

Swiss Institute
35 West 67th Street
New York, NY 10023
212/496-1759

LISTING INFORMATION

The SWISS INSTITUTE presents paintings and drawings by two native Swiss artists:

" ETERNAL WRITING "

HELEN SPOERRI and BRUNO GASSER

HELEN SPOERRI's work deals with many of the questions and issues that affect mankind. Working on canvas and paper with acrylic paint, Spoerri uses rich colors, often superimposing subjects, shapes and forms to express the reality from which she draws her conclusions. Spoerri's work has received exposure throughout Europe and in the U.S.A.

BRUNO GASSER's abstract paintings are full of vibrant color and energetic movement of line and motif. Using nature's consistency and inconsistency, Gasser extracts the essence of his theme, which in this exhibition is grass, and paints his abstracted view with exaggerated color and expressionistic vigor onto canvas.

Location:	Swiss Institute 35 West 67th Street New York City
Dates:	September 9 through October 3
Gallery Hours:	Monday - Friday 2 - 8 pm Saturday - Sunday 2 - 6 pm

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August 5, 1987

For immediate release:

NEW EXHIBIT AT THE SWISS INSTITUTE

Contact: Margrit Kaeser
(212) 563-2455

" ETERNAL WRITING "

HELEN SPOERRI and BRUNO GASSER

New York: On September 9, 1987, the opening of an exhibition of paintings and drawings by two native Swiss artists will take place at the Swiss Institute, 35 West 67th Street, New York, and will remain available for viewing until October 3, 1987.

HELEN SPOERRI's work deals with many of the questions and issues that affect mankind. She often pinpoints the mistakes that individuals make repeatedly without the awareness of how far away from themselves they really are. Working primarily on canvas and paper with acrylic paint, Spoerri uses rich colors and often superimposes subjects, shapes and forms to express the reality from which she draws her conclusions. Her work has received exposure throughout Europe and in the U.S.A.

BRUNO GASSER's abstract paintings are full of vibrant color and energetic movement of line and motif. Using nature's consistency and inconsistency, Gasser extracts the essence of his theme, which in this exhibition is grass, and paints his abstracted view with exaggerated color and expressionistic vigor onto canvas.

At a later date, SPOERRI and GASSER will have a second opening which will feature the works of art they have created during their stay in New York - material for a book they plan to publish about their experiences - and a "space-work," a live art performance which they will plan and perform at the Swiss Institute in New York.

The exhibition will be open daily from Monday to Friday from 2 to 8 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays from 2 to 6 p.m. The artists' reception and pre-view will be held on Wednesday evening, September 9th, from 6 to 9 p.m.

The Swiss Institute was established in May 1986 as a forum to showcase contemporary Swiss culture through the work of Swiss artists here and in Switzerland. In addition to art exhibits, the Institute hosts lectures, concerts and seminars.

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HELEN SPOERRI

Helen Spoerri was born in Zurich, Switzerland, in 1937 and presently lives in Berlin, Germany. From 1955-1959, she studied literature and philosophy in Basel, Zurich, Montpellier and Hamburg. Further, informal studies include Theater Workshop, New York; actions with Fritz Schranz in Greece, sojourns in Italy and Germany, and music studies. She is a member of GEDOK and the Berufsverband bildender Kuenstler.

Arriving on the art scene in 1980, Spoerri had her first show at the Hamburger Kunsthaus. Since then, her career has grown tremendously. The galleries which have shown her works include Gallery Chouette, Hamburg; Gallery Commercio, Zurich; Strand Gallery, Hamburg; Gallery Basel, Basel; Gallery Illverich, Dusseldorf; Lasser Galleries, New York; Gallery Lee, Munich; Gallery Martina Dinkler, Berlin, and Wollongong City Gallery, Australia.

Spoerri is an adventurous artist and has travelled to many countries searching for truth and thus a thematic inspiration for her work. Using her educational background, she incorporates religion, philosophy, mythology, as well as social and human issues into her work. Spoerri creates from different viewpoints, using color to elicit emotion, shape and form to mobilize the soul, and the superimposition of subjects to give the viewer a sense of deep reality. Her extreme sensitivity and confidence give her an edge, as her art works often approach life with a sense of humor.

As can be seen in There is no End ..., Spoerri addresses the subject of the Holocaust, so often swept under the rug. She uses muted colors of the German flag, scenes of a concentration camp and the Star of David, evoking this historical event with sympathy.

In her drawing An Hour of Tea, a figure running out of the picture while two people converse over tea symbolically expresses people's fear of true intimacy.

Never evading reality, but moving towards it, Spoerri uses the technique she terms "over-painting" to help explain her viewpoint that many things in life happen at the same time and that the complexity of circumstances must be considered as a multi-faceted process in which an underlying focal point prevails when ego and self-aggrandization are removed. Life is not merely a succession of events, but rather a myriad of events happening all at once and in succession.

The name of the exhibition, "Eternal Writing," is significant, as Spoerri believes in the process of learning and in learning as a life-long process.

B R U N O G A S S E R

Bruno Gasser was born in Winterthur, Switzerland, in 1947. He has studied and travelled in Switzerland, Germany, France and Italy and was the recipient of many scholarships and fellowships, including the Swiss Institute of Rome, the International City of Arts, Paris, the Gerrit-Rietfeld Academy, Amsterdam, as well as a Swiss Federal grant, cantonal grants from Zurich and Basel, and a Kiefer-Hablitzel fellowship. His works have been shown at the Kunsthaus Zurich, the Kunstmuseum Basel, the Kunsthalle Basel, the Musee d'art et d'histoire, Geneva; Galerie Palette, Zurich; Galerie Riehentor, Basel; the Paris Biennale; Galerie RB, Fribourg, and Galerie B & W, Oberuzwil, among others.

In this exhibition, Bruno Gasser uses black and white photographs of various types of grass and extracts from them a motif and abstraction which he transposes onto canvas. He makes exquisite use of color in this presentation: exploding greens, purples, magentas, blues, pinks and yellows pervade the canvas throughout, often repeating the motif, creating a consistent and vibrant energy. Other works in the series are further abstracted; space and powerful brush stroke take over. Each stroke in Gasser's works carries with it an enormous amount of motion and aggression, in a combination of expressionistic and impressionistic technique that clearly directs the viewer.

In his earlier works, Gasser utilized the concept of superimposition where one painting was photographed with the use of a monochromatic technique and, by overlapping these photographs, creating a new picture in itself. As his painting is abstract, Gasser generates the motif as a design element and the superimposition as a graphic element, thus creating imagery which can be compared to certain works by Warhol.

In "Eternal Writing," Gasser exhibits works from his Gras im Kopf series, about which a book has been published.

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F A C T S H E E T

PURPOSE	The Swiss Institute was established as a forum to present the best in contemporary Swiss culture. It is designed to showcase the work of Swiss artists in the United States and Switzerland.
LOCATION	35 West 67th Street New York, NY 10023 (between Central Park West and Columbus)
DESCRIPTION	Gallery consisting of two large rooms suitable for exhibitions, performances, recitals, lectures, with seating capacity for 120 persons.
GALLERY HOURS	Monday to Friday 2 - 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday 2 - 6 p.m.
CHARTER	Not-for-profit organization under section 501(c)(3), privately funded by tax-deductible contributions and gifts by individuals and corporations.
OFFICERS	Margrit Kaeser, President (212) 563-2455 Annemarie Gilman, Secretary (212) 873-3761
COMING EXHIBIT	Naive paintings and Scherenschnitte from Switzerland, featuring Fritz Frischknecht and Ueli Hofer; from October 14 through November 18, 1987.