



New Consul General in Chicago

Mr. Martin Bienz arrived in Chicago at the beginning of January 2011 to start his term of office as Consul General of Switzerland responsible for 12 States in the Midwest. Mr. Bienz succeeds Mr. Giambattista Mondada who finished his term as Consul General in Chicago in late December 2010 and began his retirement after 41 years of service to the Swiss government. Before Mr. Mondada returned to Switzerland, the Consulate General had the chance to thank him and bid him farewell at a reception in November 2010.

Mr. Bienz' last posting was in Karachi, Pakistan, where he served as Consul General from 2006 to 2010. He was born and raised in Lostorf, in the canton of Solothurn. After his studies and professional activities in the banking sector, he joined the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in

1981. He was subsequently assigned to the Swiss Consular and Diplomatic Missions in Marseille, Addis Ababa and Bogotá. In 1990, he was appointed as Head of Chancery at the Consulate General of Switzerland in Osaka. Four years later, he transferred to the Embassy of Switzerland in Ottawa to serve in the same capacity. From 2000 to 2003, he was the Head of Section for Eastern Europe and Latin America at the Federal Office for Refugees in Berne, Switzerland. In 2003, before taking up his post as Consul General in Karachi, he served as Counselor and Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Switzerland in Manila.

Mr. Bienz is married to Dessiree Bienz and has one son. Chicago was on their "wish list" and both Mr. and Mrs. Bienz are happy to be here and are looking forward to their new assignment.



Photo: Sam Tyson

Dorothee Elmiger at the Literaturlenz 2011

Hallo. Servus. Grüezi: New German Literature at Goethe Institut

Swiss writer **Dorothee Elmiger** will read from **Einladung an die Waghalsigen** at the Literaturlenz 2011 at the Goethe Institut Chicago on Wednesday, February 16, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. The Literaturlenz is the traditional annual literary event in Chicago which features emergent authors from Switzerland, Germany and Austria. It is organized by the Consulates General of Austria and Switzerland and the Goethe Institut Chicago. The readings will be in German, with simultaneous projection of the English translation. The Literaturlenz will be moderated by Susan Harris, Editorial Director of *Words Without Borders*. For more information, please see Calendar or visit www.goethe.de/chicago.

Before coming to Chicago, Elmiger will participate in the *Festival Neue Literatur* in New York. She and her fellow writers at the Literaturlenz will also visit the University of Wisconsin in Madison (February 15), the University of Illinois in Chicago (February 17) and the University of Illinois in Urbana (February 18) for readings and workshops with German students and faculty.

Elmiger (born in 1985) grew up in Appenzell. She studied at the Swiss Institute of Literature in Biel/Bienne and spent one semester at the German Institute of Literature in Leipzig. Since 2009, she has made her home in Berlin where she writes and studies political science at the Freie Universität Berlin.

Einladung an die Waghalsigen is Elmiger's first novel. Published in 2010 by DuMont Buchverlag in Cologne, it is currently being translated into English (*Invitation to the Daredevils*). Elmiger is a recent shooting star in the German literary world. For her novel, she was awarded the *Kelag Prize* at the prestigious *Ingeborg Bachmann Festival 2010* and the *Aspekte Literature Prize 2010 for Best German Debut Prose*.

Her tour to the United States is in part made possible by Pro Helvetia (Swiss Arts Council) in Zurich, Switzerland. The Literaturlenz is also supported by the Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago, the Consulate General of Switzerland in Chicago and the Goethe Institute Chicago.



Festival de la Francophonie in Chicago



A small wine and cheese reception will be offered prior to the screening.

In *Déchainées*, Lucy, a 19-year old law student and intern at a Swiss television network in Geneva, comes across her double in archival footage about the Women's Liberation Movement in the 70's. Her family's reluctance to talk about this time convinces Lucy that a secret lurks behind this silence and the woman, named Genevieve, she saw on the archival film material. She sets out to find her and discovers that she was not only a member of Lucy's family but also a notorious feminist and abortion activist. As Lucy unfolds the family plot and her family begins to implode, she has to face her own secret... (also see www.swissfilms.ch).

In March, Chicago once again celebrates the **Festival de la Francophonie**; a convergence of the French language and culture throughout the world.

This film has won multiple awards—among others *Best Swiss TV Film 2009*—and succeeds in combining political history with moving destinies of women and families of different generations while being peppered with sparkling dialogues.

Calendar

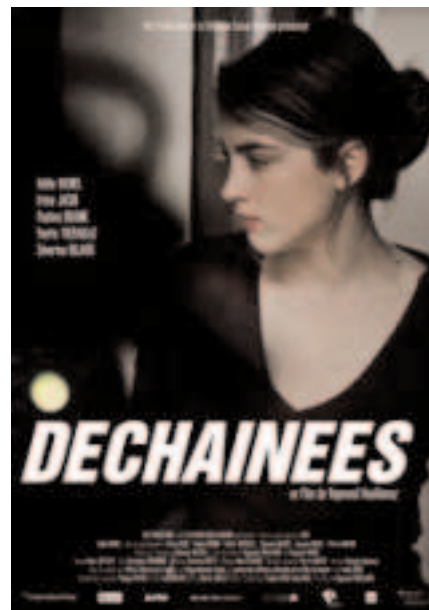
Eluveitie at Bottom Lounge, 1375 W. Lake St., Chicago, IL. Tuesday, February 8, at 6:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.bottomlounge.com; at Station 4, 201 E. 4th St., St. Paul, MN. Wednesday, February 9, at 6:30 p.m. For information, visit www.station4.com; at Granada Theater, 1020 Massachusetts, Lawrence, KS. Thursday, February 10, at 8:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.thegrana.com.

The Festival de la Francophonie 2011 will open with the **Soirée Commune** at Alliance Française Chicago on Friday, **March 4, 2011, at 6:30 p.m.** (for more information, see Calendar or visit www.af-chicago.org). This special evening is organized by various French speaking countries with representations in Chicago and Alliance Française Chicago. **Switzerland** will again be hosting its renowned Swiss Raclette Station. Raclette, however, is but one of many delicious foods you will be able to taste at this unique event, as all of the partners will indulge you in specialities from their countries. Chicago Lady DJ will be spinning music from the world of La Francophonie. Admissions: \$15 for adults, \$5 for children.

The **Soirée Suisse** (Swiss Evening) on Thursday, **March 10, 2011, at 6:30 p.m.** will feature the Swiss film "*Déchainées*" (2009) by Raymond Vuillamoz. *Déchainées* will be screened in French with English/German subtitles. Following the film screening, an audience discussion will be conducted by **Hank Sartin**, Film Editor, TimeOut Chicago. Free admission. For more information, see Calendar or visit www.af-chicago.org.

Bodmer's Journey (2009), Swiss documentary film by **Luke Gasser** at the 6th Beloit International Film Festival, February 17–20, 2011. For location and screening dates, visit <http://www.beloitfilmfest.org/>.

The Soirée commune and the Soirée suisse at the Festival de la Francophonie 2011 are in part sponsored by the Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago, the Swiss Club of Chicago, the Service de la Francophonie of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Consulate General of Switzerland in Chicago.



Swiss Curated Show at the Graham Foundation Chicago

Las Vegas Studio: Images from the Archives of Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown



© Venturi, Scott Brown & Associates Inc., Philadelphia

Las Vegas Studio: Images from the Archives of Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown will be on view at the Graham Foundation in Chicago until February 19, 2011. The exhibition was curated by **Hilar Stadler**, Swiss art historian, who currently is the director of the Museum im Bellpark, Kriens (near Lucerne), and by **Martino Stierli**, Swiss art historian and postdoctoral fellow at the University of Basel. Stadler and Stierli collaborated with Swiss

artist **Peter Fischli**, internationally renowned as Fischli/Weiss with fellow Swiss artist David Weiss.

In 1968, American architects Robert Venturi, Denise Scott Brown, and Steven Izenour, together with students from Yale University, embarked on a groundbreaking investigation of the Las Vegas strip. Their findings, published in the 1972 book *Learning from Las Vegas*, are legendary, extending the categories of the ordinary, the ugly, and the social into architecture. Offering great insight into the creation of this pioneering publication, Las Vegas Studio presents original research materials from the archives of Venturi, Scott Brown and Associates, Inc., including over 80 photographs and a selection of films that were crucial aspects of their architectural study.

The exhibition Las Vegas Studio: Images from the Archives of Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown is accompanied by a fully illustrated exhibition catalogue (published by Scheidegger & Spiess). This catalogue is for purchase at the Graham Foundation. For further information about this exhibition and opening hours, please visit www.grahamfoundation.com and also see Calendar.

Calendar

Soirée Commune at Francophonie Festival 2011, at Alliance Française Chicago, 810 North Dearborn Street, Chicago. Friday, March 4, 2011, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Admission: \$15.00 adults, \$ 5 children. For information and admission, please visit www.af-chicago.org or call (312) 337-1070.

Déchainées, Swiss film by **Raymond Vouillamoz**, at Soirée Suisse at Francophonie Festival 2011, at Alliance Française, 810 North Dearborn Street, Chicago. Thursday, March 10, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. Film discussion with Hank Sartin, film editor TimeOut Chicago. Reception prior to screening. Free admission. For information, please visit www.af-chicago.org or call (312) 337-1070.

Swiss Artists Peter Fischli & David Weiss at The Art Institute of Chicago

The exhibition **Peter Fischli David Weiss: Questions, the Sausage Photographs, and a Quiet Afternoon** is the first solo presentation of Fischli and Weiss's work in Chicago in over 20 years. It will be shown at The Art Institute of Chicago from February 3 to April 17, 2011 (Galleries 186-188). For more information, please visit www.artic.edu.

Fischli and Weiss have collaborated since 1979. Noted for their focus on detail and unmistakable wit, the two Swiss artists have worked in a range of media and defy easy categorization. They are recipients of the coveted *Roswitha Haftmann Prize*.

Peter Fischli will be in conversation with **James Rondeau**, Frances and Thomas Dittmer Curator and Chair of Contemporary Art, and **Matthew**

Witkovsky, Curator and Chair of Photography, at Fullerton Auditorium at The Art Institute of Chicago on Thursday, February 2, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. For information, admission and registration, please visit www.scaaic.org.



In the carpetshop from The Sausage Photographs, 1979 © Peter Fischli and David Weiss, courtesy Matthew Marks Gallery, New York

Swiss Film Bodmer's Journey at Beloit International Film Festival



The documentary film **Bodmer's Journey** by Swiss filmmaker **Luke Gasser** will be shown at the 6th Beloit International Film Festival between February 17 and 20, 2011 (for details, see <http://www.beloitfilmfest.org/>). The filmmaker is scheduled to be in attendance.

The film traces the journey which the German ethnologist and naturalist Prince Maximilian zu Wied undertook between 1832 and 1834 into the vast prairies of North America and which was documented by the young Swiss artist Karl Bodmer. Zu Wied and Bodmer set out to explore



the "New World" and discover Native American culture. To this date, the images of their journey have been amongst the most important and original testimony of Native Americans of North America.

Bodmer's Journey has been awarded *Best Art/Experimental Feature Film 2010* at the Southern Appalachian International Film Festival in Nashville as well as *Best Documentary 2010* at the New York City International Film Festival. At the 2010. Los Angeles Cinema Festival of Hollywood, it earned the *Merit Award 2010*.

Calendar

Mai-Thu Perret, Swiss artist. Exhibition **Mai-Thu Perret: An Ideal for Living at University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA)**, 525 South State Street, Ann Arbor, MI. Until March 13, 2011. For more information on exhibition and special programs with Mai-Thu Perret, call (734) 764-0395 or visit www.umma.umich.edu.

Las Vegas Studio: Images from the Archives of Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown. Curated by Swiss art historians **Hilar Stadler** and **Martino Stierli**. Graham Foundation, Madlener House, 4 West Burton Place, Chicago. Until February 19, 2011. For information on opening hours and special programs, please visit www.grahamfoundation.com

Dorothee Elmiger at Hallo, Gruezi, Servus: Literaturlenz—New Literature from Germany, Switzerland and Austria. Goethe Institut Chicago, 150 North Michigan Ave, Suite 200, Chicago. Wednesday, February 16, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. Reception following. Free admission. For more information and rsvp, see www.goethe.de/Chicago.

Swiss Folk-Metal Band Eluveitie in the Midwest

The Swiss folk-metal band **Eluveitie** is back on tour in the U.S. and Canada. In February 2011, Eluveitie will perform the headliner concerts with three young American bands. They can be heard at three venues in the Midwest: at **Bottom Lounge in Chicago** on February 8, at **Station 4 in St. Paul (MN)** on February 9, and at **Granada Theater in Lawrence (KS)** on February 10. For more information, please see the Calendar or visit www.eluveitie.ch.

Eluveitie—the band's name means Switzerland in Celtic—belongs to the fast growing European folk metal scene. They are known for their authentic, traditional Celtic folk music combined in a unique way with death metal. The band has released several albums since their coming together in 2002. Their most recent CD *Everything Remains as It Never Was* has been described as a fusion of powerful folk and mystical and melodic heavy



metal. They have managed to deepen every aspect of their already inimitable style and maybe more than ever can only be described as "The New Wave of Folk Metal."

Their U.S. and Canada tour is made possible in part by Pro Helvetia, the Swiss Arts Council.

2011 ThinkSwiss Research Scholarship Program



please visit <http://thinkswiss.org/us-swiss-exchange/research-scholarship>.

Reports and opinions of last year's scholarship recipients can be read on the ThinkSwiss Research Blog at <http://thinkswiss-research.blogspot.com/>.

ThinkSwiss is a U.S.-wide program on Swiss education, research and innovation launched in 2007. It is under the auspices of Presence Switzerland, the Swiss State Secretariat for Education and Research and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. The program showcases Switzerland as a knowledge-based country with a global approach, full of talent, high-tech opportunities and creativity—all crucial assets to secure a sustainable quality of life for future generations. The goal of ThinkSwiss is to foster even stronger networks and long-term relationships in education, research and innovation between the United States and Switzerland.

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www.sbf.admin.ch/campus-switzerland

Calendar

**Peter Fischli David Weiss:
Questions, the Sausage
Photographs, and a Quiet
Afternoon.**

Exhibition at The Art Institute of Chicago (Galleries 186-188), 111 South Michigan Ave, Chicago. From February 3 to April 17, 2011. For information, please visit www.artic.edu.

**Peter Fischli in Conversation
with James Rondeau and
Matthew Witkovsky.**

Fullerton Auditorium, The Art Institute of Chicago. Thursday, February 2, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. For information, admission and registration, please visit www.scaaic.org or call (312) 443-3630.

In 2011 **ThinkSwiss** will again offer **15 scholarships for Switzerland**. This scholarship program is tailored to highly motivated and qualified U.S. undergraduate and graduate students for a research stay at a public university or research institute in Switzerland for two to three months. The monthly stipend will amount to CHF 1,000 (approx. US\$ 1,000); the maximum will be CHF 3,000 (approx. US\$ 3,000). All areas of study will be considered. The application deadline is **March 31, 2011**. For information and application,

Mai-Thu Perret: An Ideal for Living. Solo Exhibition at UMMA

Mai-Thu Perret: An Ideal for Living opened at the **University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA)** at Ann Arbor on December 16, 2010, and will run to March 12, 2011. This solo exhibition was curated by Jacob Proctor, UMMA Associate Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, and is the most comprehensive overview of Perret's works to date in the United States, featuring brand-new works and works never before shown in this country.

Perret's multidisciplinary practice fuses feminist politics with classic modernist abstraction and utopian dreams. Her installations synthesize a range of media and genres, such as literature, craft and design. Much of her work arises from the *Crystal Frontier*, the fictional narrative she began to write in 1999 about a group of women who live

in the utopian commune called New Ponderosa. With her installations and objects Perret presents the hypothetical products of the New Ponderosa residents.

Perret's work is internationally known and has been shown at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Kunst Halle St. Gallen (Switzerland), the Bonnefanten Museum at Maastricht (the Netherlands), the Renaissance Society of Chicago and Centre d'Art Contemporain in Geneva. Perret will be at UMMA in January 2011 for public programs and workshops. For more information, please see www.umma.mich.edu.

Mai-Thu Perret: An Ideal for Living was made possible in part by Pro Helvetia, the Swiss Arts Council, and the Consulate General of Switzerland in Chicago.

News from Lucerne

Lucerne Artist Studio in Chicago

Lea Achermann, visual arts, and **Jonas Raeber**, animation, have completed their stay in Chicago and returned to Switzerland late November 2010.

The new resident at the Lucerne Studio is **Cybu (Stefan) Richli**, design. He began his four-month residency in Chicago in early December 2010. Richli is a graduate of the Lucerne University of Arts and Design and studied graphic design and visual communication. He is the founder and partner of the design studio C2F: Cybu Richli & Fabienne Burri. For more information on Richli, please visit www.c2f.to

In November 2010 a group of Swiss visitors led by the **Chicago Committee in Lucerne** explored Chicago's architectural and cultural treasures. The Lucerne Committee of Chicago was pleased to welcome their Swiss counterparts. Their visit also presented a good opportunity to reinforce cultural and educational ties between the two sister cities while meeting with officials of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Northwestern University Law School and The John Marshall Law School (JMLS).

Monica Frey and Sarah Eltawab completed their studies at the JMLS. New at the JMLS are Lucerne exchange students **Anna Balbi** and **Nicolai Nuber**. There are also two new Lucerne exchange-students at Northwestern University Law School. **Michael Baier** and **Markus Stehle** succeeded Mirahn Duerst and Dominik Hasler who left Chicago at the end of December.

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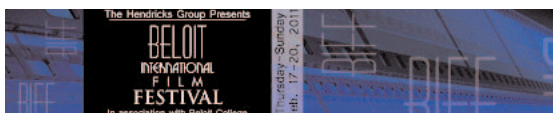
The Editorial Board wishes to thank all contributors. Copies of this publication, including back issues, are available on the Swiss-American Business Council website (www.sabcnow.com).

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