

Media release
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The Kunsthhaus Zürich in 2027: a year of diversity and new perspectives

The Kunsthhaus Zürich presents its annual programme for 2027, which spans the arc from Rembrandt and Alberto Giacometti to Judith Bernstein, Selma Selman and Ai Weiwei, and combines the Kunsthhaus collection with international exhibition projects.

Ann Demeester, Director of the Kunsthhaus Zürich, says: 'The Kunsthhaus is a multi-faceted museum: in its four buildings, art from many eras and a wealth of artistic voices come together: from Rembrandt, Alberto Giacometti, Claude Monet and Edvard Munch to the Zurich Dadaists and on to Pipilotti Rist, Kiki Kogelnik and Sonja Sekula.

That polyphony is also reflected in our annual programme: the Claes Oldenburg exhibition looks back at the golden years of Pop Art; for 'House of Nisaba', more than 30 artists from around the world have developed new visual languages in contemporary painting; while Wael Shawky and Ai Weiwei open up novel perspectives on the ways in which history manifests in the present. At the centre of it all is the Kunsthhaus itself: a place that has always fostered exchange between different worlds and continues to do so in 2027.'

The collection remains the beating heart of the Kunsthhaus Zürich. In 2027, it appears in a new guise, with an expanded presentation of works by Alberto Giacometti, a new location for the Dada collection in the old building, and the transformation of the Müller building into a platform for artists and culture producers. Also on view is Ai Weiwei's monumental installation in the Haefner Foyer of the Chipperfield building.

2027'S RICH AND VARIED PROGRAMME IN DETAIL

From mid-February: **JUDITH BERNSTEIN. MINE'S BIGGER THAN YOURS**

Radical, uncompromising and ever-topical, Judith Bernstein (b. 1942, Newark) is a pioneering figure in feminist art. Since first coming to public attention with her monumental charcoal phallus drawings – a radical form of protest against sexism and testosterone-driven militarism – she has been investigating patriarchal oppression and power for five decades. The exhibition brings together works from

the beginning of her artistic career to the present day – from early pieces created in response to the Vietnam War, through the iconic, large-format 'Screws' drawings of the 1970s to the 'Birth of the Universe' series created just a few years ago.

From mid-February: ENRICO DAVID

Fragile, masked, sometimes grotesque yet always delicate, Enrico David's figures defy unambiguous categorization. In a poetically theatrical way, they become the protagonists in a silent drama revolving around one of the great questions of all time: what defines being human? Born in Ancona in 1966 and now working in London, David sees painting, textile, embroidery, paper, ceramic and sculpture as equally valid means of expression to create figures and states that oscillate between body and costume, person and role. The presentation brings together works from various phases of his career with a subtle, concise selection of works from the Kunsthhaus collection.

From mid-March: ALBERTO GIACOMETTI. A 20TH-CENTURY GREAT AT THE KUNSTHAUS

Alberto Giacometti (1901, Borgonovo – 1966, Chur) is one of the most important sculptors of the modern era, and his slender figures are icons of 20th-century art. From March 2027, an expanded presentation in four rooms of the Chipperfield building will guide visitors through Giacometti's oeuvre: from early works and key pieces from the Surrealist phase to the tall, fragile figures that are quintessential examples of modern sculpture. Sculptures, paintings and drawings all explore the question that preoccupied Giacometti throughout his life: how to capture the human being.

From April: HOUSE OF NISABA. NEW STORIES OF PAINTING

Painting flourishes, once again, in the 21st century. Nisaba, the Mesopotamian goddess of grain, writing and storytelling, lends her name to this exhibition on contemporary painting. Some 35 paintings are being created especially for this exhibition, inspired by mythology, literature, film, social media and popular culture. They show how artists from Switzerland, Europe, the US and the Global South are currently developing their distinctive visual worlds, new allegorical imagery and stories, in response to an age in which images circulate incessantly and shared symbol systems are increasingly giving way to individual meanings. With artists including Michael Armitage, Omar Ba, Sabian Baumann, Kevin Beasley, Nicole Eisenman, Hamishi Farah, Louisa Gagliardi & Adam Cruces, Melanie Kitti, Valentin Rilliet, Mohammed Sami, Cinga Samson, Agnes Scherer, Selma Selman, Salman Toor and Evelyn T. Wang.

From the end of April: Wael Shawky

History is never a straightforward record of events: everything depends on who is telling the story. Wael Shawky (b. 1971, Alexandria, lives in western Asia), one of the most internationally high-profile multimedia artists of his generation, shifts perspectives and destabilizes certainties. In virtuoso films, installations and musical theatre productions, he combines multiple artistic disciplines and shows human beings caught up in a web of political, religious and social forces. The exhibition brings together the celebrated 'Cabaret Crusades' trilogy (2010–2014), which uses puppets to recount the history of the Crusades from an Arab perspective, and 'Drama 1882' (2024), a filmed opera about British colonialism in Egypt. A new film installation on the history of the Gulf region will have its European premiere at the Kunsthau Zürich. Supported by Swiss Re – Partner for contemporary art.

From October: Claes Oldenburg. Soft Serve

A huge ice-cream cone, a sagging light switch made of fabric and an oversized pistol: in the works of Claes Oldenburg (1929, Stockholm – 2022, New York), the world is as strange as in 'Alice in Wonderland'. Today, Oldenburg's art appears remarkably topical, with its questioning of consumerism, value and our relationship with everyday objects. There is good reason to stage this exhibition in the Dada city of Zurich: Oldenburg is regarded as one of the leading Neo-Dadaists, who revived the ideas of Dadaism in the 1950s and 1960s and connected them to the everyday and consumer culture of their time. With his sharp wit and absurd contrasts, he challenges traditional artistic taste. Supported by UBS – Partner Kunsthau Zürich.

From the end of October: Rembrandt and his Circle. THE LEIDEN COLLECTION IN ZÜRICH. In collaboration with the Graphische Sammlung ETH Zürich.

'Rembrandt and his Circle' focuses on the greatest and most innovative master of the Golden Age of Dutch painting and those around him. The exhibition presents exceptional works from The Leiden Collection, co-founded by Dr Thomas S. Kaplan and Daphne Recanati Kaplan, home to over a dozen paintings by Rembrandt and one of the world's most significant private collections of Dutch 17th-century art. For the first time in Switzerland, visitors will have the opportunity to see more than 40 works from the Collection. Also on view will be 'Young Woman Seated at a Virginal', the only painting by Johannes Vermeer to remain in private hands. At the same time, in collaboration with the Graphische

Sammlung ETH Zürich, the Kunsthaus celebrates Rembrandt as a master printmaker.

6 March 2027: SELMA SELMAN (PERFORMANCE)

Central to Selma Selman's operatic performance is the dismantling of a car – a Mercedes S-Class that she bought for her father two years ago for his 60th birthday and then inherited after his recent passing. The car does not merely function as an elegiac object, but also as a signifier of an economy within Selman's life and work. In her painting practice, she often uses found and discarded objects, such as cars, satellite dishes, or domestic objects, to paint speculative personal histories on. In this case, the inherited car is a thing that once enacted a moment of emancipation and freedom, and now exists in an in-between state – no longer a father's prized possession, and not-yet an artwork. This performance is the ritual that marks the transition. Selma Selman is accompanied by opera singer Natasa Tasic Knezevic, sound engineer Dauwd, a cellist, and her team of performers Muhamed Selma, Meho Husic, and Andreas Ritt, who help the artist disassemble the car.

The performance is co-organized with Schauspielhaus Zürich and Mercedes-Benz Collection.

ONGOING: The participatory 'Art for All' programme continues to make contemporary art accessible to everyone. Sights and experiences to savour include Monster Chetwynd's more than eight-metre-high head 'Zardoz', a place for experience and reflection; Jeffrey Gibson's intensely colourful installation in the foyer of the Chipperfield building (until 3 January 2027); and Ai Weiwei's monumental panorama of two contrasting parts made from thousands of toy bricks, supported by the Monsol Foundation (from June 2027).

Ann Demeester, Director of the Kunsthaus Zürich, comments: 'We want our 2027 programme to encourage people to reflect and amaze them with art, inviting them to linger and savour the visual experience.'

Further information and a detailed overview of all exhibitions and projects can be found in the [Annual Programme 2027](#). A [video](#) with Director Ann Demeester also offers a guide to the main points of the programme.

EXHIBITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS BEGINNING IN 2026

Until 10 January 2027: Evergreens. Selected Works from the Collection

Until 21 February 2027: Maria Lassnig and Edvard Munch. Flow of Paint = Flow of Life

KUNSTHAUS ZÜRICH

20 November 2026 – 3 January 2027: Ralph Lemon and Kevin Beasley. Residuum
(Tell it anyway)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Kunsthhaus Zürich, Heimplatz, CH-8001 Zurich

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For admission prices, opening hours and events see www.kunsthhaus.ch/en/besuch-planen/ and www.kunsthhaus.ch/en/besuch-planen/programm/. Tickets can be obtained from the cash desk or in advance at tickets.kunsthhaus.ch.

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

Free admission, discounts and other benefits with a 2027 annual membership (valid from now): adults CHF 149 / couples CHF 249 / young people up to 25 years of age CHF 49.

CONTACT AND FURTHER INFORMATION FOR THE MEDIA

Media releases and illustrations are available for download at www.kunsthhaus.ch/en/medien-bereich. You can download the Annual Programme 2027 in PDF format [here](#) and view the video with Director Ann Demeester [here](#).

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