

“Cultural Offshoots” – An Exciting Insight into Contemporary Switzerland

Together with the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia, “Swiss Roots” presents “Cultural Offshoots”, a cultural program about contemporary Switzerland. The program includes Swiss-American highlights in architecture, music, and film, with events taking place in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco and other cities.

Ticinese Architecture in the World: 1970 – 2003

Architects from Ticino epitomize the international success story of Swiss architecture. The exhibition documents the works and its makers, embodying an architectural movement that began in the 1970s as a “tendency” in the Canton of Ticino and soon garnered worldwide acclaim. This architectural movement has since evolved into an extremely dynamic and stimulating scene whose representatives take their artistic and ethnic responsibilities seriously and have redefined the theory and practice of architecture and city planning. Highlights of the show include such leading architects as Mario Botta, Mario Campi, Aurelio Galfetti, Bruno Reichlin & Fabio Reinhart, Flora Ruchat-Roncati, Luigi Snozzi, and Livio Vacchini, who have put Ticino on the map as a seminal force behind excellent architecture. Beginning in February 2006, the exhibition will be touring the United States’ most important universities and schools of architecture in Alexandria (VA), New York, Cambridge (MA), Los Angeles, and other cities.

For details see www.swissroots.org and www.waac.vt.edu

Erika Stucky & Roots of Communication

Erika Stucky is a contrast-loving musician. Born in San Francisco, she grew up in Mörel, a town in Valais, Switzerland. She embodies the spirit of the cosmopolitan city and the mountain hamlet, hippies and folklore. She eludes classification. She sings and performs in a diversity of genres with unabashed verve. As ‘Mrs. Bubble,’ she is accompanied by tuba and trombone to produce her own idiosyncratic interpretations of songs ranging from Nancy Sinatra to Screaming Jay Hawkins. She switches back and forth between perfect American English to authentic Swiss German and is equally at home improvising vocal acrobatics, yodeling or playing the accordion. When Stucky is joined onstage by Robert Morgenthaler, Jean-Jacques Pedretti, and Peter Horisberger of the Roots of Communication trio, a totally new and unexpected blend of pop, jazz, and folk music is the result. With instruments like the alphorn, giant shells, drums, and trombone, the band covers the spectrum from homey alpine folklore to urban pipe dream.

For details see www.swissroots.org and www.erikastucky.com

Swiss Films: Traditions – Transitions

Documentary filmmaking in Switzerland covers a wide variety of themes, from studies of society to portraits of artists, music films, and essays. The “Swiss Roots” film program, scheduled in two parts – BORDERLESS SOUNDS and ENCOUNTERS OF THE SWISS KIND - invites viewers to venture into new territories. These films showcase exceptional musicians who transcend borders, carve new trails, and introduce nonconformists whose thoughts and actions ignore convention and subvert the rules of society.

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