

Zurich, 5 October 2017

Press release

EXHIBITION

LEARNING TO DRAW – FROM ARTIST’S TRAINING TO AESTHETIC EDUCATION SINCE 1500

8 November – 22 December 2017 and 3 – 21 January 2018

Opening: Tuesday, 7 November 2017, 6 p.m.

Antiquity, nudes, landscapes – the fourth and final exhibition in the 150-year jubilee series of Graphische Sammlung ETH Zürich takes visitors back in time through the history of draughtsmanship. Prints from four centuries shed new light on the development of aesthetic perceptions from the Renaissance to the nineteenth century. They bear witness to the many different ways in which drawing skills have been honed by institutions as part and parcel of artists’ training, and illustrate the respective educational approaches involved.

The exhibition covers a range of themes conveying the various approaches taken by different studios in which artists were trained. Numerous instructional books give an insight into how the theory and practice of draughtsmanship has been taught through the ages. Selected exhibits highlight in detail the disciplines of artistic training, from the study of classical antiquity to theories of geometry and anatomy, as well as life studies and plein-air landscapes. Questions of aesthetics are also addressed, from their inception to their introduction into the founding principles of the great academies, as well as covering the artistic instruction at royal courts and later courses for non-professionals.

A bridge to contemporary practice has also been built by juxtaposing the development of artistic education since 1500 with current practices in the Department of Architecture at ETH Zürich. Drawing has always been one of the most direct forms of expression, since the days of prehistoric cave paintings, and continues to fascinate us to this day. The exhibition seeks to illuminate the theoretical and practical aspects of this artistic discipline since early modern times.

The exhibition has been curated under the guidance of Dr. Michael Matile, together with students of the Institute of Art History at the University of Zurich, in collaboration with Zilla Leutenegger – a Zurich-based artist who mentors students in the Department of Architecture

at the ETH Zurich and who has revived the concept of manual draughtsmanship as the key component of architectural training it once was.

A broad-based and varied fringe programme aimed at young people, families and school classes accompanies the exhibition, offering a multi-faceted approach to the theme of drawing and the way it is taught.

As part of the Monday lunchtime series *Kunst am Montagmittag*, we offer an overview of the themes addressed in the exhibition, while the evening series *Im Fokus* is aimed at opening up a dialogue with guest speakers.

At the *Sunday Matinée* on 26 November 2017, live draughtsman Nicolas D'Aujourd'hui will transform stories and history into images, together with the audience.

Practical Information

Publication	The exhibition will be documented in a lavishly illustrated catalogue published by Michael Imhof Verlag, with a foreword by Linda Schädler and Michael Matile and texts by Franca Bernhart, Josepha Bosshart, Fabienne Dubs, Christina Enderli, Zilla Leutenegger, Cornelia Müller, Wanda Seiler, Leonie Singer, Sabrina Thöny and Beatrice Zaidenberg. Publication: November 2017 (approx. CHF 30.-)
Events	During the exhibition there will be numerous guided tours in addition to the <i>Im Fokus</i> series of talks. For more information, visit: https://gs.ethz.ch/en/agenda/
Schools	An educational programme will be provided by Leonie Singer from the University of Zurich's Institute of Art History. For details, contact info@gs.ethz.ch
Opening hours	Daily from 10 a.m. to 4.45 p.m.
Closed	Closed on the following days: 11, 18, 26 November and 8 December 2017. The collection will also remain closed throughout the holiday period from 23 December 2017 until 2 January 2018.
Entrance	free
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