

Media release
Zurich, 3 March 2022

Kunsthhaus Zürich presents Yoko Ono

From 4 March to 29 May 2022 the Kunsthhaus Zürich is showing the exhibition 'YOKO ONO. THIS ROOM MOVES AT THE SAME SPEED AS THE CLOUDS'.

Yoko Ono (b. 1933) is one of the most influential artists of our time. Her performances and actions of the 1960s and 1970s have achieved cult status. Some of them will be performed and exhibited at the Kunsthhaus Zürich. The artist was personally involved in the exhibition's conception.

FOR PEACE AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Since the beginning of her career, Yoko Ono has explored issues of socio-political importance that are still highly relevant today. From early on, she has been committed to peace in the world and the feminist cause. Ideas always play a central role in her work: sometimes she formulates them in a playful and humorous way, sometimes quite radically, and then again very poetically. Some are transformed into objects while others are left immaterial. Yoko Ono's artistic oeuvre is correspondingly diverse, encompassing sculptures, works on paper, installations, performances, film and music. Kunsthhaus curator Mirjam Varadinis, in collaboration with Yoko Ono and her long-time curator Jon Hendricks, has selected more than 60 of them to arrange into an exhibition.

POETRY MEETS CONCEPTUAL ART AND PERFORMANCE

Most of the works start out with 'event scores' or 'instructions', a majority of which Yoko Ono published for the first time in 1964 in the celebrated square booklet 'Grapefruit'. This small but seminal work of conceptual art contains directions for simple actions that anyone can execute and that transform basic, everyday activities and forms of expression (such as going for a walk, striking a match or laughing) into performances. What really matters, though, is imagination: the artwork can take shape entirely in our heads, and does not necessarily have to be acted out. Yoko Ono was one of the first to write such 'event scores', and in doing so she radically transformed and permanently expanded the concept of art. She chose the title 'Grapefruit' because she saw the fruit as a hybrid, a mixture of lemon and orange. She regarded herself as a hybrid too – between Japan and America, East and West, between visual art, music and performance.

CONTEMPORARY RELEVANCE

That multifaceted artistic practice is what gives Yoko Ono's work its contemporary relevance, in an era when the boundaries between artistic disciplines are increasingly breaking down. The idea of the audience as performer and the everyday staging of the individual through social media are now of central importance.

WORKS FROM ALL CREATIVE PERIODS

The exhibition at the Kunsthaus Zürich sets out to reaffirm that relevance. It shows a selection of key works from all periods of Yoko Ono's artistic career, with a focus on the early years. The presentation is not a classical retrospective: it brings more than 60 years of artistic creativity to life from a modern-day perspective. Visitors will be able to participate in a wide variety of ways. Yoko Ono was personally involved in the conception of the exhibition.

FIRST SOLO EXHIBITION IN THE CHIPPERFIELD BUILDING

The Yoko Ono exhibition is the first presentation of the artist's work in a major Swiss museum and also the first solo exhibition by an international artist in the medium-sized temporary exhibition gallery of the Chipperfield building, which opened in October 2021.

PERFORMANCES/EVENTS/PUBLICATION

A wide-ranging performance programme accompanies the exhibition, in which key works by Yoko Ono are being restaged:

SKY PIECE TO JESUS CHRIST 1965/2022

Thursday 3 March, 6 p.m.

VOICE PIECE FOR SOPRANO 1961/2022

Friday 4 March to Sunday 29 May

13 DAYS DO-IT-YOURSELF DANCE FESTIVAL 1967/2022

Tuesday 8 to Sunday 20 March

TOILET THOUGHTS FILM NO. 3 1968/2022

Mid-March to end of April

BAG PIECE 1961/2022

Sunday 27 March, 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Thursday 28 April / 19 May, 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.

CUT PIECE 1964/2022

Friday 8 April, 6 p.m.

9 CONCERT PIECES FOR JOHN CAGE 1966/2022

Sunday 15 May, 2 p.m.

[Accompanying events](#)

Japanese week in the Kunsthaus Bar

Friday 4 March to Sunday 13 March

A range of Japanese dishes, snacks and sake cocktails will be on sale in addition to the regular menu.

Reservations: www.kunsthhausbar.ch or call 079 242 42 71

From idea to exhibition

Thursday 17 March, 6 p.m.

Kunsthhaus curator Mirjam Varadinis and Christoph Stuehn discuss the background and realization of the exhibition (in German). Free with a valid exhibition ticket and for members, otherwise CHF 10 / CHF 8 (concessions).

'nachtaktiv' – a 'nocturnal' museum evening for young people aged 16 to 25

Thursday 31 March, 7 p.m.

Kunsthhaus curator Mirjam Varadinis and Christoph Stuehn provide an introduction to the exhibition. With DJ and bar. Admission free. An initiative of the universities of Zurich and Basel and the ETH Zurich.

Reading and talk

Sunday 22 May, 2 p.m., banquet hall

The author Nicola Bardola reads from his biography of Yoko Ono (in German). Free with a valid exhibition ticket and for members, otherwise CHF 10 / CHF 8 (concessions).

Public guided tours

Saturdays 5 / 19 March, 2 / 16 / 30 April, 14 / 28 May, 11 a.m. (in German).

Details and tickets for all events at www.kunsthhaus.ch/yoko-ono and at www.kunsthhaus.ch/agenda

Publication

A 'programme booklet' containing texts by various authors sheds light on the performances and key themes in Yoko Ono's work. It includes contributions by Yoko Ono, RoseLee Goldberg, Catherine Morris, Dorothee Richter, Emma McCormick-Goodhart and others. The publication is available in the Kunsthhaus shop and from bookstores, price CHF 18.

The exhibition is supported by Swiss Re – Partner for contemporary art and Albers & Co AG

GENERAL INFORMATION

Kunsthhaus Zürich, Heimplatz, CH-8001 Zurich

Tel. +41 (0)44 253 84 84, www.kunsthhaus.ch

Fri-Sun/Tue 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Wed, Thu 10 a.m.–8 p.m. For public holiday opening see www.kunsthhaus.ch.

KUNSTHAUS ZÜRICH

Admission: from CHF 23 / CHF 18 (concessions and groups). Admission free to visitors under the age of 17.

Advance ticket sales: www.kunsthhaus.ch

Zurich Tourism, tourist information office in Zurich main railway station, tel. +41 44 215 40 00, info@zuerich.com, www.zuerich.com.

CONTACT FOR THE MEDIA

Media releases and images to download as well as an overview of dates for media briefings can be found at www.kunsthhaus.ch/en/medien-bereich/media-corner/.

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