

New from the Collection

June 2 –
Sep 11, 2022

MEDIA ORIENTATION
May 31, 2022, 11 am

OPENING DAY
June 2, 2022, 11 am to 8 pm

curated by Sabine Schaschl, Evelyne Bucher and Eliza Lips

New from the Collection is the title of a new exhibition series in which Museum Haus Konstruktiv, at irregular intervals, will show works from its collection that either have been recently acquired, or about which there is news to report.

The in-house collection is the heart of any museum: The works it contains are catalogued, restored if necessary and often presented either in the establishment itself or on loan elsewhere. They exemplify certain developments in art history and thus constitute both sensory visual aids and illuminating research material. Our collection is constantly being enlarged by means of generous donations or targeted purchases. With the commencing exhibition series, Museum Haus Konstruktiv wishes to provide ongoing insight into current activity involving our collection of constructivist-concrete and conceptual art by showing new acquisitions or reporting news about older collection pieces: a newsletter in exhibition form. The series starts with a presentation of works by Frank Badur (b. 1944), Ueli Berger (1937–2008), Imi Knoebel (b. 1940), Joseph Kosuth (b. 1945), Dóra Maurer (b. 1937), Jean Mauboulés (b. 1943), Timo Nasserli (b. 1972), Ruth Pfalzberger (b. 1949), Michael Riedel (b. 1972), Romy Weber (b. 1936) and Dominik Stauch (b. 1962).

In the first edition of *New from the Collection*, we present, for example, selected pieces from a group of works that were added to our collection last year as a generous donation from Genossenschaft Migros Aare. These include two pieces by the Bernese artist and designer Ueli Berger: the large-scale installation *Volumen aus der Fläche* (Volume from the Surface, 1982), suspended from the ceiling, and the ellipsoidal object *Verschiebung aus Kugel* (Displacement from Sphere, 1965), mounted on a pedestal. Both works reflect Berger's interest in interaction between surface and space – a theme that runs throughout his oeuvre as a common thread. For *Verschiebung aus Kugel*, via a multitude of longitudinal and transverse sections, an ellipsoid was broken down into individual parts, which were then slightly offset and reassembled. The visible cut surfaces appear in the primary colors red, blue and yellow, generating sophisticated interplay between light and color, interior and exterior, surface and volume. Berger incorporates this theme again in *Volumen aus der Fläche*: Milled-out plywood parts are strung together to form a delicate installation. The volume is only hinted at by the revealed skeleton-like structure, but can be completed in the observer's mind.

Das Mass aller Dinge (The Measure of All Things, 2010) is the second ceiling-mounted installation shown in the exhibition. Created by Ruth Pfalzberger and Romy Weber as a joint project and donated to the museum in 2021 by the two artists, this piece comprises a total of 24 folding rulers, whose wooden sections are bent to form the same number of historical mason's marks. Hanging from the ceiling in groups of three, they give rise to

dense formal interplay that combines centuries-old artisanal tradition with the banality of a now commonplace measuring device. This piece is part of the rich oeuvre of Weber and Pfalzberger, who each produce artworks of their own, but have also been realizing joint projects for over forty years. Both together and alone, they impress with their distinctly subtle feeling for material, form and color, with manual precision and with an eye for sources of inspiration in history, nature and everyday life.

There is also news to report about the neon piece *Texts for Nothing (Waiting for-)* by American conceptual artist Joseph Kosuth. It was added to our collection as a donation from the artist, after his large solo exhibition in 2011. At that time, the neon was part of a strip of lettering that reproduced text fragments from Samuel Beckett's play *Waiting for Godot* and from his prose work *Texts for Nothing*. What is special about this neon lettering is that, when seen from the front, the words and letters are only partially legible, due to the fact that the front edges of the individually made letters were dipped in black paint and the light beam is directed back at the wall. This piece was actually meant to have been integrated into our comprehensive collection presentation *RESET* in winter 2021. During the preparations though, it turned out that this would not be possible in a form that was detached from the 2011 presentation. With the artist's consent and in cooperation with the Venetian company Neonlauro, which was commissioned to make the letters back in 2011, the lettering has now been successfully reproduced as a stand-alone artwork. Upon exhibiting and photographing this piece in the museum, Haus Konstruktiv will be granted the certificate verifying it as an original by the artist. We are looking forward to it!

More information on the artists represented in the exhibition, and on their work, can be found in (German and English) texts on our website. Here, there are also new texts about collection pieces by Imi Knoebel and Timo Nasser.



MEDIATION PROGRAM

July 6, 6.15 pm

CURATOR'S TOUR

Guided tour (in German) of the current exhibitions with Evelyne Bucher.

August 24, 6.15 pm

CURATOR'S TOUR

Guided tour (in German) of the current exhibitions with Eliza Lips.

PUBLIC GUIDED TOURS take place on Wednesdays at 6.15 pm and on Sundays at 11.45 am. Information on further events and on our digital mediation program can be found at hauskonstruktiv.ch.

We appreciate your interest and your visit!

PRESS CONTACT

Ladina Hurst, +41 (0)44 217 70 98, l.hurst@hauskonstruktiv.ch