

# Helmhaus

M e d i a   R e l e a s e

Limmatquai 31  
8001 Zürich

+41 (0)44 415 56 77  
info@helmhaus.org  
helmhaus.org

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From 2 December 2022 to 22 January 2023

The City of Zurich's art purchases are a cornerstone of its patronage of the arts. The exhibition "Art for This City. City of Zurich Art Acquisitions 2018-2021" at Helmhaus Zürich shows a representative selection of the city's art purchases in the years 2018-2021. On view will be the works of 44 artists, acquired for the city by the Kulturabteilung (Arts and Culture Department) on the recommendation of the Kommission Bildende Kunst (Fine Arts Commission). The exhibition, which picks up the thread of previous presentations of the latest acquisitions, will run from 2 December 2022 to 22 January 2023.

The City of Zurich has been buying art for about a hundred years. Its purchases are an especially welcome facet of its patronage of the arts, as the proceeds go directly to the artists themselves. The purchases become part of the city's own art collection and are displayed in its administrative offices as well as in other civic institutions such as hospitals, senior citizens' centres and schools. Employees of the city can also borrow works from the collection for their own offices. Contemporary art is thus given a place in the everyday workings of the city.

The exhibition builds on Zurich's much-cherished tradition of presenting its most recent art acquisitions to the public. The thematically congruent exhibits were selected from the more than 120 purchases of the past four years by Barbara Basting, Head of the Ressort Bildende Kunst (Fine Arts Unit), and Florian Germann, member of the Fine Arts Commission, who also oversaw the hanging (the artists are listed on the enclosed invitation).

To coincide with the exhibition, a tie-in catalogue is to be published by the Zurich-based publisher Scheidegger & Spiess in collaboration with the Kunstsammlung der Stadt Zürich. This will list all the works acquired between 2011 and 2021. Besides providing an insight into the selection process, it will also present the most diverse works in the most diverse settings (*Art for Zurich. City of Zurich Art Acquisitions 2011-2021*, edited by Barbara Basting and Ramona Brückner, with photographs by Georg Aerni, German/English, 460 colour illus., 152 pages, c. 29 CHF). The exhibition and catalogue are a direct response to the frequently heard wish that the city's own art collection be rendered more visible and more accessible to the people of Zurich.

The exhibition "Art for This City. City of Zurich Art Acquisitions 2018-2021" will open at Helmhaus Zürich on Thursday, 1 December, at 6 p.m. in the presence of Murielle Perritaz, Co-Director of Kultur Stadt Zürich (City of Zurich Arts and Culture).

The exhibition will be flanked by an extensive programme of tours, talks and events, some involving members of the Fine Arts Commission, as well as tours of the art collection in situ. For further details, please see the enclosed invitation.