

Media release
Zurich, 19 April 2021

Kunsthhaus Zürich opens Chipperfield building for a four-week preview

While the extension to the Kunsthhaus Zürich presents a candid, generous and sensual face to the world, behind the scenes the art is beginning to move in. From 23 April to 24 May 2021 there's a chance to gain a largely unobstructed view of the purist architecture of the building designed by David Chipperfield Architects, in which large areas of exposed concrete along with refined materials such as light oak, gleaming brass and emerald-green velvet can be seen to best effect.

FORSYTHE PROJECT MARKS THE START OF OPERATIONS

Perceptions are at the heart of the temporary sound installation by the choreographer William Forsythe: distributed around a number of rooms in the extension, church bells and triangles of varying sizes, pitches and timbres are activated in a contrapuntal composition. 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.

FIRST ARTWORKS IN THE LOBBY, BAR AND GARDEN

Visitors attending the preview between 23 April and 24 May can also catch a glimpse of the garden laid out by Wirtz International, an area of greenery conceived as a place for encounters and events which also boasts a rotunda with a hidden bar. The lobby and collection galleries offer additional, unexpected views of the surrounding area. There's a welcome return for Alexander Calder's mobile 'Cinq blancs, un rouge' (1972), suspended almost within touching distance in the main hall. Max Ernst's mural 'Pétales et jardin de la nymphe Ancholie', which was painted in 1934 for the Corso Bar at Bellevue, is now the artistic centrepiece of the Chipperfield Bar. Robert Delaunay's 'Formes cirulaires' (1930) draws the eye towards the second floor, while the foundation stone '8' (2014), donated by Urs Fischer, lies casually between the spaces occupied by the Looser Collection and Kunsthhaus Collection. A new addition is 'Over and Above' by Lawrence Weiner: this work by the conceptual artist has been adapted specially for the Kunsthhaus

and mounted at the entrances to the passage linking the Moser and Chipperfield buildings beneath Heimplatz. Access to the extension will be through this passage during the preview phase. The large brass portal of the Chipperfield building at Heimplatz 5 will admit visitors for the first time over the Whitsun weekend, as part of three open days.

THE COUNTDOWN HAS BEGUN

Half of the rooms in the existing building have been reorganized, while others are still being worked on. Monet is on the move, Munch will meet Baselitz, while the Egyptian artist Anna Boghiguan shares the domed room (previously home to Böcklin) with Kader Attia. In future there will be a number of such intervention spaces. The Kunsthaus will be posting regular updates on activities both in public and behind the scenes in the run-up to the opening at countdown.kunsthau.ch and on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram.

PREVIEW PROGRAMME: ACOUSTICS, CHOREOGRAPHY, PHOTOGRAPHY FOR ALL

Public guided tours of the Kunsthaus extension

Saturday 11 a.m., Sunday 4 p.m., Wednesday 6.30 p.m., Thursday 5.30 p.m. (in German). Private guided tours by arrangement.

Something for all the senses!

Our art education department is organizing exploratory tours led by blind and deaf people who will share their perceptions of David Chipperfield's architecture and the work by William Forsythe ('The Sense of Things', 23.4.–24.5.) with the other participants. The 'Space, Sound and Body' events also enable a change of perspective, as children prepare their own guide 'performance' in a workshop before encouraging adults to get active themselves. Putting yourself and the architecture (literally) in the picture is the idea behind the 'Chipperfield photo call' project. Young people and adults aged 16 to 20 are invited to create their own views of the Kunsthaus extension or use the architecture as the backdrop for staged snapshots. The photos submitted will be judged, and prizes awarded.

Free admission to the Kunsthaus extension at Whitsun

Saturday to Monday, 22–24 May, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Owing to the pandemic, the weekend of viewings inside the Chipperfield building planned to mark the handover of the keys in December 2020 could not take place. Instead, the commissioning body is organizing a free viewing on the last three days of the preview phase as part of museum operations compliant with the current protective measures. Access will be via the new main entrance at Heimplatz 5 for the first time. Architectural tour guides will be on hand to answer any questions you may have.

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.

Ticket for 'William Forsythe' and admission to the Kunsthhaus extension: CHF 20 / CHF 16 (concessions and groups). Admission free for under-17s and over Whitsun.

Combine a visit to the Chipperfield building and William Forsythe with the existing buildings, including the Collection and the Gerhard Richter exhibition, with an upgrade ticket: CHF 10 / CHF 8.

Advance sales: Kunsthhaus Zürich online (not including upgrade ticket), 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, www.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 advance press viewing for the preview phase takes place from 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. on 22 April (access via the Moser building, Heimplatz 1), along with the advance viewing of the William Forsythe sound installation 'The Sense of Things'. Curator Mirjam Varadinis will provide an introduction to Forsythe's work, while Kunsthhaus Director Christoph Becker and project manager Dag Vierfuss will be on hand to answer questions about the extension. Please register. We will be happy to arrange extended interviews by agreement.

Contact:

Kunsthhaus Zürich, Kristin Steiner

kristin.steiner@kunsthhaus.ch, +41 (0)44 253 84 13