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ANNUAL REPORT

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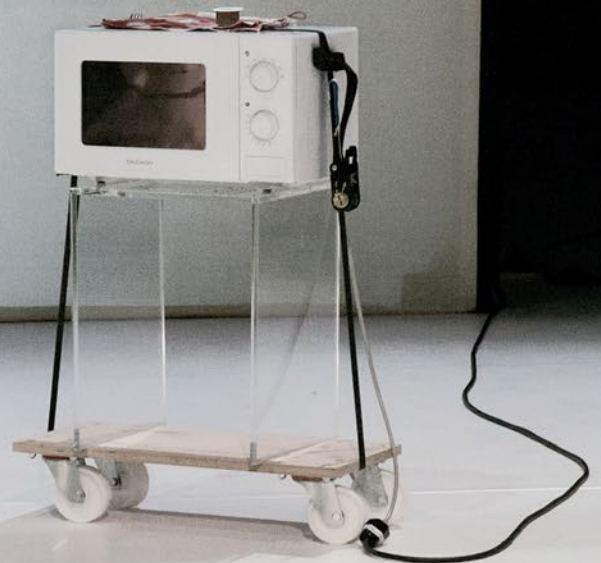
- 1 Julie Beauvais's performance «The Witness» at the «THEATRUM: Re-Formation» Festival in Moscow (Russia).
- 2 Raphael Hefti's «Message Not Sent» featured as part of his exhibition «Salutary Failures» at Kunsthalle Basel.

Pro Helvetia's 2020 annual report and annual accounts (available in German, French and Italian) are also accessible online at

WWW.PROHELVETIA.CH/JAHRESBERICHT

Each year, Pro Helvetia publishes the projects it has supported or undertaken during the reporting period at WWW.PROHELVETIA.CH/REPORT. This online database enables users to search for individuals and institutions that have received support, as well as for project types, event locations and the amount of funding awarded.







4 Nicolas Polli's installation «The Past Is an Old Future» was part of the group exhibition «Handle with Care» at the Musei Comunali d'Arte di Ascona.

«On behalf of the federal government, Suisseculture Sociale processed 4051 applications from musicians, singers, visual artists, dancers, actors and actresses, authors, lighting and sound technicians, outreach professionals and many other cultural practitioners and workers. These requests for support impressively demonstrate the diversity of the Swiss cultural landscape, which has ground almost to a complete standstill since 2020. This wealth must now be kept alive and reactivated as soon as possible!»

NICOLE PFISTER FETZ

**Head of Operations A*dS Autorinnen und Autoren der Schweiz
and President of Suisseculture Sociale**

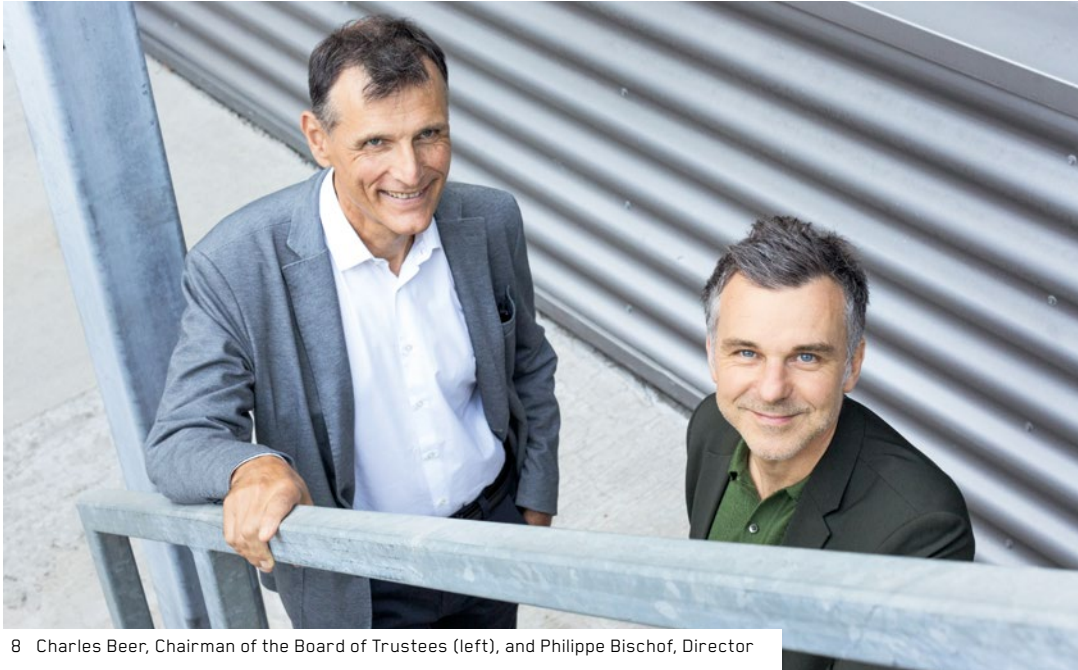


科学之美
Beauty of Science

凯瑟琳·洛伊滕艾格
Catherine Leutenegger







8 Charles Beer, Chairman of the Board of Trustees (left), and Philippe Bischof, Director

AN EVENTFUL CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

CHARLES BEER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Between resistance and resilience, cultural actors are adapting and innovating to cope with the pandemic. Coronavirus left its mark on the world in 2020 and also shook cultural life in all its dimensions, foremost by suspending public gatherings, which resulted in a cessation of activities and the dramatic rise of precarious conditions.

Culture is not simply another economic sector. It is highly complex and offers little social protection to those who shape it. Culture is not simply a good like any other as the different lockdown phases across the world have explicitly illustrated: in fact, culture is essential to life, a condition of survival and constitutive of our humanity.

Culture is a fundamental pillar of today's societies and above all of our democracies. It provides care, social ties and meaning. Political debate and public addresses have repeatedly highlighted this, emphasising the need for a paradigm shift in the way we operate, a break with the rationale and short-term profits characterising contemporary globalisation.

Between resistance and resilience, cultural actors are adapting and innovating to cope with the pandemic.

Action must follow words. We cannot be guided by nostalgia. We need to paint a different future, one that breaks with the multiple logics of domination. In this respect, culture will also have to rethink some of its functions. And it may do so by critically questioning facts and circumstances, by developing new formats and deepening its engagement. Pro Helvetia contributes to this process, through its history, marked by continuity and adaptation, and through its expertise and the support it both receives and provides. It fulfils its mission and adapts its measures to meet the demands of the times. For us, too, it is a matter of reaching beyond a short-term vision to strengthen the social protection of cultural practitioners and to place our actions in a structuring perspective, such that the fertile common path of the cultural community and the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia may long continue.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I wish to extend our profound gratitude to the directorate and staff of Pro Helvetia worldwide, as well as to all artists and cultural practitioners. Thank you for your commitment, trust and support.

**It is a matter of pre-
paring the future, for
which we all bear
responsibility, creatively
and lastingly.**

PHILIPPE BISCHOF, DIRECTOR

The year 2020 was not only exceptional, but arguably a turning point. Even now, we remain caught up in the pandemic and its effects. We are aware that the world – and of course the cultural sector – will look different in the future than before the outbreak of coronavirus. How – remains uncertain. Perhaps you too have been startled, while reading a recently published book or looking at older pictures and photographs, by scenes taken for granted before Covid-19: embraces, nights out dancing, cooking with friends or simply setting off on holiday to a faraway country. The new circumstances – of proximity and distance, the hybrid state of physical and virtual reality – are beginning to displace the familiar. They are leaving mental traces and could permanently change previous ways of functioning.

The brutal effect of the pandemic, which reflects the previous flaws in our system, became evident – no sooner did the global cultural machine begin stuttering – in the fragile and precarious working and living conditions of cultural practitioners and cultural institutions. What we experienced in the cultural sector in Switzerland and in all our partner countries last year moved and shook us. Seldom had the political task of supporting and promoting culture made so much sense and taken on such urgency as in 2020, triggering fundamental questions worldwide. For the Swiss Arts Council, this means a tremendous obligation, which we have fulfilled and will continue to fulfil with tireless commitment. With all the means at our disposal, we will contribute to focusing attention on the future beyond these difficult times. Because ultimately it is a matter of preparing the future, for which we all bear responsibility, creatively and lastingly.

At the onset of Covid-19, premature claims were heard that the pandemic would affect everyone equally. All too soon, however, it became painfully clear that coronavirus would have profound,

at times even irreparable societal effects that would further exacerbate existing inequalities. Covid-19 has highlighted, besides causing personal and family suffering, societal tensions as well as geographical and political differences that are too often overlooked. We are therefore particularly concerned about all those who are socially, economically and politically disadvantaged – which, unfortunately, includes many partners of Swiss cultural practitioners across the world, not least in regions where Pro Helvetia has offices abroad. We are closely monitoring developments in our partner regions, with which many Swiss cultural practitioners maintain working relationships. Alas, we must fear losing valuable partner institutions, long-standing and important places of cultural exchange and artistic experimentation. And yet, we know that cultural practitioners across the world will continue to create and develop new works and projects thanks to their strength, creative spirit and commitment. New formats can now emerge, as well as new forms of collaboration and exchange that will extend far beyond the pandemic.

We find ourselves in a time of transition and transformation with an uncertain outcome that we are all trying to better understand and navigate. The cultural landscape is changed and changing. Our core task is to recognise those paths emerging amid the new cultural topographies that will lead cultural practitioners forward. We will do everything to master this task – here in Switzerland as well as in our wider global network.

I. OUR MISSION IN SWITZER- LAND

Supporting Swiss artistic creation in all its diversity and ensuring its dissemination across Switzerland's different language regions, both on the basis of applications, are Pro Helvetia's core activities. The Arts Council is also committed to giving new impetus to cultural life and to supporting projects of national significance.

Supporting emerging artists

Enabling emerging artists to access the professional arts scene.

Exchange and promotion

Supporting artistic projects that promote exchange between regions and strengthen social cohesion.

Stimulating culture

Supporting projects that provide fresh artistic or cultural stimulus.

Supporting creation

Granting financial support to help artists produce original works of art.

Cultural outreach

Promoting innovative and exemplary projects that enable broad audiences to critically engage with art and culture.



OUR FIVE AREAS OF ACTIVITY IN SWITZERLAND

OUR ACTIVITIES IN SWITZERLAND

In 2020, Pro Helvetia supported over 1600 art and cultural projects across Switzerland. Not only do these express the diversity of contemporary art and culture, they also reflect our society's developments and its questions. The 2020 corona crisis significantly impacted cultural life. Pandemic-related constraints and the cancellation of most events and activities led artists and institutions to develop new strategies and formats. Pro Helvetia adapted its funding measures in response to the constantly changing circumstances.

In **SUPPORTING ARTISTIC CREATION**, Pro Helvetia promotes the diversity and high quality of contemporary art in Switzerland in the visual arts, performing arts, literature and music, design and interactive media, as well as interdisciplinary projects. In 2020, due to the pandemic, the budgets for performances and concerts were partly reallocated to support composition, the recording of works and research (particularly in the divisions of Music and Dance & Theatre). In order to launch a call for applications aimed at supporting comic books, the Literature and Visual Arts Divisions aligned existing measures, with remarkable success (nearly 61 projects were received, of which 10 were funded). Among others, the Visual Arts Division supported Zurich artist Sally Schonfeldt's «Tuning into future symphonies of return», a project exploring future strategies for decolonising Swiss and European ethnographic museums by creating imaginary Euro-futuristic museum exhibitions.

Pro Helvetia fosters **ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE** between the various regions of Switzerland. The exhibitions, theatre and dance productions, festivals, concert cycles, translations or folk culture events backed by Pro Helvetia build bridges between different linguistic regions and cultural communities and thereby strengthen social cohesion. While traditionally hosting the guest country of Frankfurt Book Fair, the Zofingen Literature Days adapted to public health measures by honouring sixteen Swiss authors. The event marked a unique opportunity to discover the wealth of national literature. The Dance & Theatre Division also initiated projects for emerging artists, enabling participants to travel to other language regions in Switzerland. Theatre for young audiences was also given special attention, among others, by supporting the «Jungspund» festival (St. Gallen). Funded projects also included the «Cima Norma Art Festival», an interdisciplinary event (visual arts, music, literature) in Val Blenio (Ticino).

Pro Helvetia supports **EMERGING ARTISTS** and helps them gain a foothold in their professional scenes. Together with its partner institutions, Pro Helvetia offers residencies and coaching programmes, as well as grants for public presentations and promotional measures. For the first time, the Dance & Theatre Division invited

theatres and festivals to discuss ways of supporting the next generation of contemporary circus. Two projects will be implemented in 2021. The Literature Division supported AJAR, a literary collective of 23 young authors from French-speaking Switzerland. Given the very few female music producers in Switzerland, Helvetia-

rockt has been organising the Female* Producing Circle since the beginning of 2019. The programme enables emerging producers to develop their skills over a one-year period and provides them with financial support, networking opportunities and coaching. In 2020, the Music Division supported this programme for the first time.

Pro Helvetia responds to issues and trends in contemporary artistic creation and backs innovative projects able to provide **FRESH CULTURAL STIMULUS** in Switzerland. The 2020 corona crisis prompted the Arts Council to adapt its funding measures through new initiatives. Launched in April, «Close Distance», the transdisciplinary call for projects, sought new formats to enable the production and dissemination of artistic works despite restrictions on freedom of movement and assembly. The call supported nearly 60 projects, online or analogue, in the Visual Arts («OTO SOUND MUSEUM» by Francesca Ceccherini), Music («Projet_8» by the Association Insubordinations), Performing Arts («VIRUS#VIRUS» by Yan Duyvendak Cie) and Literature («60 Sekunden hören» by the duo Blablabor). Various other calls and measures

were launched to best support artists in coping with the changed conditions for artistic and cultural creation imposed by unprecedented events: «Book Promotion +» (Literature), «re|sound» (Music), «Architecture Matters» (Visual Arts), «Contributions to Research» and «restart» (Dance & Theatre).

Initiatives have multiplied in all disciplines to bring back to life cultural production that has been weakened by the pandemic.

Pro Helvetia supports **CULTURAL OUTREACH** projects that are exemplary, demonstrate an innovative approach and encourage critical reflection on art and culture. In 2020, support was given to «Art's cool», a project that transcends geographical, generational, social and linguistic boundaries. Every

week, the series of bilingual podcasts (in French and German) presents a recently created work of art, which is on display at the time of the broadcast and provides a space for exchange and discussion designed to connect the museum with the outside world.

II. OUR MISSION ABROAD

Pro Helvetia provides support on the basis of applications for the presentation of Swiss artistic projects abroad. It also promotes Swiss art and culture in an international context, including various platforms such as trade fairs and biennials. Its global network and country programmes foster cultural exchange with other cultural regions.

Promotion

Taking measures to network and promote Swiss art and culture among international organisers and professionals.

Dissemination

Promoting the presence of Swiss artists and cultural practitioners and the international dissemination of their works.

Swiss participation

Sponsoring Swiss participation and special features on Swiss creation at internationally renowned events.



International cultural exchange

Fostering knowledge exchange between Swiss and international arts practitioners.

New networks, regions and markets

Opening up networks, regions and markets with potential for Swiss arts practitioners.

OUR ACTIVITIES ACROSS THE WORLD

In 2020, Pro Helvetia supported over 2400 arts and cultural projects in 105 countries. Restrictions on freedom of movement — in particular the impossibility of physically crossing borders — also brought forth new formats, among those affected and at Pro Helvetia.

Pro Helvetia **SUPPORTS THE DISSEMINATION** of works by Swiss artists and cultural practitioners invited by renowned institutions, event organisers or festivals abroad. Funding is provided for theatre and dance productions, concert tours, readings, exhibitions and the publication of translations of Swiss literature. In 2020, the Music Division funded Swiss composer Edu Haubensak's «Grosse Stimmung» at the «Wien Modern» festival while the Visual Arts Division supported an exhibition by visual artists Dorota Gawęda and Eglė Kulbokaitė at Budapest's Trafó Gallery.

The Arts Council implements a wide range of **PRO-MOTIONAL MEASURES** to raise awareness of Swiss cultural production among Swiss and foreign professionals. Following the cancellation of major physical events such as «GDC – Game Developers Conference» (San Francisco) or «Gamescom» (Cologne) due to the pandemic, the online mentoring programme «SwissGames Showcase 2020» was launched as part of the «Culture and Business» focus. This gave Swiss studios access to a panel of international experts and their network for coaching sessions. The online platform «Translate Swiss Books» replaced the publication «12 Swiss Books» to provide publishers, translators, organizers and other professionals in the book industry with online access to targeted recommendations on contemporary Swiss literature and to respond to cancelled international book and literature fairs.

Pro Helvetia organises and sponsors **SWISS PARTICIPATION** and special features on Swiss creation at numerous internationally renowned events, fairs and biennials. While the 17th International Architecture Exhibition (La Biennale di Venezia), scheduled to start in May 2020, had to be postponed to 2021 due to the pandemic, the festivals in Angoulême (France) and «Eurosonic» in Groningen (Netherlands), held in January, welcomed a Swiss booth titled «Réseau BD Suisse» as well as 22 Swiss artists and groups. By hosting Switzerland as a guest country under the heading «A Taste of Swiss Music», «Eurosonic» was a flagship event in 2020 for the Music Division. A few adaptations and valuable collaborations enabled Swiss artists to participate at various other international events. The exhibition «Design Switzerland», for instance, presented the work of nine Swiss design studios in September as part of «Vienna Design Week», without the designers having to be present at the event.

Pro Helvetia encourages exchange with other cultures, in particular through **RESIDENCIES, KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE** and **COOPERATION PROJECTS**. These measures enable Swiss artists and cultural practitioners to expand their network, explore other cultural contexts and gain new professional experience. In 2020, the pandemic prevented the Zürcher Theater Spektakel from presenting its usual programme. Instead, it hosted an online conference on «How to be together? Conversa-

**Alternatives have often
been found to the many
international events
that have punctuated a
particular year.**

tions on International Exchange and Collaboration in the Performing Arts». The three-day event was structured around different themes linked to the

extraordinary global situation, while questioning the practices of an artistic discipline most often involving direct contact. This also applied to «Contemporary Art Biennials: Our Hegemonic Machines in States of Emergency», an online conference organised as part of Bucharest Biennale. Sessions focused on biennials as «hegemonic machines», particularly their advantages and pitfalls, as well as how they might be used progressively while strengthening their potential for exchange.

Finally, Pro Helvetia targets **NEW NETWORKS, REGIONS AND MARKETS** in which it identifies opportunities for intensifying exchange and for strengthening the presence of Swiss art and culture, in particular by initiating partnerships with regional organisers. In January, for example, five young designers attended the «Swiss Design Accelerator» in San Francisco. Organised as part of the «Culture & Business» focus, the programme also included tailored coaching, skills development and matchmaking sessions, organised in partnership with swissnex San Francisco and the Swiss Design Prize. The «Fringe» performing arts festival in Edinburgh (Scotland) was cancelled due to

Covid-19, meaning the second edition of the «Swiss Selection» could not take place. To make up for this, the Dance & Theatre Division organised virtual

residencies for three Swiss companies (Ntando Cele, Trần Tran and Alan Alpenfelt) in three locations in the UK (London's Royal Court, Manchester's HOME and Brighton's Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts).

OUR GLOBAL NETWORK

Pro Helvetia's global network includes five liaison offices, the Centre culturel suisse in Paris and several partner institutions. The network fosters international cultural exchange and the dissemination of Swiss arts and cultural projects.

Pro Helvetia's global network enables Swiss artists and cultural practitioners to attend important events worldwide and promotes exchange with local cultural institutions and artists.

Pro Helvetia's liaison offices are active in various regions of the world (Arab region, southern Africa, southern Asia, China, Russia) and in highly diverse cultural and political contexts. The offices act as bridge builders for Swiss artists and cultural practitioners to other world regions and nurture intercultural dialogue. During the reporting year, Pro Helvetia's liaison offices established new partnerships in various countries, to help access new regions and markets for cultural exchange and the dissemination of Swiss culture.

A new liaison office in the South American region was opened at the beginning of 2021 thanks to the successful development work carried out as part of the «COINCIDENCIA – Swiss & South American Cultural Exchanges» programme (2017–2020).

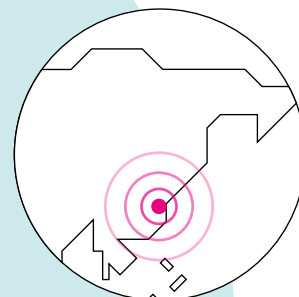
The Centre culturel suisse in Paris, which is operated by Pro Helvetia, presents contemporary Swiss creations and promotes relations between the Swiss and French art scenes.

Our partner institutions

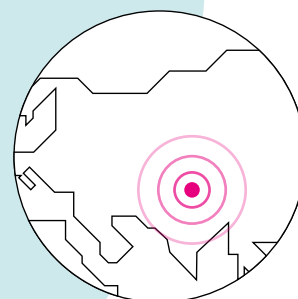
Based on support agreements, Pro Helvetia contributes funds to the cultural programmes of three Swiss partner institutions abroad: the Istituto Svizzero (IS) in Rome and its branch in Milan, the Swiss Institute in New York and swissnex San Francisco.

Liaison offices

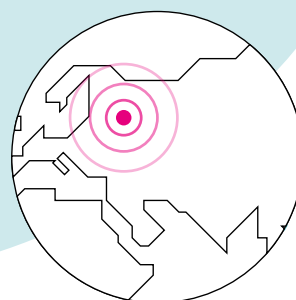
Pro Helvetia has developed a global network to promote cultural exchange internationally. Its liaison offices in Cairo (since 1988), Johannesburg (since 1998), New Delhi (since 2007), Shanghai (since 2010) and Moscow (since 2017) are stable anchors for strengthening exchange between Swiss cultural practitioners and partners on all five continents. This active presence is based on networks and local staff that observe and follow regional and global developments. The liaison offices support projects in all the disciplines promoted by Pro Helvetia in association with local partners. They also organise research stays or workshops for cultural practitioners in the world's regions. Mandated by the SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation), Pro Helvetia also promotes and supports the local professional cultural scene and regional exchanges in southern Africa.



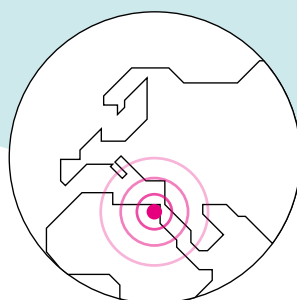
Shanghai



New Delhi



Moscow



Cairo



Johannesburg

The Centre culturel suisse in Paris (CCS)

Funded by Pro Helvetia, the Centre culturel suisse in Paris is dedicated to promoting contemporary Swiss creation in France while supporting exchange between the countries' artistic scenes. Its two exhibition rooms, stage and bookshop provide a platform for all artistic disciplines and for interdisciplinary projects.

COINCIDENCIA

Through its «COINCIDENCIA - Swiss & South American Cultural Exchanges» programme, the Arts Council aims to strengthen the networks between Swiss and South American cultural actors, to initiate new partnerships and to facilitate access for Swiss artists to the contemporary South American cultural scene. In 2020, the programme prepared the 2021 opening of Pro Helvetia's liaison office in South America.

Offices abroad: sample projects

In response to the global health crisis, and to maintain international collaborations while testing new formats, most of our liaison offices developed calls for projects adapted to the circumstances prevailing in 2020. In addition to «Breathing Space» and «NOW ON» (see below), «FastForwART» was initiated by **PRO HELVETIA MOSCOW**, «Folding the Axis» by **PRO HELVETIA SHANGHAI** and «Parallel Sphere» by **PRO HELVETIA CAIRO**.

- At the beginning of 2020, **PRO HELVETIA JOHANNESBURG** supported the collaboration of musicians and artists Lilian Beidler (Switzerland) and Mpho Molikeng (Lesotho). Their series of interdisciplinary performances in Switzerland and Lesotho was inspired by the life and work of the Swiss missionary and physician Bertha Hardegger. In response to the pandemic, the office partnered the Basel-based Leve-do Foundation to establish an emergency fund for over 350 jazz musicians in South Africa. It also helped develop and launch the «Home Not Alone» residency format with other liaison offices. The office continued extending its geographical reach, by appointing new team members in West and East Africa and by launching the «Breathing Space» call for applications with new partners in these regions.
- Supported by **PRO HELVETIA CAIRO**, choreographer and dancer Guilherme Botelho's company Alias collaborated with the MAAT Dance Company | Cairo Contemporary Dance Center on two workshops involving thirteen Egyptian dancers to create Alias's new production «Sideways Rain». Artist-in-residence Camille Dumond presented her findings on translation and transcription in her exhibition «Eye Archive» in Rabat (Morocco). Open to residents from the Arab world, the second edition of the «Live Praxes» seminar, dedicated to the «spoken word», was held online. Titled «Written to Be Spoken», the event attracted nineteen participants from Egypt, Palestine and Morocco with different artistic and research backgrounds.
- **PRO HELVETIA MOSCOW** supported «Inspired by Switzerland», an exhibition at the Russian Museum of Decorative Arts inviting twelve young Swiss designers to explore Swiss identity. A special issue of the Russian magazine «Inostrannaya Literatura» («Foreign Literature»), dedicated to contemporary Swiss literature, was also published in 2020, while Swiss composer Oscar Bianchi participated in an online workshop on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of Tchaikovsky's International Academy for Young Composers (Perm Province).
- **PRO HELVETIA NEW DELHI** launched «NOW ON», an interdisciplinary call for projects aimed at supporting innovative formats responding to the pandemic. Eight projects were supported, among others, from the fields of photography, contemporary dance and design. The office also supported Christoph Leuenberger and Kolatt's performance «Desire & Discipline» at Yangon Pride (Burma) and the Srijan-Abartan exhibition on sustainable creation at Dhaka Art Summit in collaboration with the Samdani Art Foundation.
- **PRO HELVETIA SHANGHAI** enabled the remote participation of Chinese artists Zhao Chuan and Chen Keng in performances by Dino Radoncic and Nathalie Stirnimann & Stefan Stojanovic, respectively, as part of «Acts of Transmission», organised by «PARTOUT», the Swiss performing arts platform. The office also supported «psD Against the Epidemic», an exhibition initially held online, later on three floors of Shanghai's Power Station of Art Museum and involving two Swiss-based design studios (Neo Neo and oficio). Eight of Swiss cartoonist Albertine's children's books were translated into Chinese (with the support of Pro Helvetia Shanghai) and published by Guangxi Normal University Press.
- Organised with the support of **COINCIDENCIA**, the South American online music festival «IN/OUT» presented eleven projects created by different collectives, institutes, labels, festivals, residencies and platforms from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Uruguay. The event invited reflection on the pandemic, on establishing different types of collaboration and on including minorities impacted by the pandemic. COINCIDENCIA also organised «Conversas Diversas», a series of online conversations linking artists, collectives and events from Switzerland and South America. Finally, a series of webinars (online conferences) accompanied the activities surrounding the launch of Pro Helvetia's liaison office in South America that opened in 2021.
- The **CENTRE CULTUREL SUISSE (CCS)** in Paris enabled its audience to stay connected with arts and cultural creation during lockdown through its weekly newsletter «à voir, lire et écouter chez vous». Fortunately, some events could be attended physically, including the exhibition of researcher and visual artist Ursula Biemann, held in collaboration with MAMAC, Nice and Manifesta 13 Marseille – Les Parallèles du Sud. «Cirque suisse, focus sur la jeune création» also took place, albeit in a purely professional context, with the participation of Arno Ferrara, Mika Lafforgue, Marc Oosterhoff, Julian Vogel and La Horde dans les pavés.



9 Photographer Batia Suter's «Ice, Birds and Fire» was presented at the 2020 edition of Images Vevey.

«These long months during which theatres have remained closed to the public remind us of the importance and necessity of both this art and these places, where we can gather, connect with others and the world, explore political or philosophical ideas, question our society and our times, and dream about our future. Theatre offers a collective, sensitive, free and lively artistic experience that I believe must be shared with as many people as possible.»

VINCENT BAUDRILLER
Director, Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne



III. FACTS AND FIGURES

Of the CHF 43.4 million available to Pro Helvetia in 2020, 86.6 per cent were invested directly in arts and cultural activities. At 13.4 per cent, the share of administrative costs was, as in previous years, well below the federal government's strategic target of 15 per cent. In 2020, Pro Helvetia received 450 more applications than in 2019, an increase due, among other factors, to the additional calls issued in connection with Covid-19. At the same time, the share of approved applications dropped by around 10 per cent to 38.9 per cent.

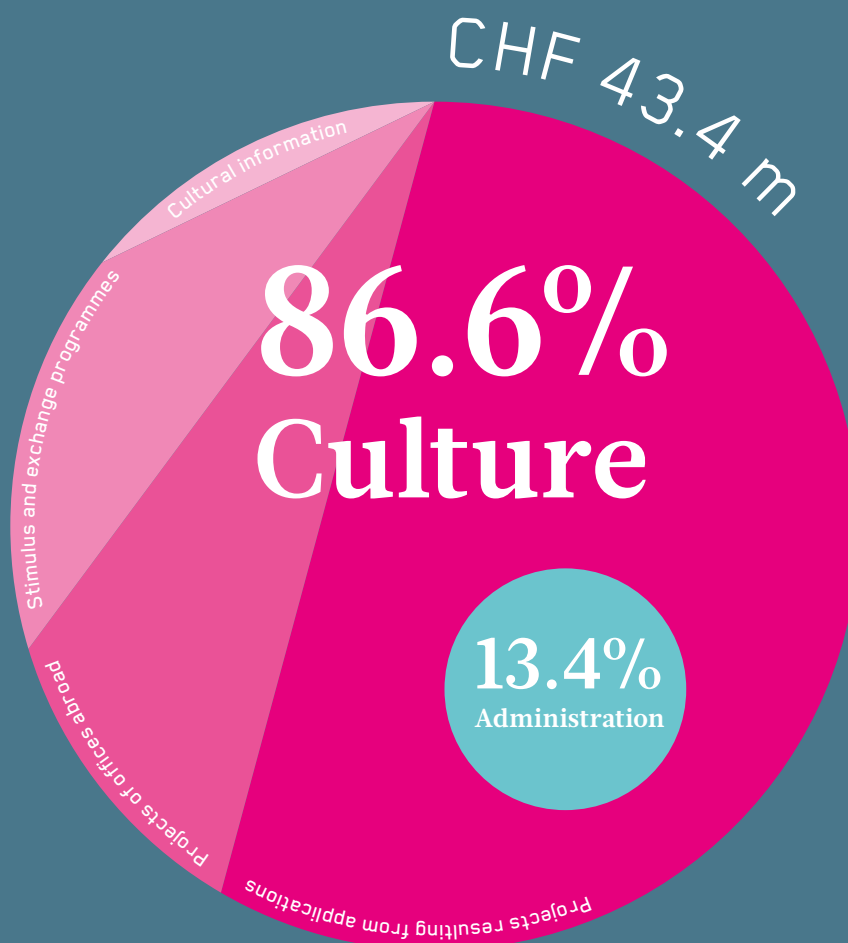
Culture as the highest priority

Of the CHF 43.4 million spent by Pro Helvetia in 2020, 86.6 per cent went directly to cultural activities. Administrative costs (13.4%), calculated based on ZEWO standards, remained clearly below the strategic threshold of 15 per cent prescribed by the Swiss Confederation.

Applicants projects	28.9 m
Projects of offices abroad	6.6 m
Stimulus and exchange programmes	1.3 m
Cultural information	0.8 m
Administration	5.8 m

Amounts spent in CHF

In the context of the Federal Cultural Policy Statement (Kulturbotschaft), Swiss Parliament grants Pro Helvetia a framework budget every four years. The Arts Council received CHF 210.9 million for the 2016–2020 period. Following budget cuts, the 2020 instalment of CHF 44.6 million was reduced to CHF 42.7 million.



Overview of applications received

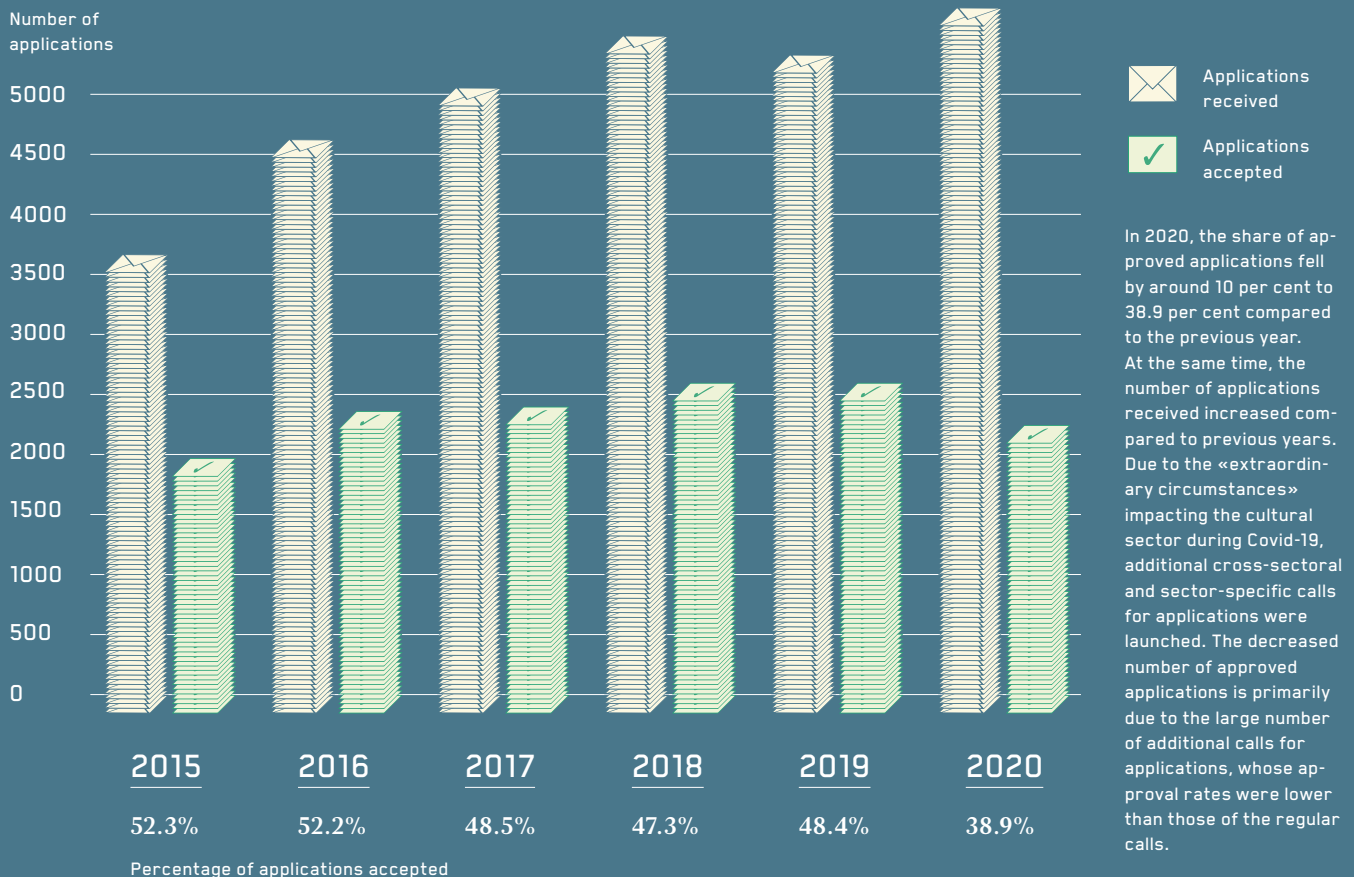
In 2020, Pro Helvetia received 5798 applications. Support was granted to projects in the fields of interactive Media & Design, Innovation & Society, Dance, Literature and Society, Music, Dance & Theatre, Visual Arts and – subsumed under the umbrella term «interdisciplinarity» – to projects involving multiple disciplines.

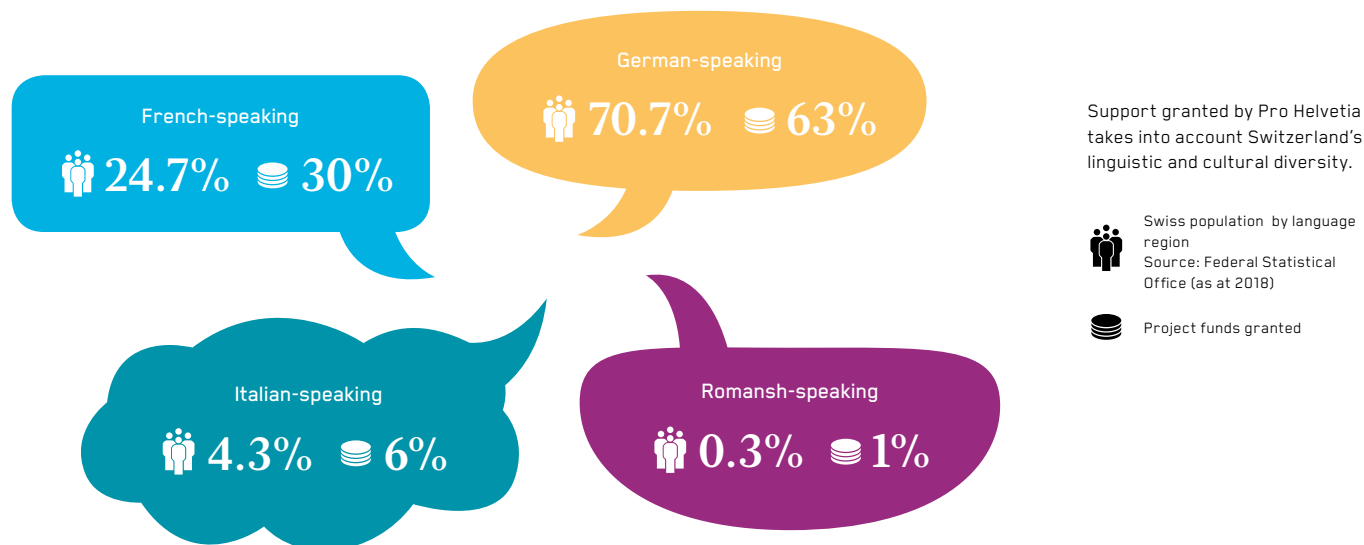
No Pro Helvetia funding decision was appealed in 2020.



* Due to the «extraordinary circumstances» impacting the cultural sector during the pandemic, the Innovation & Society Division launched «Close Distance», an interdisciplinary call for applications, which received 591 applications.

Development of the number of applications





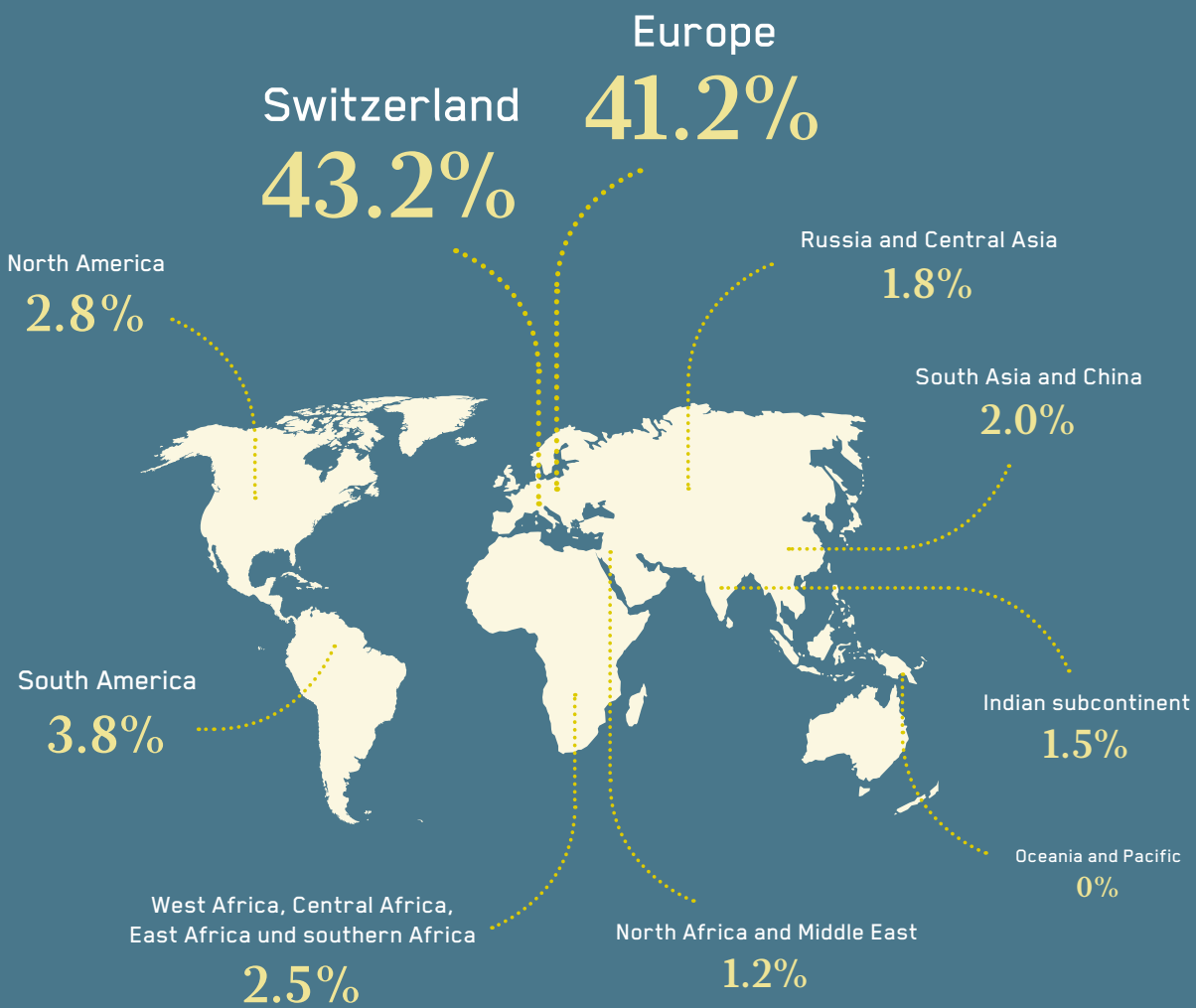
Support across Switzerland



Promoting Swiss culture around the world

Besides its domestic activities, in 2020, Pro Helvetia supported over 2400 Swiss art and cultural projects in 105 countries.

Supported projects by world region:



«Being a visual artist and performer is a conscious personal choice, and means nothing can be taken for granted. This became more evident than usual during the pandemic. For months, we have committed ourselves fully and with all our aspirations to art's engagement with the world. This is vital, but never simply given.»

KATJA SCHENKER
Artist



IV. EVALUATION

Pro Helvetia regularly evaluates its most important programmes and promotional measures. In 2020, the Arts Council commissioned a review of its performance agreements with «Reso – Tanznetzwerk Schweiz» and with Pro Helvetia's Klein-kunstfonds. Evaluations provide important information on the quality of the various funding measures and on any need for adjustment.

→ **Reso – Tanznetzwerk Schweiz**

«Reso – Tanznetzwerk Schweiz» was founded in 2006 to promote dance in Switzerland through specific projects and to better anchor the field in society. Pro Helvetia has supported «Reso» on a project basis ever since its launch and through a four-year performance agreement since 2012.

The 2020 evaluation examined the development of «Reso» and its impact on its environment. Both the conducted projects and exchange within the network were rated positively.

Based on these results, Pro Helvetia has decided to support «Reso» for another four years via an adjusted performance agreement. In future, Pro Helvetia's support will focus more on launching projects providing new impetus.

→ **Pro Helvetia's Kleinkunstfonds**

From 2021, Pro Helvetia will merge the various subsectors of the performing arts (dance, theatre, contemporary circus, music theatre or street art) into a single division. This raised the question of how Kleinkunst should be supported in future. Pro Helvetia has so far backed this field through its Kleinkunstfond, delegated to «t. Theaterschaffende», the association of theatre professionals.

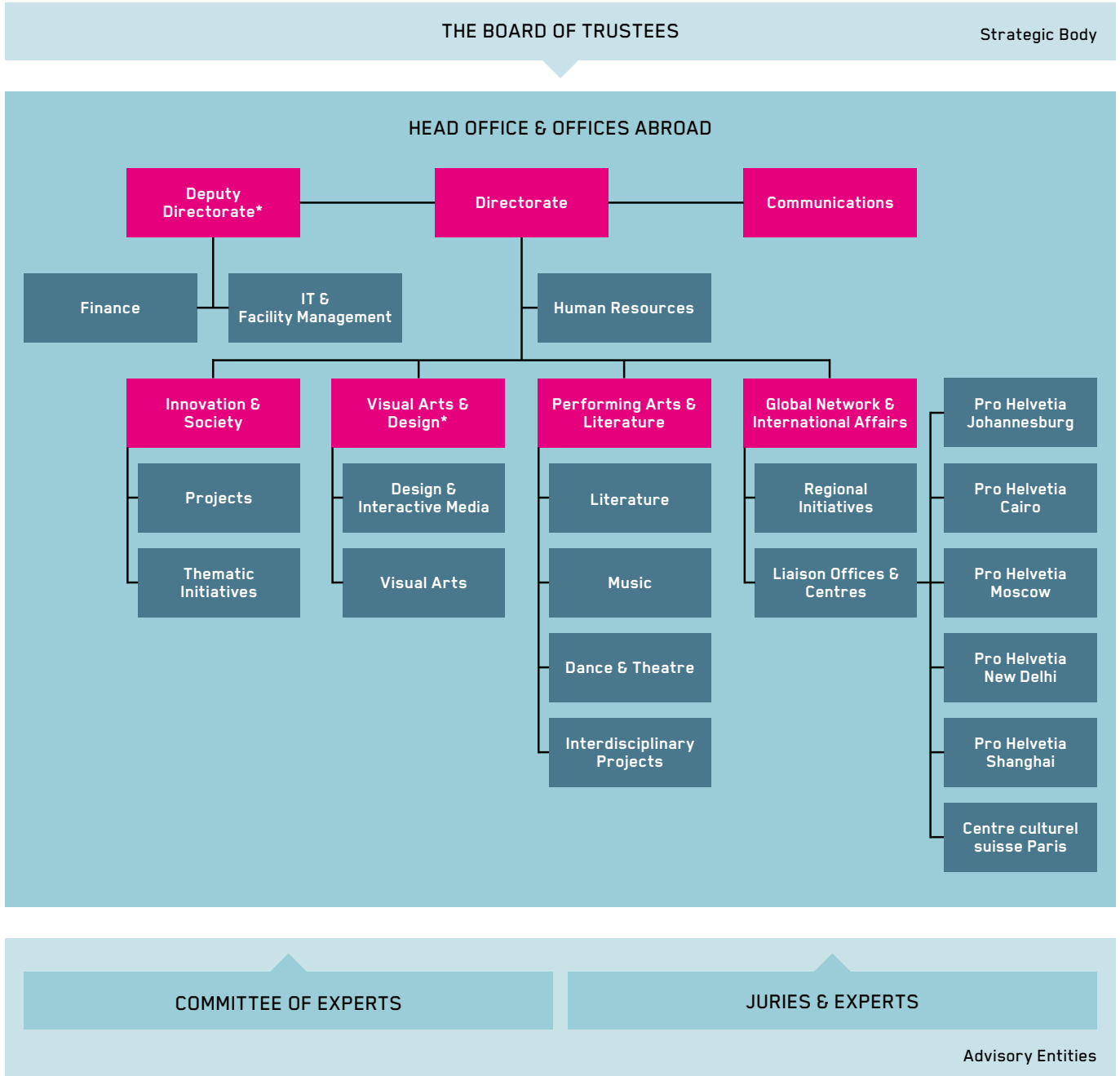
The 2020 evaluation revealed obvious contradictions between funding practices: While the Kleinkunstfonds focuses on supporting institutions, Pro Helvetia focuses on funding artists. These different approaches no longer seem effective, not least due to the increasing overlap between the various subsectors of the performing arts.

Pro Helvetia has therefore decided to discontinue the Kleinkunstfonds from 2021 and to provide regular funding for the sector through its Performing Arts Division (the former Dance & Theatre Division).

V. ORGAN- ISATION

The Board of Trustees, chaired by former Geneva State Councillor Charles Beer, is responsible for the Art Council's strategy and governance. The head office, under Director Philippe Bischof, and its 111 staff in Switzerland and abroad ensure that the Art Council's activities and objectives are pursued and implemented as efficiently and effectively as possible. Pro Helvetia is able to rely on the advice of its Committee of Experts, juries and independent experts. Pro Helvetia has restructured its organisation in view of the 2021–2024 Federal Cultural Policy Statement (Kulturbotschaft). aufgestellt.

ORGANISATIONAL CHART



■ Executive Committee

* In dual role

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The nine members of the Board of Trustees represent the diversity of the cultural sector, operational requirements and Switzerland's language communities. The Federal Council elects the Board of Trustees for a term of four years. Members may be re-elected once. The following four members took office on 1 January 2020: Gianfranco Helbling, Esra Küçük, Sarah Lombardi and Elodie Pong.

President

CHARLES BEER, Chêne-Bourg

Politics

Former Councillor of State, Canton of Geneva

Vice-president

SUSANNA FANZUN, Scuol

Cultural communication

Freelance film director and journalist; Director of Pisoc Pictures, President of cineasts.ch

HANNES GASSERT, Zurich

Cultural entrepreneurship

Cultural and technology entrepreneur, Co-founder Liip, crstl, Opendata.ch

GIANFRANCO HELBLING, Bellinzona

Cultural institutions

Director, Teatro Sociale Bellinzona

FRANÇOISE KÖNIG GERNY, Basel

Law

Co-head of Legal Services, Department of Economic, Social and Environmental Affairs, Canton of Basel-Stadt

ESRA KÜÇÜK, Berlin

Arts and audience outreach

Head of Operations, Allianz Kulturstiftung

SARAH LOMBARDI, Lausanne

Art and cultural studies

Director, Collection de l'Art Brut

ELODIE PONG, Zurich

Artistic creation

Artist; Guest professor, Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK)

KARL SCHWAAR, Bern

Business and finance

Member of the Board of Directors, BLS Netz AG

As at 31 December 2020

SECRETARIAT & OFFICES ABROAD

Management

The Director oversees daily operations and heads the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is responsible for implementing the Art Council's strategies and promotional activities. Its members are elected by the Board of Trustees on recommendation of the Director. In 2020, the Board elected Anna Arutyunova to succeed Murielle Perritaz as Head of Global Network & International Affairs (as of 1 January 2021).

Director

PHILIPPE BISCHOF

Interim Head of **Global Network & International Affairs** → (1 September to 31 December 2020)

Deputy Director

JÉRÔME BENOIT

Head of **Visual Arts & Design** →

ANDREAS MOOS

Head of **Performing Arts & Literature** →

MURIELLE PERRITAZ

Head of **Global Network & International Affairs** → (until 31 August 2020)

SERAINA ROHRER

Head of **Innovation & Society** → (as of 13 January 2020)

SABINA SCHWARZENBACH

Head of **Communications** →

→ Innovation & Society

SERAINA ROHRER, Head of Innovation & Society

→ Performing Arts & Literature

ANDREAS MOOS, Head of Performing Arts & Literature

FELIZITAS AMMANN, Head of Dance & Theatre

REINA GEHRIG, Head of Literature (as of 1 August 2020)

ANDRI HARDMEIER, Head of Music

AURÉLIA MAILLARD DESPONT, Interim Head of Literature (until 31 July 2020)

→ Visual Arts & Design

JÉRÔME BENOIT, Head of Visual Arts & Design

JELENA DELIC, Interim Head of Visual Arts (until 31 January 2020)

MADELEINE SCHUPPLI, Head of Visual Arts (as of 1 February 2020)

SYLVAIN GARDEL, Head of Design & Interactive Media

→ Global Network & International Affairs

PHILIPPE BISCHOF, Interim Head of Global Network & International Affairs (1 September to 31 December 2020)

MURIELLE PERRITAZ, Head of Global Network & International Affairs (until 31 August 2020)

THOMAS BRUHIN, Head of Offices Abroad and Centres

TOBIAS BRENK, Head of «COINCIDENCIA – Swiss & South American Cultural Exchanges»

ANNA ARUTYUNOVA, Head of Pro Helvetia Moscow

JOSEPH GAYLARD, Head of Pro Helvetia Johannesburg

YUXI (LUCY) LU, Head of Pro Helvetia Shanghai

AKSHAY PATHAK, Head of Pro Helvetia New Delhi

DALIA SULEIMAN, Head of Pro Helvetia Cairo

(† August 2020)

PETER FARES, Interim Head of Pro Helvetia Cairo (as of 1 September 2020)

JEAN-MARC DIÉBOLD, Head of Centre culturel suisse (Paris)

→ Communications

SABINA SCHWARZENBACH
Head of Communications

Finance

SILVIO RÜEGG

Head of Finance and Controlling

Human Resources

MARION LAUTNER

Head of Human Resources

IT & Facility Management

MIRCO WÄLKE

Head of IT & Facility Management

As at 31 December 2020

Further details on Secretariat staff:

WWW.PROHELVETIA.CH

ADVISORY BODIES

Committee of Experts

The Committee of Experts consists of a maximum of thirteen members, each specialising in a particular discipline. The Committee assesses funding applications and Pro Helvetia initiatives for amounts over CHF 50 000, as well as multi-year support agreements.

The Board of Trustees elects the members of the Committee of Experts for a four-year term of office. Every member may be re-elected once.

President

THOMAS HUNKELER, Literature (French-speaking Switzerland)

Vice-president

FELICITY LUNN, Visual arts

MARYNELLE DEBÉTAZ, Theatre (French-speaking Switzerland)

VÉRONIQUE FERRERO DELACOSTE, Dance (French-speaking Switzerland)

CRISTINA FOGLIA, Literature (Italian-speaking)

UTE HAERBURG, Theatre (German-speaking Switzerland)

MARIE-ANNE JANKI, Electronic music (as of 1 January 2020)

WALTER LEIMGRUBER, Cultural studies

STÉPHANIE-ALOYSIA MORETTI, Jazz

CHANTAL PROD'HOM, Design

PHILIPP THEISOHN, Literature (German-speaking)

JULIA WEHREN, Dance (German-speaking Switzerland) (until 30 April 2020)

As at 31 December 2020

Independent Experts

Independent experts advise the head office at its request. They are elected by the Board of Trustees for a term of four years.

Further details on independent experts:

WWW.PROHELVETIA.CH

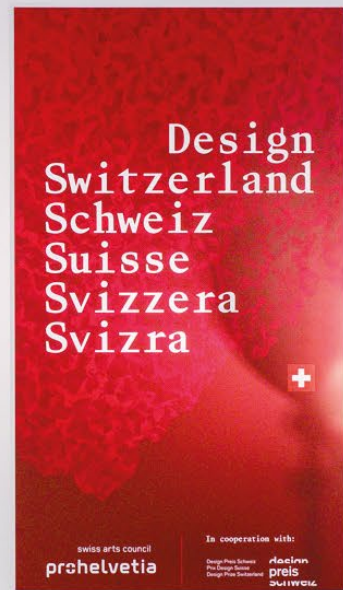
Juries

Pro Helvetia may appoint juries to assess funding and project applications. The Board of Trustees appoints jury members for a term of maximum four years.

Current juries and their members:

WWW.PROHELVETIA.CH

Design Switzerland —→ Gastland Schweiz —





14 Switzerland appeared as the guest country at the «Eurosonic» festival (Groningen, Netherlands) under the heading «A Taste of Swiss Music». The artists presented included Swiss Canadian Camilla Sparksss.



15 An image that became the norm in 2020 (here at Verveine's concert at the «Label Suisse» festival in Lausanne).



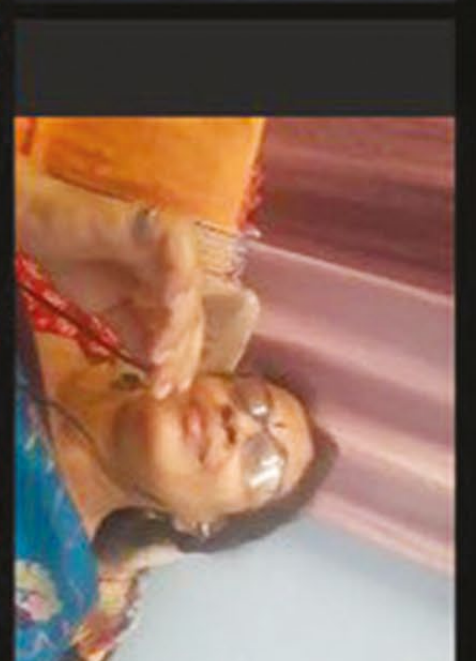
«Lockdown has raised many interesting questions about the value of culture in Switzerland. As independent musicians, we are all affected by the ban on events. Thanks to the tremendous commitment of Sonart and Pro Helvetia, we have managed to cover part of the losses. But the crisis has also shown that we need to unite even more strongly as a professional group if we wish to be seen as an important part of society.»

KALI TRIO

Supported by the 2020–2022 High-Priority Jazz Promotion Fund



17 Swiss artist Sarah Burger presented her installation «(un)earthed» at the «RIXC Art Science Festival 2020» in Riga (Latvia).





Photography

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Yana Gorbacheva | 11 Live Arts Workshop
Swiss Edition, PARTOUT
at Kaserne Basel, 2020 |
| 2 Gunnar Meier | |
| 3 Nelly Rodriguez | 12 Librairie Bostryche |
| 4 Sidi Vanetti | 13 VIENNA DESIGN WEEK -
Kramar - Kollektiv Fischka |
| 5 Royal Court Theatre /
Ntando Cele, Manaka
Empowerment prod. | 14 Rob Lewis / Swiss Music
Export |
| 6 Design Society | 15 IoOrent |
| 7 Digital Kingdom | 16 Peter Kobel |
| 8 Magali Dougados | 17 Kristine Madjare |
| 9 Laetitia Gessler | 18 Phillip Vulakh |
| 10 Daniel Caccin | 19 Cie Gilles Jobin |

Imprint

PUBLISHED BY: Pro Helvetia, Swiss Arts Council

EDITORS: Pro Helvetia Communications

LANGUAGE VERSIONS: German, French, Italian, English

TRANSLATIONS: Martin Kuder (Italian), Mark Kyburz (English),
Lia Lambert (French)

GRAPHIC DESIGN AND PRODUCTION: moxi ltd., Biel

PRINTED BY: Ediprim AG, Biel

DATE OF PUBLICATION: April 2021



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