



Stadt Zürich
Kultur

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Helmhaus Zürich

30 November 2018 to 27 January 2019

Opening: Thursday, 29 November 2018, 6 p.m.

City of Zurich Art Acquisitions 2011–2018

The art collection of the City of Zurich has continued to grow steadily in recent years. Helmhaus Zürich now presents a selection of these acquisitions since 2011, representing works by 49 Zurich-based artists. All of these works were purchased at the recommendation of the municipal Fine Arts Commission as part of the city's drive to promote the arts and culture. The exhibition at Helmhaus forms part of the *Art: Scene Zurich 2018* event and runs from 30 November 2018 to 27 January 2019.

The City of Zurich has been collecting art for about a hundred years, and so the municipal collection bears crucial testimony to this locally and culturally important tradition. The acquisitions form an integral part of Zurich's cultural heritage. In this respect, our exhibition upholds the time-honoured convention of regularly showcasing a selection of the City of Zurich's latest acquisitions at Helmhaus Zürich. Two members of the Fine Arts Commission – Sabine Rusterholz Petko and Luigi Archetti – have drawn up a representative shortlist from more than 250 works acquired over the past seven years (see the enclosed invitation card for details).

The exhibition forms part of the wider *Art: Scene Zurich 2018* event organised by the City of Zurich, which runs from 23 November to 2 December, giving some 230 young artists the opportunity of exhibiting their work, without adjudication, at various venues (for details, visit www.kunstszenezuerich.ch).

Mayor Corine Mauch will open the exhibition *City of Zurich Art Acquisitions 2011–2018* on Thursday, 29 November at 7 p.m. at Helmhaus Zürich. As usual, the exhibition will be accompanied by a varied fringe programme and many informational opportunities. For instance, on 13 December 2018, there will be a panel discussion about the function and potential of a municipal art collection, while on 16 January 2019 Brigitte Dätwyler, one of the artists represented in the exhibition, will give a talk. There will also be guided tours through the collection.

Statements:

Sabine Rusterholz Petko and Luigi Archetti, curators, Fine Arts Commission:

In selecting examples of the city's acquisitions over the past few years, we put the main focus on works that are somewhat unwieldy, both literally and metaphorically. For the Helmhaus exhibition, we placed the emphasis on the discrepancy between patronage and office decor – a fine line that, for some time now, has proved increasingly difficult to tread when it comes to defining a cohesive strategy for art acquisition. The works in this instance centre on highly topical themes such as sociocultural or transcultural matters, the politics of migration, gender issues, and conceptual or artistically intrinsic questions. The installations, videos and drawings open up a gateway to avenues of thought that reflect our everyday lives in insightful ways.

Barbara Basting, Head of the City of Zurich Arts and Culture Department:

The art acquisitions in recent years span a broad spectrum of this city's art production. They provide an insight into the work of the Commission and the lively discussions involved. This demanding process finds expression in a distinctly rich and varied collection representing many different artistic viewpoints. It is important to us to present these acquisitions, which are, after all, purchased through the taxpayers' money, on a regular basis in a public way. And also because the best form of art patronage is for the art to be seen by as many people as possible.

Ramona Brückner, Head of the City of Zurich Art Collection:

Over the years, the groups of works that have built up in the collection have come to provide an impressively dense documentation of the local art scene. These works are not just loaned to institutions within the city, but are often requested for exhibitions at museums and galleries throughout the country and abroad. There is a considerable interest in contemporary and emerging art.