

Media release
Zurich, 11 February 2021

Kunsthhaus Zürich invites to its extension preview with William Forsythe

From April 23 to May 24, 2021, the Kunsthhaus Zürich invites to a preview of its new extension with a work by choreographer William Forsythe (*1949). 'The Sense of Things', conceived specially for this preview, can be experienced exclusively for four weeks in the museum's new building by architect David Chipperfield. It is the first artistic intervention in the new space.

Curated by Mirjam Varadinis, 'The Sense of Things' encourages the visitor to build a direct relationship with the architecture that will house some of Kunsthhaus Zürich's most vibrant and significant collections.

MUSEUM AS 'KLANGKÖRPER'

In Forsythe's acoustic intervention, deconsecrated church bells of different sizes, pitches, and timbres will be activated in a contrapuntal composition that is widely distributed across the spaces of the new extension. In considering Chipperfield's building as an immense sounding-body, Forsythe proposes that visitors individually tune the composition via their perambulations through the new museum, thereby embodying his choreographic proposition.

VISITORS IN FOCUS

Forsythe's examination of visitor experience vis-à-vis the new architecture posits acoustics as an ever-present, but invisible facet of museum design that has significant effects upon those experiences. 'The Sense of Things' emphasizes the visitor's curiosity as key to apprehending the composition's 'Klangfarben', nuances which are shaped by each visitor's unfolding, investigative relationship to the building's natural acoustics.

A SENSE OF PURPOSE

With their new cooperation, Kunsthhaus Zürich and Forsythe wish to offer the broadest possible public a place where, after tremendous social disruption, community can once again be recreated. Gathering to experience the inherent sound of a building is certainly an atypical activity but also an unexpectedly gentle way to introduce the museum as a site that will be performing a significant civic role in the near future.

EVENTS

From idea to exhibition

Curator Mirjam Varadinis answers questions of Christoph Stuehn, Head Sales & Services, member of the management, about the challenges in developing and implementing the concept for this very special and unique intervention. In German language.

Wednesday, 28.4.2021, 6 to 7 p.m., ballroom in the Chipperfield building

CHF 10 / 8 concessions; CHF 4 with a valid exhibition ticket and for members.

Further events

'The Sense of Things' activates our senses and encourages us to experience the institution 'museum' in a new way. The accompanying programme supports this idea by providing guided tours with people who have a different perception and physical sensitivity due to their very special constitution – such as blind or deaf people, but also children. More information from the start of the exhibition at www.kunsthhaus.ch.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Kunsthhaus Zürich, Heimplatz 1, CH-8001 Zurich

Tel. +41 (0)44 253 84 84, www.kunsthhaus.ch

Fri-Sun/Tue 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Wed, Thu 10 a.m.–8 p.m. For public holiday opening see www.kunsthhaus.ch.

Admission to 'William Forsythe' and into the Kunsthhaus extension: CHF 20 / 16 concession and groups. Admission free to visitors under the age of 17.

Advance sales: Kunsthhaus Zürich online, with numerous additional events and products related to the exhibition: www.kunsthhaus.ch/en/besuch-planen/tickets.

Zurich Tourism, tourist information office in Zurich main railway station, tel. +41 44 215 40 00, info@zuerich.com.

INVITATION TO EDITORS, REGISTRATION AND CONTACT

Media releases and images are available for download at www.kunsthhaus.ch/en/medien-bereich/media-corner/. The press preview takes place on 22 April from 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. (check-in Moserbau, Heimplatz 1). Please register. We will be happy to organize interviews with William Forsythe and curator Mirjam Varadinis by prior arrangement, possibly via Skype, should William Forsythe not be able to travel from New York to Zurich.

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