

Swiss Writers on United States Tour: Katharina Geiser and Brigitte Schär

Calendar

Katharina Geiser at

Literaturlenz, Goethe-Institut, 150 N. Michigan, Suite 200, Chicago. Monday, April 16, 2007, at 6:00 pm. For information, call Lisa Lux at (312) 263-0472 or email: lux@chicago.goethe.org or visit www.goethe.de/ins/us/chi. University of Wisconsin at Madison, Ingraham Hall 336. Tuesday, April 17, 2007, at 3:30 pm. Turner Hall (Ratskeller), Monroe, WI. Thursday, April 19, 2007, at 7:30 pm. For information call (608) 325 3461 or visit [HYPERLINK "http://www.SwissHall@TurnerHalloffMonroe.org"](http://www.SwissHall@TurnerHalloffMonroe.org) www.SwissHall@TurnerHalloffMonroe.org.

Brigitte Schär at University of Chicago Laboratory School on April 16 (only for Lab School students). Northwestern University, German Dept., Kresge Hall 1-375, 1880 Campus Drive, Evanston. Tuesday, April 17, 2007, at 12:30 pm. For information, call (847) 491 7249. German Language Society Chicago, MidAmerica Club, 200 E. Randolph Drive, Chicago. Tuesday, April 17, 2007, at 6:30 pm. For tickets and information, call (773) 935 0678 or visit www.glschicago.org.



Katharina Geiser



Brigitte Schär

Katharina Geiser hails from Wädenswil (Canton Zurich) and will be on a reading tour of the United States in April 2007. She will read at the Dallas Goethe Center on April 15, the Goethe Institut Chicago on April 16, the University of Wisconsin at Madison on April 17, and Turner Hall at Monroe, Wisconsin, on April 19 (for details, see calendar).

Katharine Geiser studied German literature in Zurich. After raising her three sons, she intensified her writing and published her first novel *Vorübergehend Wien* in 2006. It is a portrayal of Vienna from deep within and a moving exploration of the past. A cardboard box full of keepsakes—toys, notes, photos, postcards, and a diary—left by Franz and Anni Bial for their daughter before they were deported and murdered, acts, years later, as the magnet which draws Jula Fink from Switzerland to Vienna to look for traces of the disappeared. Her investigations produce new images, which are also only just fragments of the lives of the disappeared, just as the keepsakes in the cardboard box.

Katharina Geiser's reading tour was organized as part of the Literaturlenz at the Goethe Institut Chicago (www.goethe.de/chicago). Each year, the Literaturlenz presents an evening of contemporary literature from Germany, Austria and Switzerland. In collaboration with the Consulates General of Austria and Switzerland, the Goethe Institut organizes this event. Besides Katharina Geiser, German writer Angelika Klüssendorf and Austrian writer Peter Glaser will read from their latest books. The readings will be in German and English. All three Literaturlenz authors will also visit the German Department of the University of Wisconsin at Madison on April 17, 2007.

Brigitte Schär, writer, singer and actor, from Zurich, Switzerland, studied German, European folk literature and voice (www.brigitte-schaer.ch). She worked as a German teacher before embarking on her career as a writer of books for children and adults and a literary performance artist and singer. Her books have been translated in twelve languages. Brigitte Schär has received numerous awards for her work in Switzerland and abroad. As part of her United States tour, she has three engagements in the Chicago area. On April 16, 2007, she will visit the University of Chicago Laboratory School. The following day, she will perform at the German Department of Northwestern University in Evanston during the lunch hour and at the German Language Society Chicago as part of their "Tuesday Series" at the MidAmerica Club (for details, see calendar).

The United States tours of Katharina Geiser and Brigitte Schär have been made possible in part by Pro Helvetia, the Swiss Arts Council, Zurich, Switzerland, the Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago, the Consulate General of Switzerland in Chicago and all the partner organizations hosting their readings.

Brigitte Schär's visit to Chicago has been made possible by the Laboratory School, Northwestern University at Evanston, the German Language Society Chicago, the Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago, the Consulate General of Switzerland in Chicago and Pro Helvetia, Swiss Arts Council, Zurich.

Katharina Geiser's United States tour was made possible with the support of Pro Helvetia, Swiss Arts Council, Zurich, the Dallas Goethe Center, the Goethe Institut Chicago, the German Department of the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Turner Hall Monroe, the Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago and the Consulate General of Switzerland in Chicago.



Oliver Schnyder

Oliver Schnyder, piano, at "Fazioli Salon Series" at Pianoforte, 410 S. Michigan Ave, Suite 825, Chicago. Friday, April 13, 2007, at 12:15 pm. Free admission. For information, call (312) 291 0000 or visit www.pianofortechicago.com. Music Institute of Chicago, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave, Evanston. Sunday, April 15, 2007, at 3:00 pm. For information and tickets, call (847) 905 1500 or visit www.musicinstituteofchicago.org.

Brötzmann-Pliakas-Wertmüller, jazz and improvisation, at Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave, Chicago. Thursday, April 13, 2007, at 9:30 pm. For information and admission, call (773) 276 3600 or visit www.emptybottle.com/jazzseries.php.

Swiss Pianist Oliver Schnyder in Chicago

Swiss pianist Oliver Schnyder will give two performances in the Chicago area. On April 13 he will play at the "Fazioli Salon Series" at Pianoforte Chicago. This concert will be performed in front of a live audience and broadcast on 98.7 WFMT. On April 15 he will perform together with violinist Hennig Kraggerud at the Music Institute of Chicago (for details, see calendar).

Oliver Schnyder grew up in Wildegg (Canton Aargau) and studied piano in Zurich, New York, and from 1998 to 2001 with Leon Fleisher in Baltimore. Since his debut recital at the Kennedy Center of the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. and his solo debut with the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich under the direction of David Zinman, Oliver Schnyder has been busy establishing an international career with performances in London, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Sao Paulo, Milan and Moscow. He is also an enthusiastic chamber musician and works closely with contemporary composers. His CDs have earned him critical acclaim, and in March 2005 the "Classic Highlight" attribute was bestowed upon his most recent recording with works by Saint Saëns for piano and orchestra from the Swiss Radio Magazine (more information on Oliver Schnyder, visit www.oliverschnyder.com).

Oliver Schnyder's concerts in the United States were made possible in part by Pro Helvetia, Swiss Arts Council, the Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago, Pianoforte, the Music Institute of Chicago, and the Consulate General of Switzerland in Chicago.

Brötzmann-Pliakas-Wertmüller at Empty Bottle Chicago

The Brötzmann-Pliakas-Wertmüller Trio, jazz and improvisation, will perform at Empty Bottle on April 12, 2007 at 9:30 pm within the "Empty Bottle Jazz Series." Legendary German reedist Peter Brötzmann returns to Empty Bottle after an absence of nearly two years. As one of the founders of the European free jazz movement in the mid-sixties, Brötzmann belongs to those rare few musicians who can play both with depth and sensitivity while possessing a unique raw power. Bassist Marino Pliakas of Zurich, Switzerland, and drummer Michael Wertmüller (Switzerland and Germany) will join Brötzmann at Empty Bottle for an assertive show and great improvisation. The Brötzmann-Pliakas-Wertmüller Trio has toured together since fall 2004 both in Europe and North America. Their latest CD "Full Blast" was released in June 2006 (also see www.marinopliakas.com).

The concerts with Brötzmann-Pliakas-Wertmüller have been made possible in part by Pro Helvetia, Swiss Arts Council, Zurich, Switzerland.



SWISS THINK—Brainstorm the Future

"Think Swiss—Brainstorm the future" is the U.S.-based program on Swiss education, research and innovation under the auspices of Presence Switzerland (PRS), the Swiss State Secretariat for Education and Research (SER) and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. It aims to showcase Switzerland as a global knowledge-based country full of talent, high-tech opportunities and creativity—all crucial assets to secure a sustainable quality of life for future generations.

The goal of Think Swiss is to foster ever stronger networks of long-term relations in education, research and innovation between the United States and Switzerland. The focus of the program is on the exchange of expertise and know-how in academia and the high-tech business community between the two countries. The website www.ThinkSwiss.org was launched earlier this year as the online information and exchange platform. It gives an overview of the twelve Think Swiss core topics chosen to engage opinion leaders and visionaries from academia and

industry to participate in a creative dialogue. The topics range from global warming, life sciences, human rights to robotics and more.

The Consulate of Switzerland, Swiss House of Advanced Research and Education (SHARE) in Boston together with its sister office Swissnex in San Francisco and the Office of Science, Technology and Higher Education (OSTHE) at the Embassy of Switzerland in Washington, D.C., are the leading houses of this program. They will organize events, workshops and exhibitions together with the Consulates General of Switzerland and other institutions in the United States.

The flagship event on e-voting will be held at the Embassy of Switzerland in Washington, D.C., on April 23, 2007. For more information on this event and Think Swiss, visit www.ThinkSwiss.org or contact Maria Stergiou at SHARE at phone (617) 876 3076, extension 15, or email: Maria@SHAREboston.org.



“The Descent”: Philippe Rahm at Extension Gallery at Chicago

Philippe Rahm is the first Swiss architect to exhibit at Extension Gallery in the Chicago Arts District on 1835 South Halsted Street. His installation “The Descent” will be on display from April 13 to June 17, 2007 (see www.extensiongallery.us).

Philippe Rahm lives and works in Lausanne, Switzerland, and Paris. Together with Jean-Gilles Decosterd, he founded Decosterd & Rahm in 1995. In 2000, they represented Switzerland with the installation “Hormonorium” at the 8th Biennale of Architecture in Venice. Since 2004 Rahm has been practicing independently and has participated in numerous exhibitions worldwide, notably at Kunsthaus Graz (2006), at Mori Art Museum Tokyo (2005) and currently together with Gilles Clement at the Canadian Centre of Architecture in Montreal.

“The Descent” is an installation of three nested spaces that offer a voyage of a vertiginous descent inside atmospheric parameters of space—temperature, illumination, and humidity. It is a good example of Philippe Rahm’s projects which “embrace a wish to extend the field of architecture to new dimensions.” His work challenges the architectural notion of “form follows function” and, instead, suggests architecture to follow climate.

Philippe Rahm will talk about his approach to architecture at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago on April 12, 2007. He will also be present at the opening reception at Extension Gallery on April 13, 2007, an event which is co-sponsored by the Consulate General of Switzerland in Chicago.

As part of their cultural/social program series, the Swiss-American Business Council (SABC) will tour Extension Gallery on April 24, 2007 (for information, see the calendar or visit www.sabcnow.com).

Philippe Rahm’s exhibition and visit to Chicago has been made possible in part by Pro Helvetia, Arts Council of Switzerland, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Extension Gallery and the Podmajersky, Inc.



Swiss Designer Yves Béhar at the Art Institute of Chicago



Yves Béhar

Yves Béhar will present a lecture at Fullerton Hall at the Art Institute of Chicago on Thursday, May 3, 2007, 6:00 pm (for information and tickets, see calendar of visit www.artic.edu).

Yves Béhar was born in Lausanne in 1967 and grew up in Switzerland. Exploring the design world since childhood, he studied industrial design in Europe and the United States. After graduating from the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, CA, Béhar worked as the design leader at *frogdesign* and later at Lunar design in Silicon Valley, developing product identities for clients such as Apple computers or Hewlett Packard. In 1999, he founded *fuseproject* in San Francisco, CA, an integrated design studio dedicated to the development of the emotional experience of brands through story-telling. Béhar creates designs at *fuseproject* for areas as diverse as technology, furniture, sport or fashion. Recent clients of *fuseproject* are Herman Miller, Nike, MINI, Microsoft, Birkenstock, Toshiba, One Laptop Per Child, Target and Hussein Chalayan.

Béhar’s designs have been awarded numerous prizes, such as the National Design Award for Industrial Design (2004) or the IDEA/Business Week Gold Excellence Award (2003). His work has been featured in solo shows at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Musée de design et d’arts appliqués contemporains in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The lecture of Yves Béhar in Chicago has been made possible by the generous support from the Auxiliary Board of the Art Institute of Chicago and is also supported by the Consulate General of Switzerland in Chicago.



Philippe Rahm, architect, installation “The Descent,” at Extension Gallery, 1835 S. Halsted Street, Chicago. Opening night on April 13, 2007, at 6:00 pm. Exhibition until June 17, 2007. For information call (773) 742 0983 or visit www.extensiongallery.us.

Yves Béhar at Fullerton Hall at the Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Ave, Chicago. Thursday, May 3, 2007, at 6:00 pm. Tickets: \$5 students, \$10 A&D Society members, \$15 public. Reservation required. For tickets and information, call (312) 443 3631.

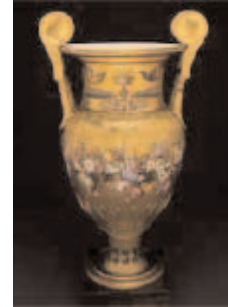
Swiss Art Historian Alain Gruber at Alliance Française de Chicago

Dr. Alain Gruber of Fribourg (Switzerland) will present the lead lecture at the Decorative Arts Symposium "The Best of French Decoration" at Alliance Française de Chicago on April 11 and 12, 2007 (for information and tickets, see calendar or visit www.afchicago.com).

Dr. Gruber is the former director of the Swiss National Museum and the Abegg Foundation. Internationally renowned as a decorative arts expert in textiles, silver, and furniture, Dr. Gruber will showcase some of the best examples of French decoration by artisans working in silver, textiles, and furniture. Perhaps nowhere better than in France did highly talented artisans produce more innovative creations to satisfy the different needs and demands of their highly sophisticated clientele. Dr. Gruber's

lecture will cover art objects such as impressive furniture for grand interiors, luxurious textiles woven in precious silk, and elegant silver knives.

The "Decorative Arts Symposium is under the auspices by the Woman's Board of the Alliance Française de Chicago.



Dr. Alain Gruber at Alliance Française de Chicago, 810 North Dearborn Street, Chicago. Wednesday, April 11, 2007, at 6:30 pm (patron tickets only, incl. buffet dinner). Thursday, April 12, 2007, at 11:30 am (patron tickets with luncheon or lecture tickets only). For details, call Tweed Thornton at Alliance Française at (312) 337 1070, ext. 113.

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