prohelvetia
fondation suisse pour la culture

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Claire Hoffmann appointed head of visual arts programming at the Centre culturel suisse in Paris as of January 2019

Curator and art historian Claire Hoffmann has been appointed by future director Jean-Marc Diébold as head of programming for the visual arts, design and architecture at the Centre culturel suisse. From January 2019, together with the new management and staff of the Centre culturel suisse, she will support Swiss artists in disseminating and promoting their work in Paris and France.

In September 2017, the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia appointed Jean-Marc Diébold as the new director of the Centre culturel suisse in Paris (CCS) to succeed Jean-Paul Felley and Olivier Kaeser, whose terms of office will expire in October 2018, but will assure the artistic programme until December 2018. As managing and artistic director, Jean-Marc Diébold will be supported by Claire Hoffmann as head of visual arts programming. Resolutely plural, the CCS will continue to encourage the intersection of artistic disciplines and audiences. As such, the visual arts programme, with its two exhibition spaces, continues to play a major role and will actively contribute to making the CCS an attractive and comprehensive showcase of contemporary Swiss creation.

The choice of Claire Hoffmann for Jean-Marc Diébold was due in particular to her strong interest in cultural mediation, discursive formats and the programming of emerging artists. Another important point was her focus on historical and female positions and their relevance to current issues. "She will also pursue a project aimed at increasing cooperation and exchanges with other art and cultural institutions beyond Paris, to ensure that the CCS is present in various places in France while the Centre undergoes refurbishment," adds the future director.

A Franco-Swiss national, Claire Hoffmann was born in Basel in 1985. After studying art history and English literature at the University of Basel, she was involved in several renowned institutions, particularly in Switzerland, including the Kunsthaus Langenthal, the Kunsthaus Zurich or the Schaulager Basel, and gained her experience in exhibition programming with international projects and in the independent scene, for instance, with the nomadic project deuxpiece. Among others, she co-curated a sculpture project by Swiss artist Edit Oderbolz in London in 2018, as well as an exhibition shown at the 2017 Copenhagen Contemporary. She has also served on various juries, such as Kunstkredit Basel and the Prix Manor Basel.

Founded in 1985, the Centre culturel suisse is an office abroad of the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia. The CCS aims to raise awareness of Swiss contemporary art and cultural actors in France and fosters exchanges between the French and Swiss art scenes. Featuring two exhibition rooms, a stage and a bookshop, the CCS offers a platform for various artistic disciplines and interdisciplinary projects. Every year, some 40,000 art lovers visit the CCS. The CCS employs 11 staff and has an annual budget of CHF 1.9 million.

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