

Zurich, 5 July 2017

Press Release

EXHIBITION

ON SERIES, SCENES AND SEQUENCES. INTERVENTION BY HUBER.HUBER

16 August – 15 October 2017

**Opening: Tuesday 15 August 2017, 6 p.m.,
followed by a Summer Party marking the 150th Jubilee of the Graphische
Sammlung**

The Graphische Sammlung ETH Zürich comprises a collection of prints and drawings so substantial that choosing the most insightful selection invariably poses a considerable challenge to each and every curator. This time, the Zurich-based duo of artists known as huber.huber (Markus and Reto Huber, both *1975) have agreed to take on this task. They offer an artists' eye-view of a widespread art form, seen from various angles and made accessible through the prism of film and music, thanks to their collaboration with Michael Bucher. At the same time, works by contemporary artists will be shown on a fortnightly rotating basis, with the aim of expanding the notion of seriality to include additional interpretations.

In the age of the Netflix boom, in which every aspect of modern life is explored in television series, in which every possible subculture, no matter how off-beat, is illuminated in the same successful format of a series, and in which even cookery shows, social analyses and theatrical productions are serialised. Seriality seems to be positively omnipresent. Artists have been producing works in series throughout the ages, as a "sequence, without interruption", as a cycle of repetitions and variations. Some constantly revisit and vary the same theme anew, while others adopt narrative strategies or follow the free flow of an intuitive approach. The law of seriality is, to this day, an extremely fruitful principle in art.

The collection of the Graphische Sammlung ETH Zürich comprises many examples of this, from the 37 woodcuts that make up *Die Kleine Passion* by **Albrecht Dürer** (1471–1528), to the 80 prints of *Caprichos* by **Francisco Goya** (1746–1828) and from the 45 photographs in the *Siedlungen, Agglomeration* series by artist duo **Fischli & Weiss** (*1952 and 1946–2012) to the 31 drawings of *Flora und Fauna* by **Claudia** and **Julia Müller** (*1964 and *1965). For this exhibition, the Zurich artist duo **huber.huber (Markus and Reto Huber, both *1975)** were invited to work with the wide-ranging collection of the Graphische Sammlung ETH Zürich.

Their research led them to an in-depth exploration of the role of the series in art. One of their own serially-based works also forms part of our collection: *Der schöne Mensch* (2009) comprises 320 collages, in which the artists, as so often, adopt their distinctive approach of sampling.

As part of the 150th Jubilee of the Graphische Sammlung ETH Zürich, the two artists will not only choose a selection of serial works from their own oeuvre, but will also do the same with the four other aforementioned significant cycles from our collection. In this way, the artists themselves take on the task of inclusion and exclusion, thereby providing a compelling insight into the series as an art form in its own right, from the viewpoint of an artist. On the basis of their research, the artists developed an intervention that repurposes the historic surroundings of the exhibition space, with the aim of making such cycle of works accessible in a new and different way: the individual prints selected are presented in tandem with a film projection of the entire series, respectively – and so the individual “scenes” are shown “in sequence”.

Composer **Michael Bucher** (*1975) has created a soundtrack for each group of works in the exhibition. All the soundtracks can be combined together and heard in the exhibition space as a single composition.

At the same time, the Graphische Sammlung ETH Zürich has invited other artists to expand the concept of the series by means of their own additional interpretations, shown in fortnightly rotation.

Featured artists **Livio Baumgartner** (*1982), **Franziska Furter** (*1972), **Patrick Graf** (*1981) and **Yves Netzhammer** (*1970), present examples of large-scale, wide-ranging groups of works from their respective oeuvres.

The exhibition begins with the glass showcases in the hallway, continuing from there through to the main exhibition space, where they dovetail with the core exhibition to highlight some interesting cross-references. Separate vernissage events will be held for these different areas of the exhibition, and talks are planned with the artists.

Curatorial team: Alexandra Barcal, Graphische Sammlung ETH Zürich and huber.huber.
Intervention in collaboration with jazz musician and composer Michael Bucher.

Sponsors: Ernst Göhner Stiftung, Thurgauer Kulturstiftung

Practical Information

Publication The exhibition will be accompanied by a lavishly illustrated catalogue published by Edition Fink in which the principle of the series is explored not only in texts by Alexandra Barcal, Johannes Binotto and Simone Meier, but also through its graphic design and layout.
Publication date: October 2017 (Price approx. CHF 38.-)

Exhibition dates

Intervention huber.huber	16 August – 15 October 2017
Feature Yves Netzhammer	16 August – 3 September 2017
Feature Livio Baumgartner	6 September – 17 September 2017
Feature Patrick Graf	20 September – 1 October 2017
Feature Franziska Furter	4 October – 15 October 2017

Events Throughout the exhibition, there will be a number of guided tours as well as the discussion series *Im Fokus*. For further information, please visit:
<https://gs.ethz.ch/agenda/>

Opening hours daily, 10 a.m. – 4.45 p.m.

Entrance free

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