



MEDIA RELEASE

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SCHAULAGER PLANS AN EXTENSION

The Schaulager of the Laurenz Foundation in Basel/Münchenstein was built in 2003 not only to store, preserve, and care for the art collection of the Emanuel Hoffmann Foundation when it is not being exhibited, but also to make it accessible for study and research. It is home to the collection when the work is not integrated into exhibitions at Kunstmuseum Basel and Kunstmuseum Basel | Gegenwart or into exhibitions worldwide. Schaulager gives researchers, students, and school children the opportunity to study original works of art in great depth. It is also open to the public at large at irregular intervals in major, comprehensive exhibitions primarily devoted to artists in the collection, and also offers guided tours, lectures, symposia, and events for all interested visitors.

Over the past twenty years, the collection preserved at Schaulager has grown substantially with an increasing focus on time-based media. The temporal and spatial dimensions of these works as well as their technical diversity are extremely complex. The presentation of each single work poses specific and exacting challenges. To meet the special needs of these works, the Laurenz Foundation, as the Schaulager's supporting foundation, has decided to plan an extension of the existing Schaulager, thus adding another dimension to the pioneering project of 2003. International experts and artists will join the team to work out what is required to ensure that Schaulager's policy of fostering the study of original works is fully applicable to media works as well.

Once again, the Laurenz Foundation will develop the project in collaboration with architects Herzog & de Meuron. A preliminary study for the addition to the existing Schaulager is in preparation. Through this innovative extension, Schaulager will contribute significantly to the diversity of the Dreispitzareal as a burgeoning "neighborhood of arts and education." We will be happy to provide additional information after the preliminary study is completed.

Time-Based Media Works

Time-based media is the term used for artworks based on analog and digital media such as film, photography, video, and computer technology. The running time of such works ranges from a defined duration, e.g. "one minute, 30 seconds", "one hour," to the undefined "continuous projection of a loop." Viewing these works requires a corresponding amount of time.

The form of presentation is essential to time-based media and makes specific demands on space and technology. Strictly speaking, the works do not exist until they are installed, for it is only then that they can be experienced.

Time-based media pose many challenges for collections since they are by nature unstable and dependent on their technological components. However, the latter age quickly and are subject to constant change. The questions raised by these concerns are fundamental to research into contemporary art.

For further questions, please contact: mediaservice@schaulager.org