Roman Kurzmeyer
Peter Regli
Hannes Rickli

2003
Silvia Bächli
Rudolf Blättler
Hervé Graumann
Harm Lux
Claude Sandoz

2002
Ian Anüll
Hannes Brunner
Marie José Burki
Relax (Marie-Antoinette
Chiarenza, Daniel Croptier,
Daniel Hauser)
Renée Levi

2001
Peter Kamm
Ilona Rüegg
George Steinmann

Dates

**Award Ceremony
Swiss Grand Award for Art
Prix Meret Oppenheim and
Swiss Art Awards**

12 June 2016, 5–6.30 p.m.
The laudatory speeches will be given
by Jacqueline Burckhardt, Georg Krüger
and Katharina Amman.

**Swiss Art Awards 2017
exhibition**

**Vernissage
12 June 2017, 7–10 p.m.**

**Exhibition: 13 to 18 June 2017,
daily from 10 a.m.–7 p.m.**
Hall 3, Messe Basel
Admission is free.

**Journal
www.swissartawards.ch**

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**Further information and
press images**

**High-resolution portraits of the laureates
are available at: www.bak.admin.ch/pmo**