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Press Release
Zurich, March 2016

André Thomkins. The Zurich Years

20 April to 19 June 2016

Opening: Tuesday 19 April 2016, 6 p.m.

André Thomkins (1930-1985) belonged to a generation of Swiss artists that won unprecedented international recognition and acclaim. It was the generation that included Jean Tinguely, Bernhard Luginbühl, Franz Eggenschwiler, Franz Gertsch, Dieter Roth and Rolf Iseli. What most of these artists shared in common was their tendency to work in a wide variety of different media. Thomkins not only excelled in painting and drawing, but was also a highly talented sculptor and musician as well as an outstanding wordsmith.

By the time he decided to return to his native Switzerland, he had already produced an oeuvre of extraordinary breadth. During his Zurich years, between 1978 and 1985, he revisited and built on some of his previous accomplishments, such as the Lackskin technique that he had developed in the late 1950s. He also returned to oil painting. His Zurich years might be described as a period of maturity in which he became internationally acknowledged. Known at the time primarily for his small-format drawings, his works of the late 1970s and early 1980s took on larger dimensions. It is surely no coincidence that this is precisely the period in which the monumental xylophone was created for Flüeli-Ranft – nor that André Thomkins decided to accept the commission, together with Rolf Winnewisser, for two murals in the Swiss National Bank in Lucerne. In collaboration with printer Peter Kneubühler he created wonderful prints using the *vernis mou* (soft-ground etching) technique.

For further information and visual material, please contact:
Paul Tanner, curator of the exhibition, tel. 044 632 40 47 or tanner@gs.ethz.ch

The exhibition will be accompanied by a publication:

André Thomkins. Die Zürcher Jahre. With texts (in German) by Paul Tanner and Felix Philipp Ingold, Published by Verlag Scheidegger & Spiess, Zürich 2016
112 pages, approx. 95 colour plates
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