

MASI Lugano

Museo d'arte
della Svizzera italiana,
Lugano

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2024 Exhibition programme

Museo d'arte della Svizzera italiana, Lugano

PRESS RELEASE

Lugano, 30 January 2024

MASI Lugano opens its 2024 exhibition season with a tribute to a Swiss artist who wrote a significant chapter in the history of photography, Ernst Scheidegger. In the autumn, the focus on great photography then opens up to an international outlook, with the solo exhibition dedicated to Luigi Ghirri, which revolves around the theme of travel, both real and imaginary. This year also brings the work of one of the most innovative artists of the 20th century, Alexander Calder, to Lugano for the very first time, with the show "Calder. Sculpting Time". The most recent contemporary practice takes centre stage in the exhibition by artist Shahryar Nashat, while the packed 2024 season rounds off in the autumn with a new in-depth look at the history of art in the Canton of Ticino and the museum's collections in the exhibition "From Davos to Obino. Ernst Ludwig Kirchner and the artists of the Rot-Blau group."

MASI opens its 2024 programme of exhibitions with a show dedicated to a major Swiss artist, Ernst Scheidegger (Rorschach, 1923 – Zurich, 2016). In collaboration with the Kunsthaus Zürich and the Stiftung Ernst Scheidegger-Archiv, it follows on from the activities linked to the centenary of the artist's birth. Scheidegger, who wrote a key chapter in the history of photography, worked for the renowned agency Magnum Photos and was a habitué of the Parisian avant-garde art scene. He is internationally known for his artist portraits - including his iconic shots of Alberto Giacometti, a lifelong friend. The exhibition in MASi traces his career, presenting a selection of previously unpublished early shots, dated 1945 - 1955, and his famous artist portraits, displayed alongside works by the artists themselves. The exhibition "**Eye to Eye. Giacometti, Dalí, Miró, Ernst, Chagall. Homage to Ernst Scheidegger**" runs from 18.02 to 21.07.2024.

The focus on great photography opens up to an international outlook in autumn 2024 with the solo show dedicated to Luigi Ghirri (Scandiano, 1943 - Roncocesi, 1992), just over thirty years after his untimely death. "**Luigi Ghirri – Il viaggio. Photographs 1970-1991**" is the title of the exhibition, which features around 150 prints highlighting the Italian photographer's different perspectives on travel, viewed not only as an experience, but also an imaginary dimension: alongside images of tourist destinations, often captured off-season, it also includes photographs of maps, atlases, advertising images and postcards. The show is designed like an open labyrinth that winds its way among the "emotional geographies" of one of the pioneers of 20th century photography (from 08.09.2024 to 26.01.2025).

The most recent contemporary practice is highlighted in the show by the artist "**Shahryar Nashat. Streams of Spleen**", who will be presenting a striking immersive installation. For the exhibition project, conceived for MASi's underground hall, the artist will be taking over the space completely, intervening on the floor, pillars, lighting and walls. The show also includes some new sculptures and a video on a screen integrated into the setting. Nashat loves working with spaces to create cohesive multi-sensory environments, and in his art he often experiments with unconventional

Main Partner



materials such as urethane rubber, resins and gel gloss. His focus is the human body, its sensations and interactions, its vulnerability and resilience. At a time when technologies filter out much of our bodily experience, Nashat's practice is extremely stimulating, because it engages with our physical perception to elicit reflections what it means to be human (from 17.03 to 18.08.2024).

Organised by MASI, the exhibition "**Calder. Sculpting Time**" will explore the profound and transformative impact of one of the twentieth century's most revolutionary artists through a focused lens. **Alexander Calder** (Lawnton, Pennsylvania, 1898 – New York, 1976) changed the way we perceive and interact with sculpture by introducing the fourth dimension of time into art with his legendary mobiles—a term coined by Marcel Duchamp that refers to both "motion" and "motive" in French—and by exploring volumes and voids in his stabiles, christened by Jean Arp for his stationary objects. The exhibition will comprise over thirty masterworks made between 1930 and 1960—Calder's most innovative, prolific years—from his early abstractions or *sphériques* to a magnificent selection of mobiles, stabiles, and standing mobiles of various scales. "Sculpting Time" will also feature a large body of Calder's constellations, a term proposed by Duchamp and James Johnson Sweeney for the artist's beloved objects made from wood and wire in 1943, a time when sheet metal was in short supply due to World War II.

The exhibition has been made possible thanks to the support of Fondazione Favorita (from 05.05 to 06.10.2024).

In 2024, once again MASI continues to provide a platform for contemporary Swiss art. During the summer, from June to August, the Palazzo Reali venue will be hosting the exhibition by the winner of the **Bally Artist Award**, the annual prize that the Bally Foundation, in collaboration with MASI, assigns to an artist working in Switzerland. And from October 2024 to January 2025 the LAC venue will play host to the artist **Johanna Kotlaris** (Zurich, 1988), winner of the 2024 **Manor Cultural Prize** for Ticino, who will create an exhibition project for the occasion.

The packed 2024 season ends in the autumn with a new in-depth look at the history of art in the canton of Ticino and the museum's collections. The exhibition "**From Davos to Obino. Ernst Ludwig Kirchner and the artists of the Rot-Blau group**" presents the work of Ernst Ludwig Kirchner (1880-1938) and highlights, in particular, the influence he had on the generation of young Swiss artists who were developing their painting and sculpture practice in an Expressionist vein. The selection of around 20 paintings by Kirchner, from prestigious public and private collections in Switzerland and the rest of Europe, provides context for an important chapter in local and national art history (from 17.11.2024 to 23.03.2025).

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Exhibition venues

LAC
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Press images

01.

Ernst Scheidegger
Ballet dancer at Madame Rousanne's ballet
studio, Paris
ca. 1955
© Stiftung Ernst Scheidegger-Archiv



02.

Shahryar Nashat
Untitled
2023
Still from HD video: color / stereo sound
Courtesy of the artist, Rodeo, Piraeus/London;
Gladstone Gallery, New York/Brussels; David
Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles/New York
© the artist



03.

Alexander Calder
Quatre systèmes rouges
1960
Iron and painted steel
Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek,
Denmark. Donation: The New Carlsberg
Foundation
© 2024 Calder Foundation, New York /
Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York



04.
Luigi Ghirri
Trani
1981
C-print
CSAC, Università di Parma
© Eredi Ghirri



05.
Ernst Ludwig Kirchner
Alpküche (Alpine kitchen)
1918
Oil on canvas
Madrid, Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza
© Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid

