



**Swiss Grand Award of Art /
Prix Meret Oppenheim 2018**

**An exhibition by the Federal Office of Culture
12-17 June 2018**

Messe Basel, Hall 3

Press preview 11 June 2018, 10 am

Award ceremony 11 June 2018, 5.30 pm

Opening 11 June 2018, 7 pm

**Swiss Grand Award for Art / Prix Meret
Oppenheim 2018 goes to Sylvie Fleury,
Thomas Hirschhorn and Luigi Snozzi**

For the eighteenth time, the Federal Office of Culture presents the Swiss Grand Award for Art / Prix Meret Oppenheim to three outstanding Swiss culture professionals: the artists Sylvie Fleury and Thomas Hirschhorn, as well as the architect Luigi Snozzi. The laureates will be honoured together with the winners of the Swiss Art Awards on 11 June 2018 in Basel.

The Swiss Grand Award for Art / Prix Meret Oppenheim 2018 is awarded on the recommendation of the Federal Art Commission to artists, art mediators and architects whose internationally renowned work is of particular relevance and importance to Swiss artistic and architectural practice. Film portraits of the laureates of the Swiss Grand Award for Art / Prix Meret Oppenheim 2018 will be on show in the Swiss Art Awards exhibition which also presents the participants of the second round of the Swiss Art Competition.

Sylvie Fleury (born 1961 in Geneva, lives in Geneva)

Sylvie Fleury is known for her staging of glamour, fashion and luxury items. In the spirit of Duchamp's ready-mades and Andy Warhol's Pop Art, she blows up brands and labels, creating a subtle commentary on the world of commerce and consumerism. The unique feminist approach that Fleury has advocated since the 1990s has brought her international acclaim.

Fleury has participated in many exhibitions, including solo shows at the Villa Stuck, Munich (2016), Bass Museum of Art, Miami, Florida (2015), CAC / Centre de Arte Contemporaneo, Malaga, (2011), MAMCO-Musée d'Art Comtemporain de Genève (2008), Schinkel Pavillon, Berlin (2007), Le Magasin, Centre National d'Art Centemporain, Grenoble (2001), ZKM, Museum für Neue Kunst, Karlsruhe (2001) and Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zurich (1998).

She was awarded the prestigious Prix de la Société des Arts de Genève in 2015. Fleury founded the record label Villa Magica Records in Geneva in 2004, together with John and Stéphane Armleder.

Thomas Hirschhorn (born 1957 in Bern, lives in Paris)

Thomas Hirschhorn is an installation artist whose works address socio-political issues. Directed at a non-exclusive audience, his monumental spatial collages are made from everyday materials like tape, cardboard and aluminium foil. With his stagings and performative elements, Hirschhorn has developed his own visual language in which the worlds of politics, society and commerce collide, leading to his current practice of presence and production projects.

Hirschhorn studied at the School of Design and Art in Zurich from 1978 to 1983. His works have featured in numerous exhibitions including the Venice Biennale (1999, 2015), Documenta 11 (2002), Swiss Swiss Democracy in the Centre culturel suisse (CCS) Paris (2004), the 27. Sao Paolo Biennale (2006), the Swiss Pavilion at the Venice Biennale (2011), La Triennale in the Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2012), 9th Shanghai Biennale (2012), Gramsci Monument in the Bronx, New York, (2013) Manifesta 10 in Saint Petersburg (2014), South London Gallery (2015).

Thomas Hirschhorn has been awarded the Preis für Junge Schweizer Kunst (1999), the Prix Marcel Duchamp (2000), the Roland Preis für Kunst im öffentlichen Raum (2003), the Joseph Beuys Preis (2004) and the Kurt Schwitters Preis (2011).

His presence and production project Robert-Walser Sculpture will start on the 15 June 2018 at the 13th edition of the Swiss Sculpture Exhibition in Biel/Bienne.

Luigi Snozzi (born 1932 in Mendrisio, lives in Locarno)

Luigi Snozzi is an architect and emeritus professor of architecture. With his characteristic exposed concrete buildings and urban interventions, he is a leading representative and theoretician of the Ticinese School and took part in the exhibition "Tendencies - New Architecture in Ticino" at the ETH Zurich in 1975, the first to be open to the general public and which was to influence the next generation of architects. Snozzi's long-standing involvement with Monte Carasso began exactly 40 years ago. This project is still regarded as a reference for the fruitful interaction between architecture and urban planning today.

After his studies and diploma at the ETH in Zurich (1952-1957), Snozzi opened his own architecture practice in 1958. He worked with Livio Vacchini from 1962 to 1971. He ran another practice in Zurich between 1975 and 1988 with Bruno Jenni until he moved to Lausanne with his second practice in 1988. He started his academic career as a guest lecturer for architectural design at the ETH Zurich in 1973, teaching there until 1975 and receiving an honorary doctorate in 2008. He received a full professorship at the EPFL in Lausanne in 1985 and taught there until becoming an emeritus professor in 1997. Snozzi currently teaches at the University Sassari in Alghero, Sardinia.

Jury Statements

The work of this year's Prix Meret Oppenheim laureate **Sylvie Fleury** characteristically drifts between appearance and reality. By means of appropriation she transposes the world of consumerism into the artistic arena and conversely opens up the imaginary world of illusion to her own staging of existence. Sylvie Fleury interweaves the verbal "je" with the visual "moi", her installations, wall pieces, videos and drawings painting a detailed picture of dreams in the symbolic reality of the social contract. (Laura Arici)

In awarding **Thomas Hirschhorn** the Prix Meret Oppenheim, the CFA salutes the extreme coherence of his artistic process, one that is based on the defence of society's democratic values. From his early collages to his temporary monuments, from his large-scale installations to the conferences he gives all over the world, Thomas Hirschhorn has developed a unique formal language that reflects the challenges of the modern world as well as the artist's own experience. The different forms that his process takes demonstrate the deep commitment of an artist who sees his art as a form of combat sport. (Julie Enckell Julliard)

Luigi Snozzi is an architect who is equally invested as a builder, a professor and a citizen. As a key figure of a movement dedicated to the analysis of territory, his building work represents an uncompromising type of architecture that embraces its presence to create new spaces through a form of positive confrontation. A great supporter of architecture that creates the city – the collective entity par excellence –, he shows unparalleled clarity and powers of synthesis in his numerous projects which are a model of the productive relationship between architecture and its context. Luigi Snozzi maintains his critical stance towards the conditions and limits of his profession and, having influenced and mentored many generations of architecture students, he embodies the role of the architect as upholder of political, cultural and human values. (Victoria Easton)

Publication

Coinciding with the award ceremony on 11 June 2018, the Federal Office of Culture is publishing "Swiss Grand Award for Art / Prix Meret Oppenheim 2018", containing portraits of the award winners and interviews conducted by Samuel Gross (Head Curator, Istituto Svizzero, Rome) with Sylvie Fleury, Yasmil Raymond (Associate Curator, Museum of Modern Art, New York) with Thomas Hirschhorn and Stefano Moor (architect, Lugano) with Luigi Snozzi. 198 pages, ISBN 978-3-9524712-3-4; German, English, French, Italian; Editorial: Manuela Schlumpf; Graphic Design: Vela Arbutina, Zurich. Free copies of the publication are available in the exhibition or can be ordered by email swissart@bak.admin.ch

Film Portraits

The exhibition Swiss Art Awards 2018 presents film portraits of the laureates of the Swiss Grand Award for Art / Prix Meret Oppenheim 2018. German, French and Italian with subtitles. Duration: approx. 7 min each. Concept and realisation: Matthias Huser, 8horses.

Swiss Grand Award for Art / Prix Meret Oppenheim

The Swiss Grand Award for Art / Prix Meret Oppenheim was created in 2001 by the Federal Office of Culture in cooperation with the Federal Art Commission. It honours achievements in the fields of art and architecture as well as curation, research and critique. It is presented to artists and architects, curators and researchers whose work played a key role in enhancing engagement with art and architecture and have fostered cultural dialogue in Switzerland and beyond. Each award carries prize money of CHF 40,000.

**Jury Swiss Grand Award for
Art / Prix Meret Oppenheim
2018**

Federal Art Commission

President

Giovanni Carmine
(Director, Kunst Halle Sankt
Gallen, St. Gallen)

Members

Laura Arici
(Art historian, Zurich)
Valentin Carron
(Artist, Fully)
Victoria Easton
(Architect, Christ & Gantenbein,
Basel)

Julie Enckell Julliard
(Head of Cultural Development
Department, HEAD, Geneva)
Anne Julie Raccoursier
(Artist, Lausanne)
Anselm Stalder
(Artist, Basel)

Architecture Experts

Oliver Lütjens
(Architect, Lütjens Padmanabhan
Architekten, Zurich)
Anne Marie Wagner
(Architect, Bachelard Wagner
Architekten, Basel)

Laureates 2001–2017

2017
Peter Märkli
Daniela Keiser
Philip Ursprung

2016
Adelina von Fürstenberg
Christian Philipp Müller
Martin Steinmann

2015
Christoph Büchel
Olivier Mosset
Urs Stahel
Stauer/Hasler

2014
Anton Bruhin
Catherine Quéloz
Pipilotti Rist
pool Architekten

2013
Thomas Huber
Quintus Miller & Paola Maranta
MarcOlivier 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
(MarieAntoinette 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

11 June 2018, 5.30–6.30 pm

The laudatory speeches will be given by
Bea Schlingelhoff (artist, Zürich) for Sylvie Fleury,
Kathleen Bühler (Curator of contemporary art,
Kunstmuseum Bern) for Thomas Hirschhorn
and Professor Werner Oechslin (art and architecture
historian, Einsiedeln) for Luigi Snozzi.

Swiss Art Awards 2018 exhibition

Vernissage

11 June 2018, 7 – 10 pm

Duration 12 to 17 June 2018, daily from 10 am – 7 pm

Halle 3, Messe Basel

Free entrance

Social Media

Blog: www.swissartawards.ch

Instagram: @swissartawards

#swissartawards, #prixmeretoppenheim

Information

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Press images

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

Film Portraits

Available from May on YouTube: <https://m.youtube.com/channel/UChWVzejknDLWz6p3P8LqAfA>