

## MEDIA INFORMATION

*Apple. An Introduction. (Over and over and once again)*

*A project by Paweł Freisler and Antje Majewski*

*With Brigham Baker, Jimmie Durham, Agnieszka Polska und Didier Rittener*

*In cooperation with Biohof Fruchtwald – Sandra & Marc Schlotterbeck, the Museum Education Department, and schools and volunteers from Thun*

Kunstmuseum Thun, 4 September – 28 November 2021, Opening: 3 September 2021, 6:30pm

Press previews on request

**The exhibition is all about the apple – the fruit we think we know best. Apples are a prime example of the infinite variety that nature can produce from one basic form. But they also shed light on food production and current debates on genetic research. The topic thus challenges us to think hard about our relationship to the natural world we have domesticated.**

Initiated by the artists Antje Majewski and Paweł Freisler, the art project also brings in aspects of cultural history and politics and has been realised in various locations since 2014. It thus involves other artists, local stakeholders and schools, among others. The exhibition at the Kunstmuseum Thun is the largest and most comprehensive station of the project and brings together works from all previous locations. Featured artists include, in addition to Majewski and Freisler, Jimmie Durham, Agnieszka Polska and Piotr Życieński. Also on view in two special rooms are works created independently on the theme of apples by the Swiss artists Brigham Baker and Didier Rittener as well as exhibits from the collection of the Kunstmuseum Thun.

The project includes a broad-based museum education programme. Works submitted by the public in response to an open call will thus be shown in the exhibition, among other things. In the project room “enter” a participatory wall with apple pictures will be created as a metaphorical harvest symbolising diversity. “Fruits and Blossoms” will additionally be presented by school classes from Thun that have learnt about apples in their lessons. The supporting programme and on-site activities will include a platform for the exchange of favourite apple recipes as well as a wide range of workshops. Planting an apple tree is also planned.

### **Artists represented**

As different as they may be, the works in the exhibition all highlight the apple as an object of contemplation that arouses thoughts about nature, time and appearance. The apple is bound up in the natural cycle of decay and regeneration but is also part of the man-made history of its cultivation forms.

Majewski’s paintings of new and old apple varieties display a kaleidoscope of colours and shapes that convey an impression of the fruit’s rich diversity. The paintings are based on food photographs and thus revisit the still life tradition by way of a detour. Among the newer varieties are the first genetically modified

Kunstmuseum Thun  
Thunerhof, Hofstettenstrasse 14, 3602 Thun  
T +41 (0)33 225 84 20 / F +41 (0)33 225 89 06  
kunstmuseum@thun.ch, www.kunstmuseumthun.ch

Thun-Panorama  
Besuchsadresse: Schadaupark, 3602 Thun  
T +41 (0)33 223 24 62  
panorama@thun.ch, www.thun-panorama.ch

apple and a new apple with red flesh. In her film *Wild Apples*, Majewski undertakes a fascinating case study of biodiversity. The new video about local apple growers (Sandra and Marc Schlotterbeck with their Biohof organic orchard) was made expressly for the exhibition at the Kunstmuseum Thun.

Paweł Freisler has been working with apples for many years, ornamentally carving their skins and then preserving them in an elaborate and lengthy process. Among them are replicas that are scarcely distinguishable from the originals: 3D prints in natural hues. Specimens from nature versus artificial clones, the apples themselves versus their high-tech replicas bring to mind surprising parallels between nature and technology. They are accompanied here by photographs made by Piotr Życieński that capture the beauty of the carved apples.

Augmenting the exhibition are works by artists who have dealt with apple trees in their works or who have in other ways become part of the circle of people addressing gardens, apples and planting: Jimmie Durham with his apple juice bottles for documenta 13, during which two apple trees were planted, and Agnieszka Polska with a film about Freisler's imaginary garden.

Swiss artist Didier Rittener primarily does drawings and conceptual works. In exploring the theme of contemporary image production, he draws on motifs from art history and other domains. His monumental and dense drawing *Les pommiers ou indécente forêt* (The Apple Trees or Indecent Forest), for example, contains a number of references to works from art history that illustrate the primal Western/Christian theme of the Fall of Man based on Adam & Eve and the Apple. A new work will also be created for the exhibition in Thun.

Brigham Baker's Apples series is a long-term photographic study. Although the apple is at the centre of the photographs, the works are also intended as a deeper reflection on the interplay and duality of nature and culture. Some of them convey a sense of transience and may recall *vanitas* still lifes, because the artist shows not only ripe, well-formed apples but also fruit in a state of decay. He visited the tree that is the subject of the photographs daily and at different times of day.

## Featured artists

Antje Majewski, b. 1968 in Germany, lives and works in Berlin

Paweł Freisler, b. 1942 in Poland, lives and works in Sweden

Jimmie Durham, b. 1940 in the USA, lives and works in Berlin and Rome

Agnieszka Polska, b. 1985 in Poland, lives and works in Berlin

Didier Rittener, b. 1969 in Lausanne, where he lives and works

Brigham Baker, b. 1989 in the USA, lives and works in Zurich

# KUNSTMUSEUM THUN

---

With generous support from:

prohelvetia



Ville de Lausanne



■ ■ ■ ■ URSULA WIRZ-STIFTUNG

DR. GEORG  
UND JOSI  
GUGGEN  
HEIMSTIF  
TUNG



## The Ernst and Olga Gubler-Hablützel Foundation

### Photo material

Downloadable images are available on the website: <http://www.kunstmuseumthun.ch/de/medien/>.

When **using the photographic material, we ask that you always use the provided captions and credits.**

### Media contact

Kunstmuseum Thun, Matthias Schweizer, [matthias.schweizer@thun.ch](mailto:matthias.schweizer@thun.ch), T +41(0)33 225 82 07

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Kunstmuseum Thun, Hofstettenstrasse 14, CH-3602 Thun

T +41(0)33 225 84 20, F +41(0)33 225 89 06, [www.kunstmuseumthun.ch](http://www.kunstmuseumthun.ch), [kunstmuseum@thun.ch](mailto:kunstmuseum@thun.ch)

Tue–Sun 10am–5pm, Wed 10am–7pm, closed Mon.

For opening hours on holidays see [www.kunstmuseumthun.ch](http://www.kunstmuseumthun.ch)

Admission: CHF 10/ 8. Children and teenagers up to 16 years free of charge, groups must register in advance.

Special tours on request: T +41(0)33 225 84 20 or [kunstmuseumt@thun.ch](mailto:kunstmuseumt@thun.ch)

Food and drink: Café Thunerhof, [www.fruitpower.ch](http://www.fruitpower.ch), [info@fruitpower.ch](mailto:info@fruitpower.ch)

3

Kunstmuseum Thun  
Thunerhof, Hofstettenstrasse 14, 3602 Thun  
T +41(0)33 225 84 20 / F +41(0)33 225 89 06  
[kunstmuseum@thun.ch](mailto:kunstmuseum@thun.ch), [www.kunstmuseumthun.ch](http://www.kunstmuseumthun.ch)

Thun-Panorama  
Besuchsadresse: Schadaupark, 3602 Thun  
T +41(0)33 223 24 62  
[panorama@thun.ch](mailto:panorama@thun.ch), [www.thun-panorama.ch](http://www.thun-panorama.ch)

**THUN  
PANORAMA**