

ANNUAL

Annual Report

COVER

- 1 The «Design Switzerland's Living Spaces» exhibition initiated by Pro Helvetia at Milano Design Week presented the ideas of nine young Swiss design studios on the theme living spaces.
- 2 During its refurbishment, the Centre culturel suisse will be touring France with a multidisciplinary programme. The tour gets underway in the garden of the Swiss Consulate General in Lyon. Design: Studio Marietta Eugster.

Every year, Pro Helvetia publishes the projects it has supported or undertaken during the reporting period under «Supported Projects». 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.



- 3 Latifa Echakhch's soundless installation «The Concert», shown in the Swiss Pavilion at the 59th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia, took visitors on a journey through memory spaces.



4 Prior to its refurbishment, the Centre culturel suisse invited visitors to its premises for the last time with the «Tschüss Festival». The programme included Julie Monot's performance «HANG OUT».



5 The «Bilderbücher: illustriert & inszeniert» exhibition at Gewerbemuseum Winterthur was dedicated to visual narratives and examined the creation of picture books.

«Writing and translating anchor me in life, ground me and give me a sense of being. They are like two masts of a ship which constantly support me and which I can rely on, especially now, at a time when my country, my language and my culture are threatened by war.

And the feeling of being at home literature is still able to offer, even when you feel paralysed and helpless, when you lose all your words, and you rediscover language within yourself.»

LIUBA-PARASKEWIJA STRYNADIUK

The Ukrainian author and translator from German into Ukrainian will spend four months in residence at Looren Translation House in Hinwil in spring 2023.





POEM WRITTEN BY
RUSHIKA WICK

There was nothing here, just empty space
6 months ago, now you stand in a room!
There's nothing more real
than a physical room
bounded with hard floor underfoot
to stop you from falling away from yourself.
It makes you feel present, alive.
You are creating places to be alive in.
Your work is existential, you use your hands
as humans should
surrounded by the smell
of turned clay and mortar.
You are builders of presence and monument.
Builders of sanctuary and hope.
You are philosophers in praxis. I salute you.

THEATRE SQUARE
LONDON E15 1BX 2022



For everything that unites us.
Against everything that divides us.

Por todo lo que nos une.
Contra todo lo que nos separa.

OTHER
PEOPLE
THINK

爱是关于接近，
艺术也是。



DOCUMENTA
FTFEE
about proximity
So is art.

ART

FOSTERING ROOTS

CHARLES BEER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Nothing will ever be the same again – or at least not entirely! Even three years after its outbreak, the Covid-19 pandemic continues to exert pressure on our societies and above all culture, although far less severely. Many pre-crisis deliberations have gained new currency and urgency, and are forcing us to reconsider matters. Cultural formats have changed and diversified for good, even if we are of course relieved that the restrictions imposed on large events have been lifted.

Today, our principal focus is societal, social and ecological responsibility. The social welfare of artists and cultural practitioners, supporting the victims of discrimination and harassment, the importance of diversity or reducing the impact of global warming are concerns that have moved centre stage in implementing measures designed to promote culture.

Too often neglected or deferred, these crucial aspects and factors marked the end of a phase characterised by the need for even more focused action and by making preparations for the 2025–2028 Federal Cultural Policy Statement (Kulturbotschaft). Pro Helvetia is aware of its responsibility in this regard and has intensified its efforts to formulate answers to the current challenges.

We remain committed to developing formats and measures designed to support cultural creation and excellence, foster social responsibility and underscore the importance of culture for social cohesion and openness. Pro Helvetia is able to fulfil its mission thanks to the professionalism of its staff, its independence, and the trust and recognition it enjoys.

Against the background of increasing identitarian demands, geostrategic tensions and armed conflicts, culture forms a bridge between societies and people. Accordingly, we are carefully considering the relations between Pro Helvetia's head office and its liaison offices across the world in order to best support artists, their work and their exchange of ideas and experiences. Thanks to its outstanding work being recognised in Switzerland and beyond, the Foundation is more aware than ever of its responsibility and of the importance that its network has in promoting mutual understanding.

PHILIPPE BISCHOF, DIRECTOR

«Artistic freedom is the recognition of the here and now in which we live, an ongoing negotiation with external conditions. Artistic freedom also lives within us, in our ability to distance ourselves from daily events, language and traditions – in order to find our own voice.»

Cécile Wajsbrot

The turbulent times we are experiencing are having marked effects. Of the many influences which are currently being discussed as socially and politically relevant, two strike me as particularly significant for promoting culture.

On the one hand, we have realised that when we speak of society, we often assume, too casually in fact, a «we», yet

fail to critically question or consciously define this «we» – in reality, however, we encounter and engage with numerous communities of interests and convictions, between which, unfortunately, polarising discourses are established more often than not.

On the other hand, we have become acutely aware of how much the cultural sector has also been shaped and driven by the capitalist dogma of progress in recent decades – even if the arts and culture have gained momentum worldwide, and

Against the background of increasing identitarian demands, geostrategic tensions and armed conflicts, culture forms a bridge between societies and people.



9 Charles Beer, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and Philippe Bischof, Director.

despite their expanding infrastructure, this development has come at great expense, in the form of precariousness, inequality and fragility.

On balance, we are probably well advised to accept that we must cope with enduring uncertainties a little longer, because fragility and uncertainty will persist for a while. As individuals we therefore need common yet very different means of orientation and inspirations, to avoid losing sight of possible perspectives for the future – the arts are often and gladly summoned to assist us in this respect. This, of course, is not mistaken. And yet, what if the arts themselves, first and foremost their creators, are exposed to permanent uncertainty? When securing one's livelihood takes precedence over designing alternative models of the future?

If the German sociologist Philipp Staab's analysis is correct, then self-preservation will take precedence over self-development in the near future: «the future (...) belongs to adaptation rather than progress and to the expansion of individual scope for action.» Might it stand us in good stead to define adaptation as a positive quality to help us better shape the future? If that is the case, this again raises the pivotal question: at what cost can this goal be achieved?

In the coming years, those promoting culture need to recognise and support the existential concerns and the different voices of those working in the arts and culture as best and as timely as possible in our critical times, and to strengthen the role of cultural practitioners in society.

In the coming years, those promoting culture need to recognise and support the existential concerns and the different voices of those working in the arts and culture as best and as timely as possible in our critical times, and to strengthen the role of cultural practitioners in society. We must, however, recognise those to whom we turn in society. We must recognise the different voices which constitute society – and we must provide the spaces in which critical debates can take place. We will need to deal both accurately and openly with the question of what the relationship between culture(s) and identity(ies) looks like, and whether we can manage to understand many different perspectives on the one hand and shape them into a tolerant, respectful whole on the other.

All of us at Pro Helvetia look forward to actively contributing to this endeavour.

I. FOCUS SWITZER- LAND

Pro Helvetia supports Swiss artistic creation in all its diversity and ensures its dissemination across the country's different language regions. The Swiss Arts Council supports cultural projects of national significance on an application basis and provides the arts and culture in Switzerland with fresh impetus.



SAMPLE PROJECTS

In 2022, Pro Helvetia supported over 2000 art and cultural projects throughout Switzerland. These projects all illustrate the great diversity of today's arts and culture and articulate social developments and issues. After two years of the Covid-19 pandemic, which rendered long-term planning impossible, in 2022, the new realities in the cultural sector confronted the Foundation with fresh challenges. It was essential to root culture in social life again and to address the necessary changes. Against this background, Pro Helvetia included temporary support measures in its portfolio, which are meanwhile proving expedient for the future too. Through these measures, the Foundation supported the work of Swiss artists and cultural practitioners and its dissemination.

Through its **SUPPORT FOR CREATION**, Pro Helvetia makes a significant contribution to a diverse and high-quality range of contemporary creation in the performing arts, design, interactive media, literature, music, comics, visual arts and transdisciplinarity. For example, the Swiss Arts Council supported «Circular Banana Flip Flop», a design project by the Basel studio Kuori that develops flip-flops for children from biodegradable materials such as bananas and nutshells. The visual artists awarded a work grant in 2022 included Léa Meier for her «Nuit nommée fantôme / Jour de Fête». This work transformed the Tunnel Tunnel art space in Lausanne into a performative installation through which visitors moved as if through a ghost train of emotions. Genevan comic artist Helge Reumann also received a work grant for «Killmotor», a silent commentary on current social events in black and white images.

Pro Helvetia **PROMOTES ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE** between the regions of Switzerland. The exhibitions, theatre and dance performances, festivals, concerts, translations or folklife events supported by the Foundation establish links between the different languages and cultural communities, as well as contribute to strengthening social cohesion. Swiss dance professionals presented their productions at the «Swiss Dance Days 2022». Pro Helvetia invited international curators and festival programmers from its overseas offices and from Europe. In the field of music, funding was awarded to the «Usine sonore» festival in La Neuveville, which was dedicated to the theme of «fragility» through a series of concerts, lectures and conferences. Support was also granted to the «Verzasca Photo Festival», which showcased the work of national and international emerging photographers in the Verzasca Valley. The festival stands out for its sensitive treatment of nature and its resources, as well as for its highlighting of the cultural significance of rural areas.

Pro Helvetia supports **EMERGING ARTISTS** and helps them gain a foothold in their professional scenes. In cooperation with its partner institutions, the Swiss Arts Council offers a wide range of opportunities, from residencies and coaching programmes through promotional measures to support for public presentations. The projects launched in 2022 included a pilot project for residencies in the field of contemporary circus aimed at connecting emerging Swiss artists and event organisers in Switzerland's various language regions and at improving their production conditions. In the field of design, the «Starting Power» open call for applications, which was introduced during the pandemic, quickly proved to be successful and has been firmly established.

Besides providing young designers expert coaching on content, marketing, PR and business development, the programme facilitates their transition into professional life. The Swiss Arts Council also supported projects aimed specifically at women and non-binary cultural workers: six up-and-coming Swiss women authors were invited to travel to the Frankfurt Book Fair to gain insights into international trade fairs and to engage in professional networking. The «Helvetiarockt Music Lab» also received funding to support female and non-binary music professionals in the areas of producing and songwriting.

After two years of the Covid-19 pandemic, which rendered long-term planning impossible, in 2022, the new realities in the cultural sector confronted the Swiss Arts Council with new challenges.

Pro Helvetia regularly takes up important developments in contemporary artistic and cultural creation and supports innovative projects seeking to provide **FRESH IMPETUS TO CULTURE** in Switzerland. In 2022, Pro Helvetia funded the «Shifting Places» initiative, launched by artlink to support professional artists and cultural practitioners who have fled to Switzerland to escape from war. The initiative enables those affected to continue pursuing their professional activities and to establish connections in the Swiss cultural scene. Partnering the Adolphe Merkle Institute (AMI), the Swiss Arts Council launched the «Nano-ARTS» call for applications for artists, scientists and scholars working at the interface between art and the nanosciences. Support was given, for

example, to Claudia Christen and Jessica Clough's project «Painting with Light: The Darkroom of Nature», which explores synergies between the nanosciences and photography and seeks to discover new methods for drawing with light.

Pro Helvetia supports **CULTURAL OUTREACH** projects that are exemplary, demonstrate an innovative approach and encourage critical reflection on art and culture.

Launched in 2022, the «Multiply Perspectives» call for applications supported projects that discover innovative ways of critically reflecting on the role of art and culture in society. Eight projects were funded, including Camille Farrah Buhler and Tara Mabilia's podcast «Front Row», which questions stereotypes in the fashion industry, as well as explores the social and symbolic dimensions of clothing. Support was also granted to «Cora», an interactive graphic novel designed by the game studio Inlusio Interactive which playfully addresses ideas and conflicts during the Covid-19 pandemic through the eyes and experiences of a young woman.

II. FOCUS INTER- NATIONAL

Pro Helvetia awards grants on an application basis to Swiss cultural projects that are presented worldwide. The Foundation thus promotes contemporary art and culture from Switzerland across the world. Through its global network, Pro Helvetia supports the development of professional, international networks in all the creative disciplines supported by the Swiss Arts Council and strengthens cultural exchange and collaborations at an international level.



SAMPLE PROJECTS

In 2022, Pro Helvetia supported over 3900 art and cultural projects in 98 countries as part of its international activities. The two years of the Covid-19 pandemic posed great challenges for international cooperation. Although artists and cultural practitioners have been able to travel and cross borders more easily again since 2022, international mobility remains a major challenge. In addition, new uncertainties have arisen, such as Russia's war against Ukraine. To once again strengthen international exchange and cooperation, the Foundation's global network, consisting of many long-standing partnerships, proved to be crucial.

Pro Helvetia **PROMOTES THE DISSEMINATION** of works by artists and cultural practitioners from Switzerland who are invited by renown international institutions, event organisers or festivals. To this end, the Swiss Arts Council awards grants to theatre and dance productions, concert tours, reading tours, exhibitions and translations of projects from Switzerland. Supported by Pro Helvetia, six Swiss publishers participated in the «Shoot the Book!» meeting at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival. The initiative brings together publishers and professionals from the audiovisual field who are involved in adapting literary works for the screen. In the visual arts, support was granted to multidisciplinary artist Basim Magdy's site-specific, research-based solo exhibition «The Dent» at Röda Sten Konsthall in Gothenburg, which addressed the theme of individual and collective failure. In addition, the «Marketing Booster» call for applications launched in 2022 enabled interactive media studios to pursue a specific marketing goal with the aim of enhancing the international visibility of their projects.

Through its wide range of **PROMOTIONAL MEASURES**, Pro Helvetia helps to raise the profile of art and culture from Switzerland among organisers abroad. In 2022, the international trade fair «jazzahead!» in Bremen took place again on site. At the SWISS MUSIC booth, Pro Helvetia, in cooperation with the FONDATION SUISA and SONART, presented contemporary Swiss jazz to the public. Once again, the Swiss performing arts were represented at various festivals, which offered the mixed delegations comprising event organisers and artists important opportunities for professional exchange, networking and direct encounters. In 2022, for example, ten groups from Switzerland presented their projects to a professional audience at the «Canal» networking event held at the Centre national de la danse in Paris. The major Swiss focus at Toulouse Biennale was attended by 17 Swiss projects from the fields of dance, theatre, circus and performance.

Pro Helvetia supports **SWISS PARTICIPATION** and special features on Swiss creation at numerous internationally renowned events, fairs and biennials. Hosted by the 2022 Milano Design Week, key actors in the Swiss design scene appeared under the same roof for the first time since the pandemic as part of the «House of Switzerland». Organised by Pro Helvetia, the «Design Switzerland's Living Spaces» exhibition presented the ideas of nine young Swiss design studios on the theme of social change and living spaces. The 2022 Berlin Festival for Contemporary Music Theatre (BAM!) included a Swiss focus titled «Mapping Music Theatre», where Swiss musicians such as Chloé Bieri, the Collectif barbare or Christian Zehnder performed their work. In 2022, the 59th International Art Exhibition—La Biennale di Venezia—set a new audience record: featuring Latifa Echakhch's expansive installation «The Concert», the Swiss Pavilion welcomed over 500,000 visitors.

To once again strengthen international exchange and cooperation, the Swiss Arts Council's global network, consisting of many long-standing partnerships, proved to be crucial.

Pro Helvetia promotes international cultural exchange through **RESIDENCIES, KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND COOPERATIONS**. These formats and measures enable artists and cultural practitioners from Switzerland to expand their networks, learn about new cultural contexts and broaden their professional experience. This funding opportunity was expanded in 2022 to include family support. The measure enables artists who have children to apply for additional funding to cover childcare or travel expenses during residencies and research trips. In collaboration with its six liaison offices, Pro Helvetia also launched the mentoring and networking programme «She Got Game» to specifically promote women in the field of interactive media. 2022 also saw the launch of the «Connect India» call for applications: in collaboration with Arts at CERN and Pro Helvetia New Delhi, the programme enables a tandem of artists from Switzerland and India to share a residency at CERN in Geneva and at the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences in Bengaluru, India.

Finally, Pro Helvetia focuses on **NEW NETWORKS, REGIONS AND MARKETS** having the potential to promote more intensive exchange and a stronger presence of art and culture from Switzerland. Central to this initiative is developing and maintaining partnerships with regional organisers. As part of a Swiss focus, five productions were invited to the «Santarcangelo dei Teatri» theatre festival in Italy in 2022. Held every year, this innovative event attracts international curators and acts as an important networking venue. The «Design Accelerator» programme, run in collaboration with Swissnex San Francisco, enabled three Swiss design studios to present their work to the US market after a month of coaching and thus to connect with relevant industry partners. In collaboration with Brussels Book Fair and LIVRESUISSE, Swiss authors, comic artists, illustrators and publishers toured Wallonia, Flanders and Brussels. The professional networking meetings, readings and performances forming part of the event took place on a bus, in bookshops and in cultural spaces.

GLOBAL NETWORK

Pro Helvetia’s global network enables artists and cultural practitioners from Switzerland to attend important events. It also promotes exchange and cooperation with local cultural institutions and artists.

Our global network includes six liaison offices, as well as the Centre culturel suisse in Paris (CCS), the Istituto Svizzero in Rome (ISR) and its branch in Milan, and the Swiss Institute in New York (SINY).

Liaison offices

Aiming to expand its activities beyond Anglo-Saxon and Western European cultural geographies, Pro Helvetia operates liaison offices in the Arab region (Cairo, 1988), Southern Africa (Johannesburg, 1998), southern Asia (New Delhi, 2007), China (Shanghai, 2010), Russia (Moscow, 2017) and, for the first time, a decentralised office structure in several major South American cities (Bogotá, Buenos Aires, La Paz, Santiago, São Paulo, 2021). These increasingly decentralised structures are important for connecting the diverse art scenes in the respective regions. For example, Moscow liaison office employs an expert in Ekaterinburg, while the Johannesburg team is complemented by two staff members in Kampala and Lagos.

Pro Helvetia’s liaison offices are active in very diverse cultural and political contexts. Activities are the responsibility of local staff, who bring cultural practitioners from Switzerland together with those from their regions. The liaison offices support projects run by local partners in all the artistic disciplines funded by Pro Helvetia. They also facilitate research trips and residencies for cultural practitioners in Switzerland or in the respective regions.

When Russia started its war against Ukraine, Pro Helvetia decided to suspend its support for all public activities in Russia. Nevertheless, Pro Helvetia’s Moscow team has remained active and has developed possibilities (especially digital ones) for pursuing cultural exchange under the aggravated conditions.

Centre culturel suisse in Paris (CCS)

The Centre culturel suisse in Paris (CSS), run by Pro Helvetia, presents contemporary Swiss art and culture, in particular in the performing arts, music and visual arts. The CSS also promotes relations between the Swiss and French art and culture scenes. With two exhibition spaces, a stage and a bookshop, the Centre offers a platform to artists from various disciplines.

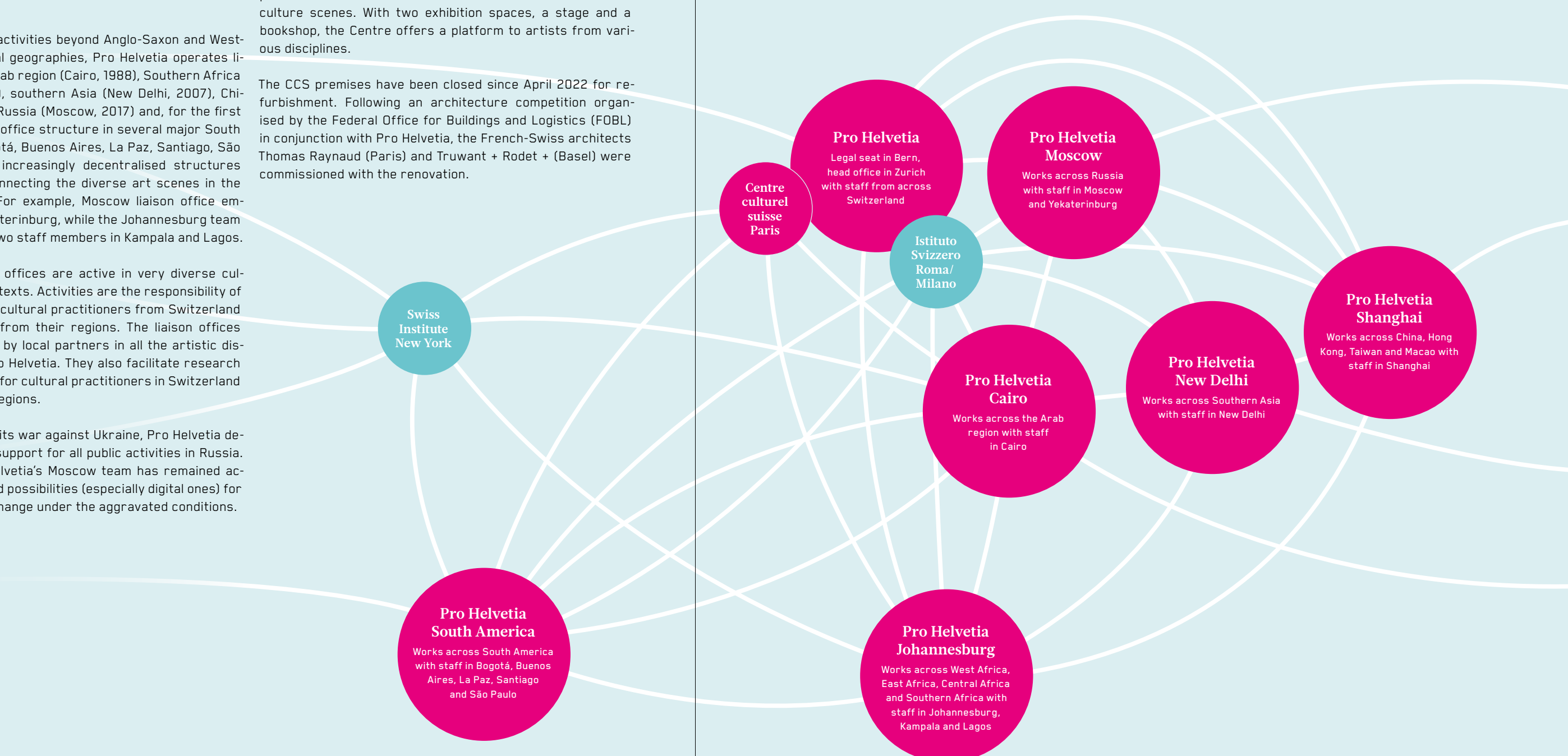
The CCS premises have been closed since April 2022 for refurbishment. Following an architecture competition organised by the Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics (FOBL) in conjunction with Pro Helvetia, the French-Swiss architects Thomas Raynaud (Paris) and Truwant + Rodet + (Basel) were commissioned with the renovation.

II
FOCUS INTERNATIONAL

Partner institutions

Based on performance agreements, Pro Helvetia contributes substantially to the cultural programmes of two Swiss institutions abroad: the Istituto Svizzero (IS) in Rome (and its branch in Milan) and the Swiss Institute in New York. The Swiss Arts Council also cooperates with Swissnex in San Francisco on a project basis.

From 2021 to 2024, Pro Helvetia will implement a programme of events and residencies at Palazzo Trevisan degli Ulivi in Venice focusing on experimental and site-specific artistic creation. The annual programme will include a series of concerts and thematic residencies for artists from Switzerland in Venice.



SAMPLE PROJECTS

Pro Helvetia's global network faced numerous challenges in 2022. Some regions of the world experienced a spirited revival of cultural activities. For example, the long-term, multilateral «Live Arts Workshop» in New Delhi continued or the «CCS on Tour» project was launched. At the same time, the situation for artists and cultural practitioners in other regions of the world was concerning: In China, isolation and severe restrictions on the freedom of movement strongly affected the arts and culture. The cultural scene in Russia was polarised by the country's war of aggression against Ukraine and was partly driven into exile. Overall, Pro Helvetia's global network focused its efforts on supporting professional cultural exchange and networking between artists and cultural practitioners facing very different circumstances.

Supported by **PRO HELVETIA JOHANNESBURG**, Swiss artist Aurélien Gamboni presented «COOP KIN (L'escamoteur à Kinshasa)» at the YANGO Biennale in Kinshasa, a project developed in association with Congolese sound artist Blaise Musaka, as well as with Michael Disanka and Christiana Tabaro from the Collectif d'Art-d'Art. Posters featuring newspaper articles were laid out on the pavements of Kinshasa, prompting debates over the interpretation of daily affairs and thus transforming street corners into temporary open-air parliaments. As part of the «Connect» residency programme, Swiss artist Ian Purnell and South African multidisciplinary artist Kamil Hassim spent three weeks together at CERN in Geneva and five weeks at South African observatories. The residency aims to expand international dialogue between art, science and technology.

PRO HELVETIA CAIRO supported the 2022 Cairo international graphic design conference «100/100 Hundred Best Arabic Posters Conference», which promotes and documents visual Arabic culture. The conference included graphic design workshops with Swiss designer Erich Brechbühl and a panel discussion that encouraged exchange on how Arabic graphic design can contribute to regional and international culture. The Egyptian media art festival «Mapping Possi-

bilities» was also supported: artists, music producers and sound artists collaborated on several audiovisual projects. Devoted to the theme of «Technology and Fiction», the 2022 edition toured Cairo and Amman in collaboration with «Drowned By Locals» and featuring live audiovisual performances, workshops and lectures.

PRO HELVETIA MOSCOW'S activities were severely affected by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine in 2022. The war left the team and the numerous partner institutions, arts and culture professionals with whom the office had been establishing relations for ten years in a state of shock. Shortly after the outbreak of war, Pro Helvetia decided to suspend its support for all public activities in Russia, such as concerts, exhibitions and festivals. Instead, and despite the drastic changes in the local cultural scene (artists and partners fled the country, others looked for ways to continue their work in Russia), the local team developed new cooperation formats, in particular ones that continue to facilitate exchange and collaboration between Swiss and Russian artists. Initiatives included an online workshop by Swiss composer Katharina Rosenberger as part of the «XII International Young Composers Academy» or an online residency involving Russian and Swiss illustrators organised by the «MORS Internation-

al Independent Festival of Book Illustration and Visual Literature». These events and the associated experiences have highlighted the importance of fostering relations between artists from Switzerland and Russia, as well as the significant role played by Pro Helvetia Moscow in maintaining this dialogue.

In 2022, with the support of **PRO HELVETIA NEW DELHI**, the third edition of the «Live Arts Workshop» took place in New Delhi, featuring a series of collaborative workshops aimed at promoting professional exchange in the field of performance art. Held in a different region managed by a Pro Helvetia liaison office every year, the series leverages existing local structures and networks. Our New Delhi office also facilitated the participation of Swiss author Max Lobe in the «Long Night of LiteratureS» at the Instituto Cervantes in Delhi, where acclaimed literary figures presented their work in various languages. Support was also given to the research trip to Switzerland by Indian artist Rohini Devasher, who visited the research station on Jungfraujoch during her stay and studied the historic cyanometer, a Swiss invention for measuring the intensity of sky blue.

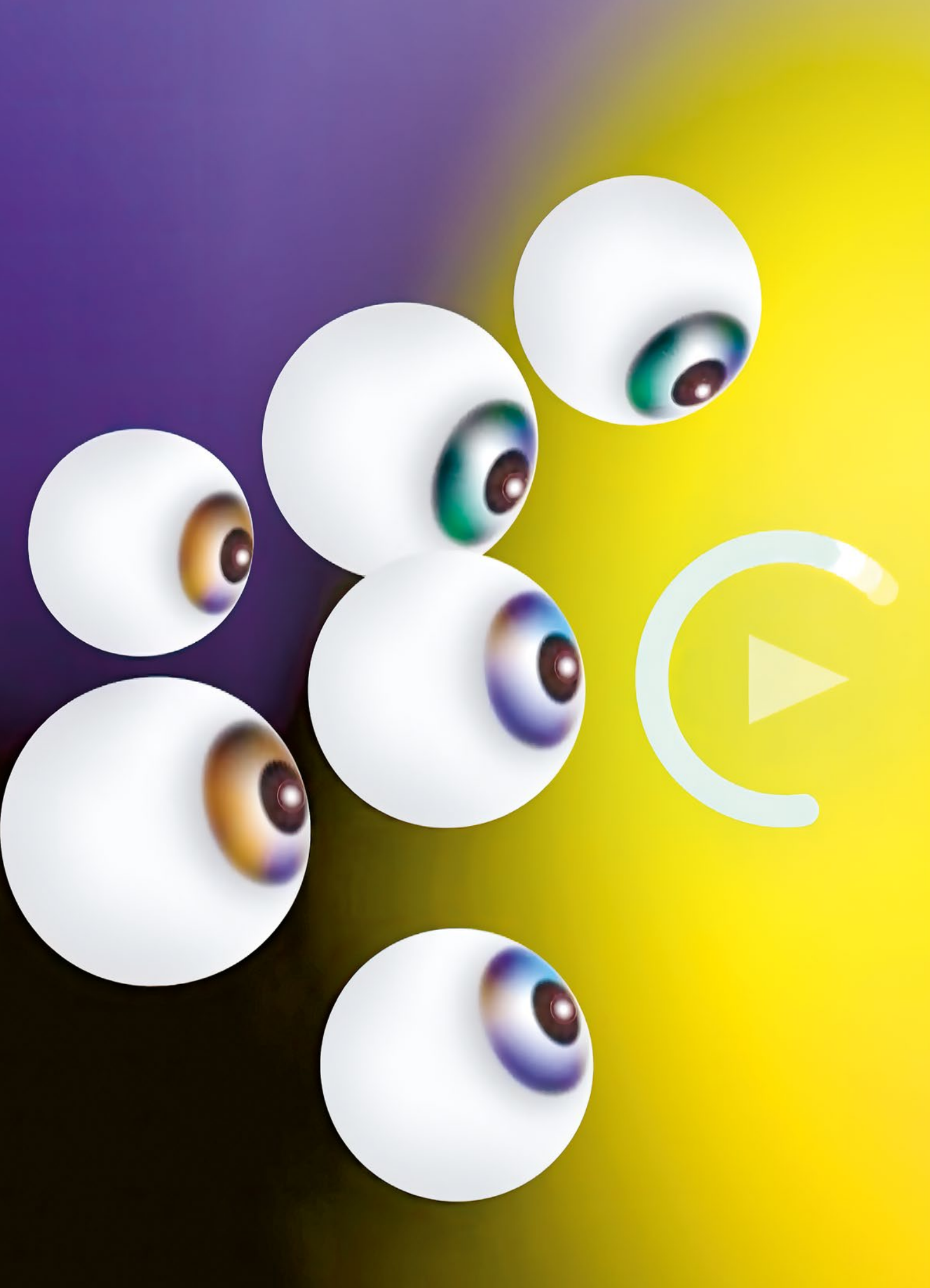
Pro Helvetia's global network focused its efforts on supporting professional cultural exchange and networking between artists and cultural practitioners facing very different circumstances.

PRO HELVETIA SHANGHAI supported the 2022 «aai International Conference on art (ai)», an online conference held in Shanghai on art and artificial intelligence that brings together the most important research results from the fields of art, design, physics and science fiction literature. Curators Sabine Himmelsbach (Haus der elektronischen Künste Basel) and Adrian Notz (ETH AI Center and Tichy Ocean Foundation) both gave presentations as part of the event. The Shanghai office also facilitated the invitation of four Swiss artist groups to the exhibition «The Language of Mushrooms: The Interspecies Internet» at the Contemporary Gallery Kunming in China. The exhibition took the audience into the world of mushrooms and used mycelium networks as a symbol of the connections between humans and other species.

Supported by **PRO HELVETIA SOUTH AMERICA**, Swiss choreographer Alexandra Bachzetsis toured South America in 2022 with her piece «PRIVATE: Wear a mask when you talk to me» (2016). Using costumes and props from everyday life, the artist showed how sexual iden-

ties are reproduced and how gender and desire are created through the ritualised repetition of physical gestures. Swiss pianist Nik Bärtsch played a series of solo concerts in South America in 2022, and also presented his new book «Listening – Music, Movement, Mind». In the field of literature, the residency programme «What do we translate?» was supported: during their residencies at Looren Translation House in Hinwil, Latin American literary translators established professional contacts with colleagues across all of Switzerland's language regions.

Before the start of the two-year renovation phase, the **CENTRE CULTUREL SUISSE (CCS)** in Paris invited visitors to its premises for the last time with the «Tschüss Festival», which offered a stage to around 40 artists from Switzerland over a period of 30 days in February and March. The programme included concerts, performances, installations and DJ sets. During its extensive renovation and modernisation, the Centre culturel suisse will remain active hors les murs in various French cities with a multidisciplinary programme titled «CCS on Tour». The extramural programme presents art from Switzerland in conjunction with several partner institutions. After its launch at the Biennale d'art contemporain de Lyon in September, the programme moved to Dunkerque in November, where the exhibitions, performances and lectures by artists from Switzerland were again well attended.



**«Networking, connecting, negotiating:
rooting myself in a new place for a short time
enabled me to consider both my own practice and
what was happening around me from an external
vantage point. By connecting with the residents of
these wonderfully special islands, I was able to better
understand the political and social contexts
and subsequently address them in an installation
together with local people. This physical moment
existed only fleetingly; the most diverse connections
have different durations. What remains is
renegotiated time and again.»**

MARIE SCHUMANN

Visual artist Marie Schumann spent a three-month residency at Palazzo Trevisan
degli Ulivi in Venice.



11 Collaborating on her project «Food Design - The Materials» with bioengineer Sangita Vasikaran, designer Carolien Niebling visualised different food textures.



12 The «Sailing Stones» music festival is a collaboration between Swiss and Tunisian organisers and features live performances by local and international artists in different regions of Tunisia.

III. FACTS AND FIGURES

Of the CHF 44.2 million available to Pro Helvetia in 2022, 86.6 per cent were invested directly in art and cultural activities. At 13.4 per cent, the share of administrative costs lay within the range defined by the Federal Council. In 2022, Pro Helvetia received a total of 5390 applications. Compared to the previous year, the share of approved applications fell by around three percentage points to 42.4 per cent.

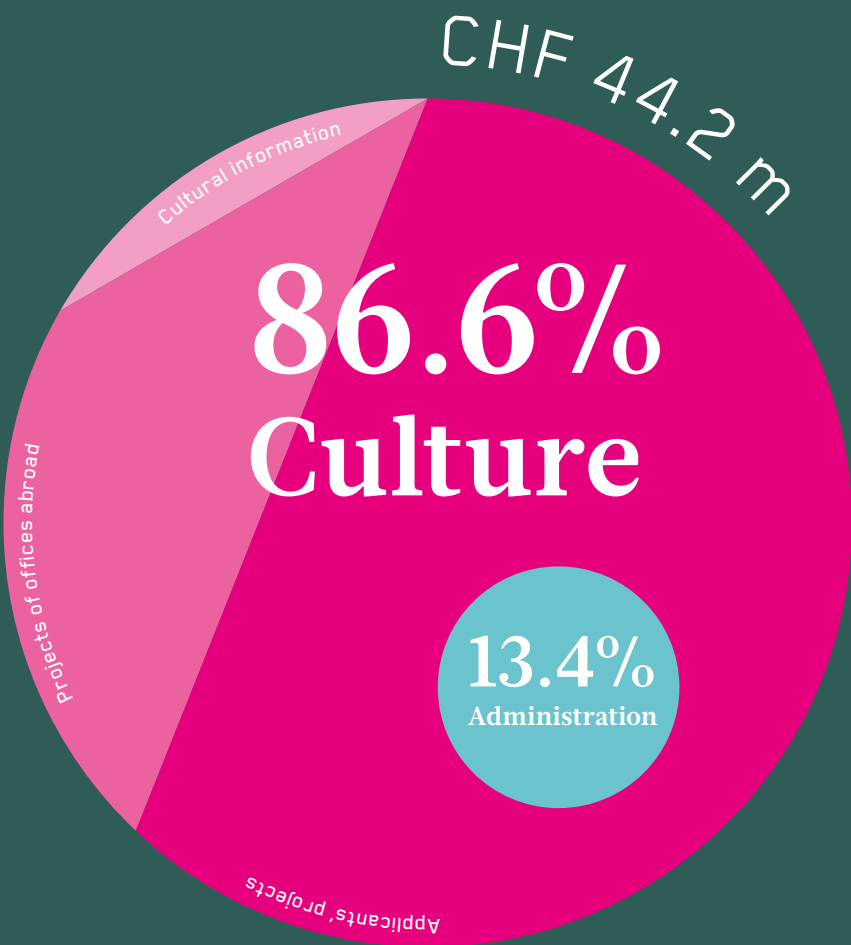
Culture as the highest priority

Of the CHF 44.2 million spent by Pro Helvetia in 2022, 86.6 per cent went directly to cultural activities. At 13.4 per cent, the share of administrative costs, calculated based on the ZEWO standard, remained within the range defined by the Federal Council.

Applicants' projects	29.9 m
Projects of offices abroad	7.2 m
Cultural information	1.2 m
Administration	5.9 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. For the four-year period 2021-2024, the Swiss Arts Council received CHF 180.4 million. The 2022 instalment amounted to CHF 44.2 million.



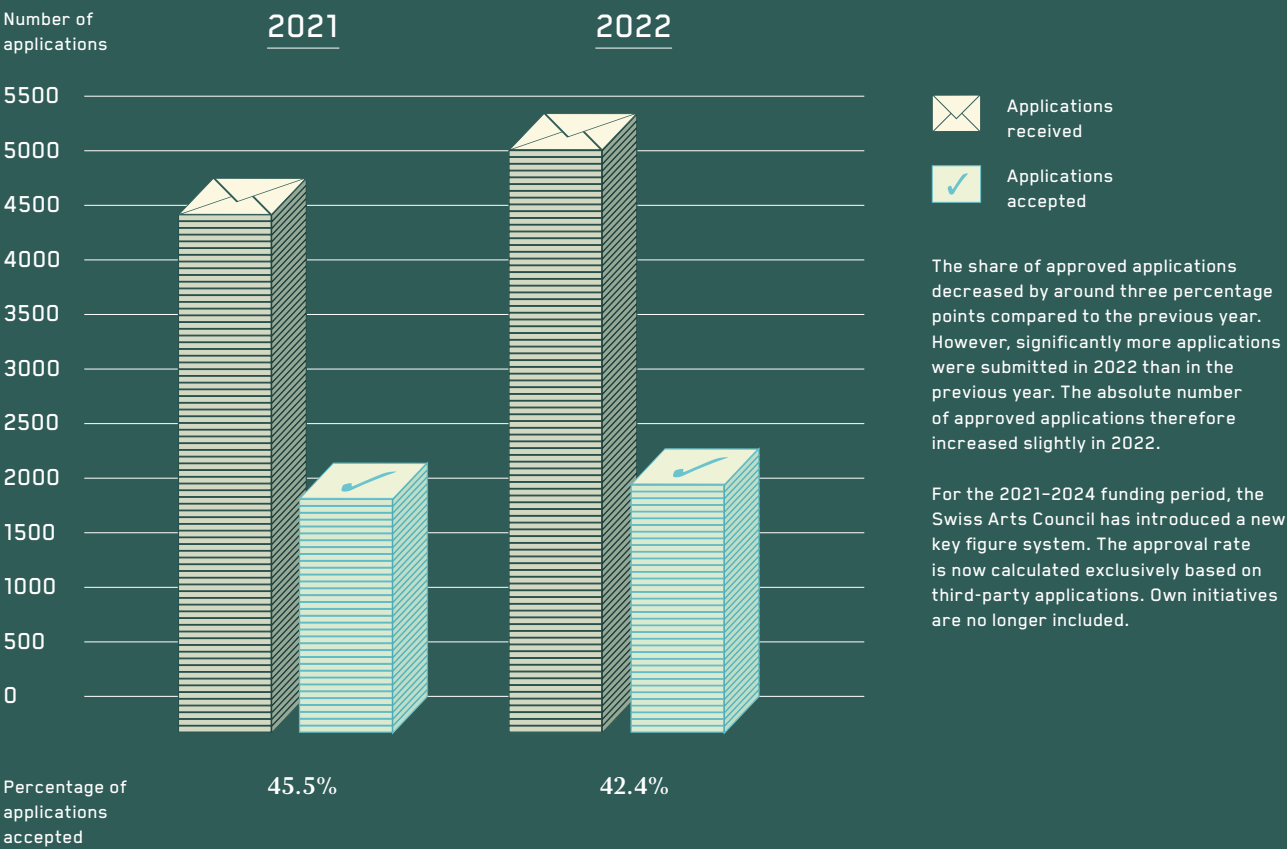
Overview of applications received

In 2022, Pro Helvetia received 5390 applications. Support was granted to projects in the fields of Design & Interactive Media, Literature, Music, Performing Arts, Transdisciplinarity and Visual Arts.

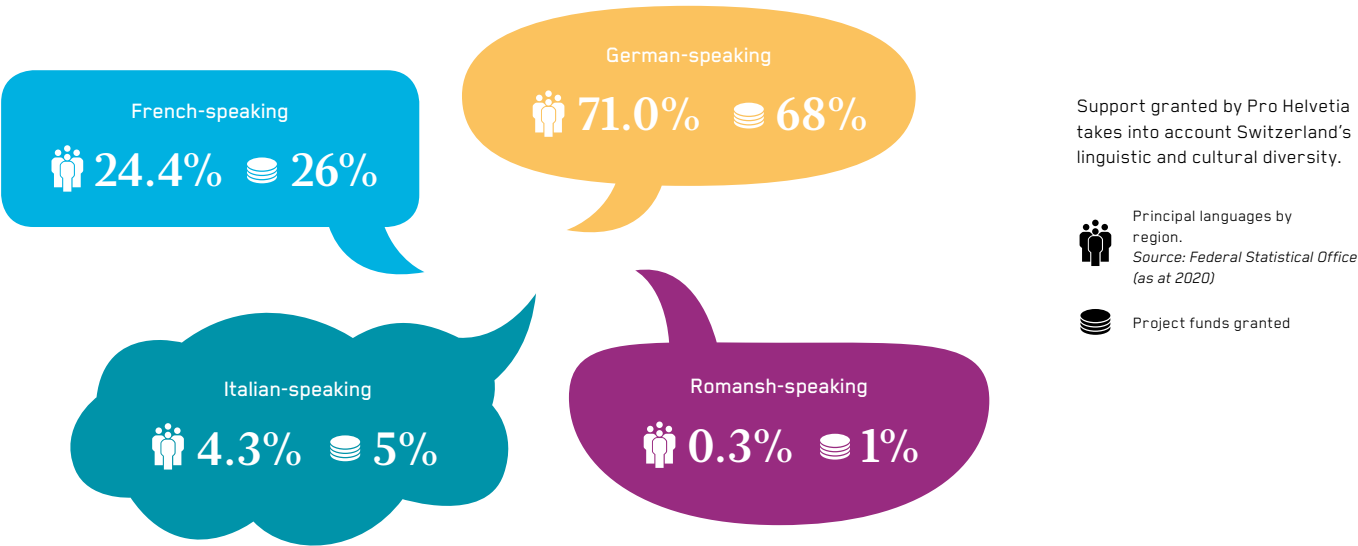
In 2022, none of Pro Helvetia’s funding decisions were appealed. An appeal pending from the previous year was approved by the Federal Administrative Court, with the respective application being referred to the Foundation for reassessment.



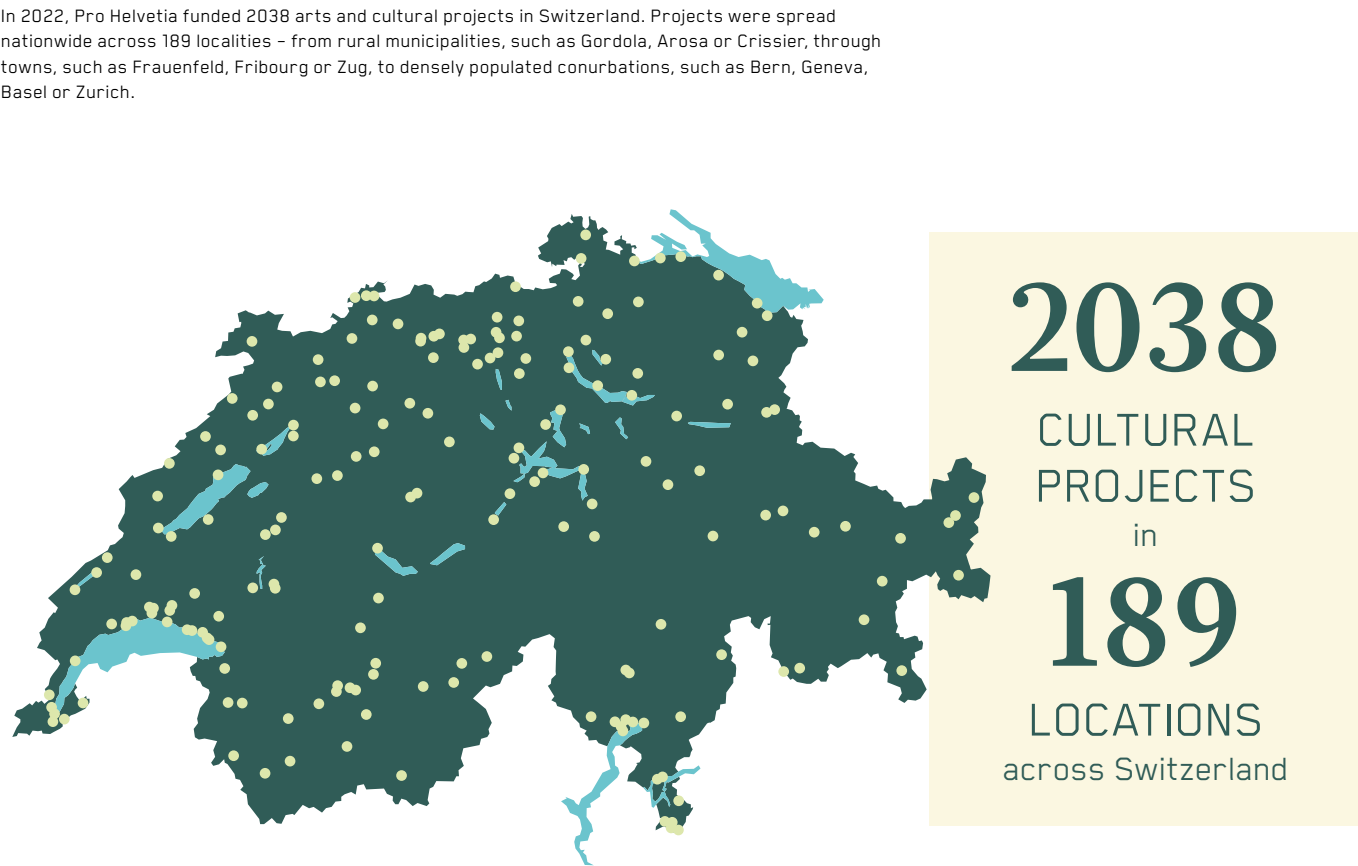
Development of the number of applications



Supporting linguistic diversity



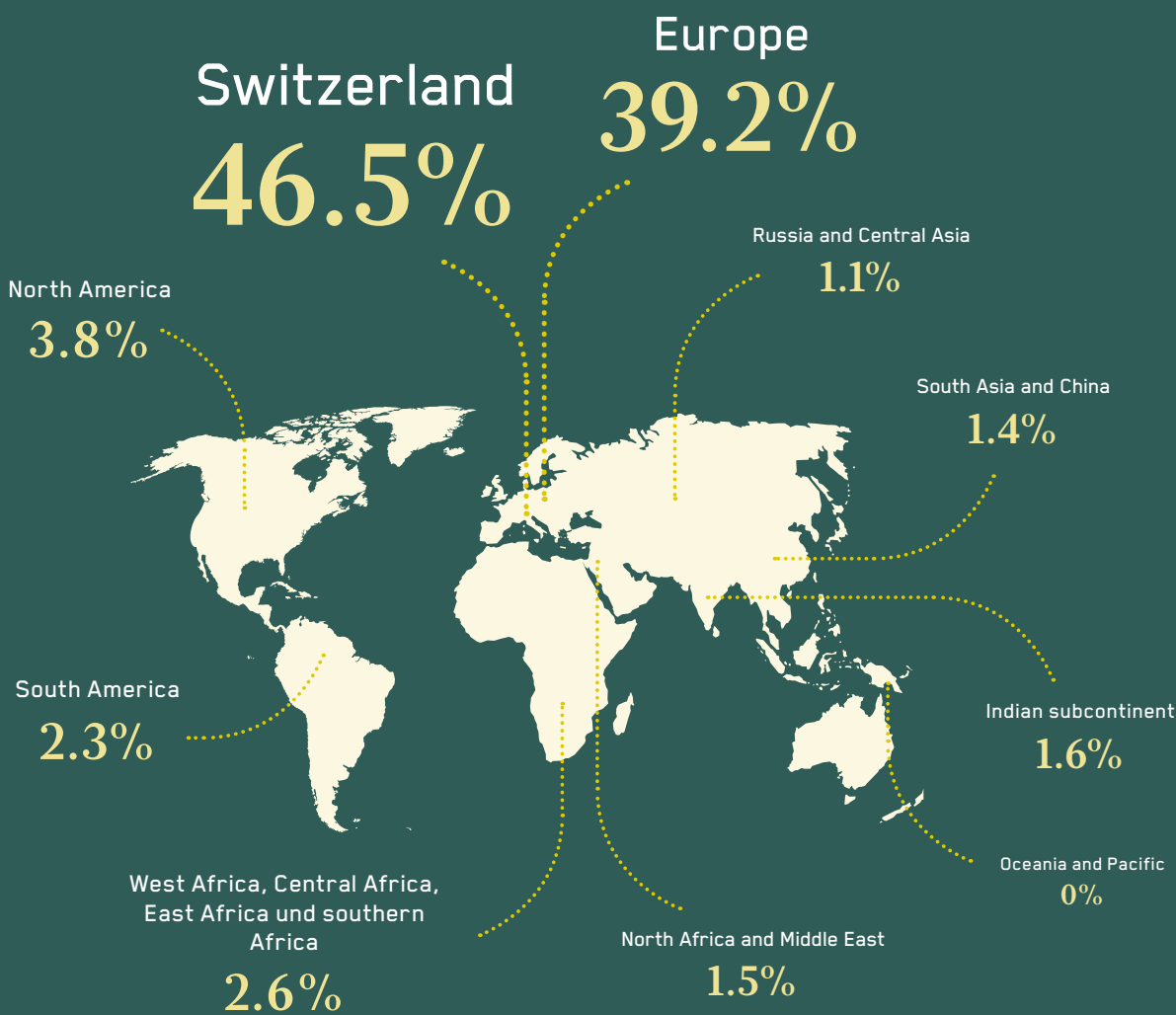
Funding by national region



Promoting Swiss culture around the world

Besides its domestic activities, in 2022, Pro Helvetia supported over 3900 Swiss art and cultural projects in 98 countries.

Supported projects by world region:



«The Centre culturel suisse has temporarily left Paris and embarked on a Tour de France. Such a journey evokes a truly nomadic spirit: being on the move means following the natural rhythm of artists and their work with the aim of opening up new possibilities.»

CLAIRE HOFFMANN
Visual arts curator, Centre culturel suisse, Paris



IV. EVALUATION

Pro Helvetia regularly evaluates its commitments and measures. In 2022, the Foundation focused on optimising internal administrative processes. On the one hand, an external audit of the IT security system was conducted to identify possible security gaps early on. On the other, Pro Helvetia's website will undergo a thorough overhaul by the end of 2023, to ensure the Swiss Arts Council can respond even more appropriately and more uniformly to applicants' needs in the future.

IT security system

After various updates, improvements and further developments of its IT infrastructure in recent years, Pro Helvetia decided to conduct a comprehensive external analysis of its IT security in 2022, in order to identify any gaps – particularly in the area of cyber defence – and to initiate necessary countermeasures. The analysis revealed that while the Swiss Arts Council had an effective security system in place, there was room for improvement and optimisation, such as integrating cyber risks into the organisation's overall risk management, increasing staff awareness of cyber threats or introducing consistent information security governance. Based on these findings and the resulting expert recommendations, appropriate measures have been taken, such as updating IT policies, documenting key ad hoc processes and introducing regular cyber risk awareness sessions for staff. Further measures will follow in 2023 and 2024 to raise Pro Helvetia's IT security mechanism to the highest possible standard.

Towards a new website

To integrate content and technological developments, and to address its target groups even more purposefully, the Swiss Arts Council is preparing a complete redesign of its website.

The digital relaunch will focus on optimising user experience: the new website will make navigating funding measures easier, will provide a better overview of the Swiss Arts Council's activities and will make its digital channels more coherent and better aligned.

Pro Helvetia has commissioned reverse, a Zurich-based service design agency, with this project. Among other measures, the agency conducted a series of interviews with both various internal teams and a diverse range of arts and culture stakeholders. The hearings served to identify existing needs and potential to establish the foundations for the new website's architecture and functionality. The new site is due to go online in January 2024.

V. ORGANISATION

The Board of Trustees, chaired by former Geneva State Councillor Charles Beer, is responsible for the Swiss Arts Council's strategy and governance. The head office, under Director Philippe Bischof, and its 121 staff in Switzerland and abroad ensure that the Foundation'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.

Board of Trustees

In the reporting year (2022), the Board of Trustees reviewed its members' vested interests, with the aim of avoiding potential conflicts of interest. The information is publicly accessible at www.admin.ch.

The nine members of the Board of Trustees represent the diversity of the cultural sector, the operational requirements of the Foundation and the language regions of Switzerland.

Executive Committee

The director manages the head office and chairs the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is responsible for implementing Pro Helvetia's strategies and funding activities.

The sectors as well as the divisions and offices abroad process funding applications, develop support concepts and measures and are responsible for dissemination and promotion. They advise event organisers, artists and cultural practitioners and implement their own initiatives.

Committee of Experts

The Committee of Experts consists of 13 members, each possessing different and special expertise. The Committee assesses multi-year performance agreements and funding requests for amounts over CHF 50,000, which are not assessed by a jury.

Juries

Pro Helvetia may appoint juries to assess funding requests and projects.

External experts

External experts advise the head office on specialised affairs as required.

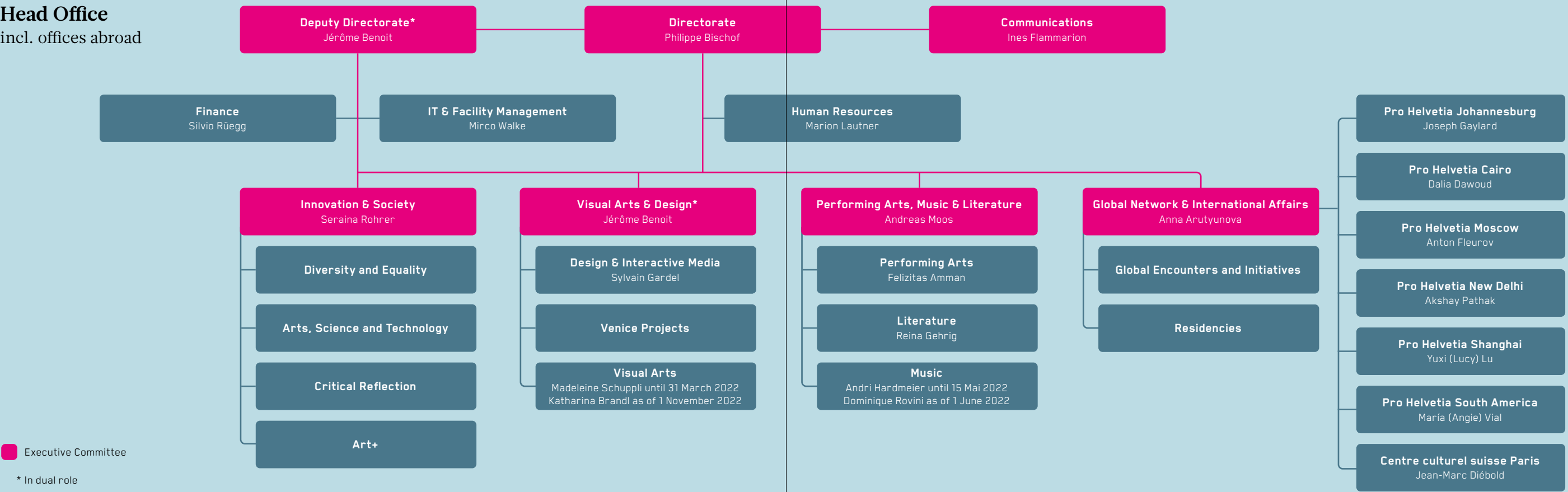
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Strategic Body

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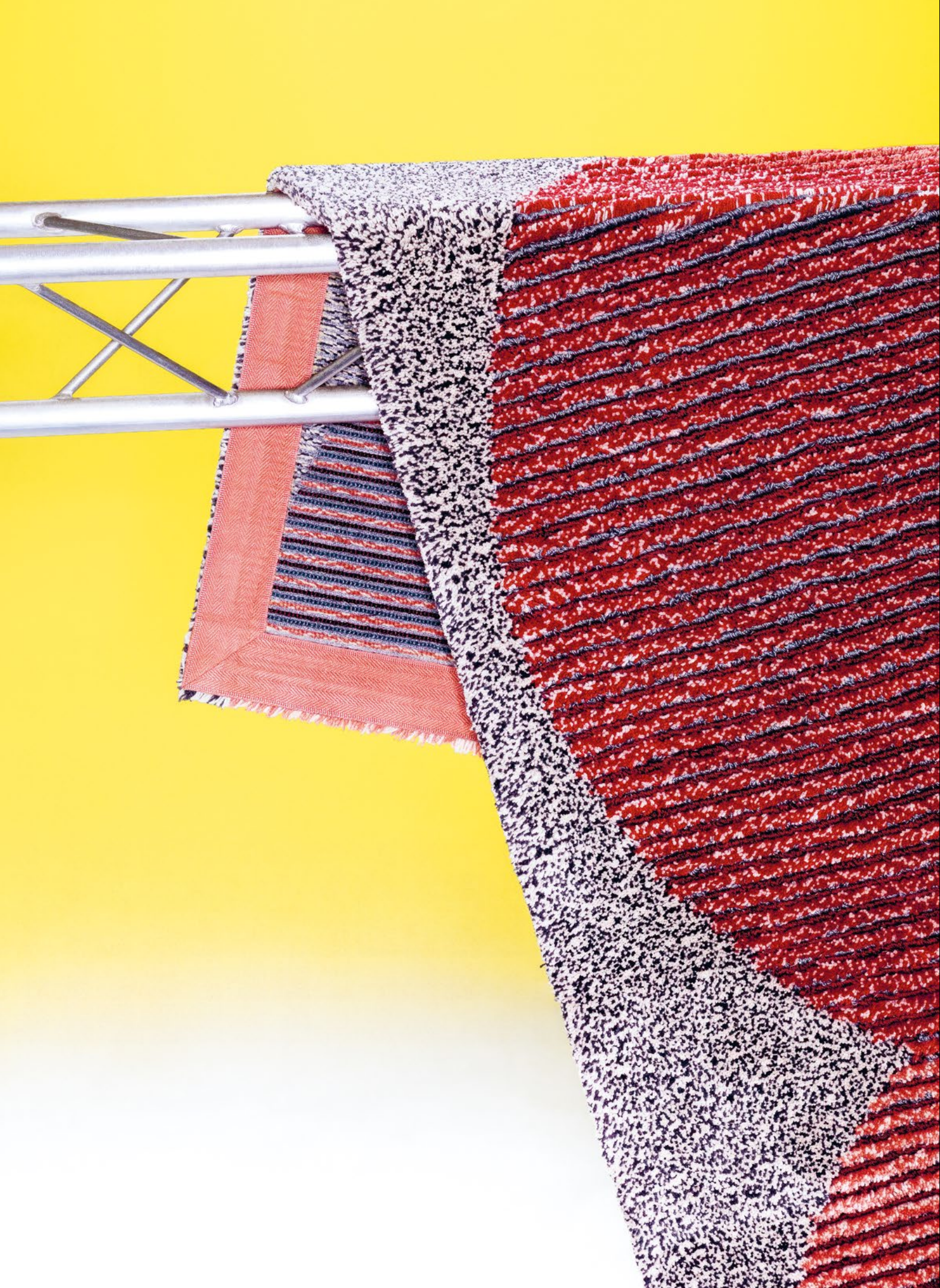
Committee of Experts

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Juries & External Experts

Current juries and their members as well as further details on external experts: WWW.PROHELVETIA.CH

Advisory Entities



14 Three design studios, including a-project studio with its project «Diffract Rugs», participated in the Copenhagen Matchmaking Programme, which also enabled Swiss designers to establish industry contacts.



15 During her research trip to Ghana, performance artist Zoë Binetti organised a drawing workshop titled «Synaesthesia in the Arts: Experimental Documentation» with local students.



«Directing a festival like Les Créatives presents a real challenge. It is also about gathering the audience around an original and attractive programme while responding to our individual and collective realities and contexts. The year 2022 was anything but exemplary in the area of women's and third-gender rights. Once again, the fragility of what has been achieved so far became evident and with it the importance of listening to and actively supporting feminist concerns.

For Les Créatives, advancing gender equality, especially in the arts and culture, involves continuously fostering relationships and dialogue with creators and their cultural and institutional networks.»

ERMELA HAILE AND NEVENA PULJIC
Co-directors and programmers, Festival Les Créatives



17 Developed by Swiss studio Stardust, the game «Grimoire Groves» received a 2022 work grant and the «Best in Play» award at the Game Developers Conference (GDC) in San Francisco.



18 Indian artist Dharmendra Prasad spent a residency in Tenna as part of the transdisciplinary initiative «Environmental Art Exchange (EAE)» and presented his «Grass Museum» at the Art Saffiental Biennale.



Photography

- 1 Alessandro Saletta – DSL Studio
- 2 Aurélien Dadié
- 3 Samuele Cherubini
- 4 Tristan Savoy
- 5 Michael Lio
- 6 Julie Masson
- 7 Calum Douglas
- 8 Lydia Perrot
- 9 Zoé Aubry
- 10 Abdul Halik Azeez
- 11 Carolien Niebling and Lorenz Cugini
- 12 Anissa
- 13 Klaus Fröhlich
- 14 Maya & Daniele
- 15 Martin Toloku
- 16 Igor Grbesic
- 17 Stardust
- 18 Shazeb Shaikh
- 19 Contemporary Gallery Kunming

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