

MEDIA RELEASE

06.11.2021 13.02.2022

## Vivian Suter Retrospective

Vivian Suter has just been honoured by the Federal Office of Culture (FOC) with this year's Swiss Grand Award for Art / Prix Meret Oppenheim. And a first retrospective exhibition is now on show at the Kunstmuseum Luzern featuring works ranging from her beginnings in Basel in the 1970s to today.

For almost 40 years Vivian Suter's studio has been nature. She hangs her painted canvases out to dry and stores them under the dense canopy of leaves of the primeval forest. Foliage and earth are deposited on them and leave traces; her three dogs Bonzo, Tintin and Nina walk on the paintings as if there was no difference between Suter's pictures and the vital ground of the forest. Vivian Suter does not paint nature, she paints together *with* nature. Nature becomes an accomplice in the creative act and is given a voice that influences the shaping of the work. The two tropical storms Stan in 2005 and Agatha in 2010 were the catalysts for this development. Those storms destroyed some canvases, while leaving others to weather. The artist then began to integrate that weathering process into her work. Vivian Suter combines this conceptual approach with the transposition of her subjective sensibility into painting.

*Vivian Suter. Retrospective* is the first comprehensive exhibition of Vivian Suter's works. On show will be early drawings, painterly wall reliefs from the 1980s and her latest airy installations consisting of colourful, gesturally painted canvases, of which the Kunstmuseum Luzern has acquired a group for its collection. The visitors walk among the canvases, moving about in atmospherically dense surroundings and imagining they are in Suter's studio or in the primeval forest. Vivian Suter's works are being exhibited together with collages by her mother, Elisabeth Wild, with whom she lived in Guatemala until her death last year. The film *Vivian's Garden* by the artist Rosalind Nashashibi provides an impression of Suter's lifeworld. The publication *Bonzo, Tintin & Nina* (Hatje Cantz) will be issued to accompany the exhibition. It takes a close look at the artist's diverse oeuvre with texts by Fanni Fetzler, César García-Alvarez, Roman Kurzmeyer, Anne Pontégnie und Adam Szymczyk.

Vivian Suter was born in Buenos Aires in 1949 and has lived with her family in Basel since 1962. The artistic explorations she undertook on her travels were presented for the first time at Galerie Stampa in Basel. Her exhibition at the Kunsthalle Basel in 1981 and the presentation of her work at the Kunstmuseum Thurgau – Kartause Ittingen, in 1983 elicited a great response. Then things quietened down around the Swiss artist, who emigrated to Guatemala and continued her artistic work unnoticed for a long time by the art world. Since Vivian Suter took part in documenta 14 in Kassel in 2017 she has, as it were, been back on the art scene. Numerous exhibitions at prestigious international venues, most recently at the Museo Reina Sofia in Madrid in 2021, testify to an unbroken interest in Vivian Suter's art as well as to its topicality.

curated by Fanni Fetzler

## **DATES**

### **Media preview**

Friday, 05.11., 10.15 am

### **Opening**

Friday, 05.11., from 6 pm

Greeting and introduction

Andi Scheitlin, President Kunstgesellschaft Luzern

Fanni Fetzer, Director Kunstmuseum Luzern

Followed by an aperitif

Further information at [www.kunstmuseumluzern.ch](http://www.kunstmuseumluzern.ch)

### **Talk in the Exhibition**

Saturday, 06.11., 1 pm

The artist Vivian Suter in conversation with Fanni Fetzer, curator

### **Guided tour for Generation 60plus**

Thursday, 11.11., 3–4.30 pm

### **Lucerne Festival Forward**

Saturday, 20.11., 4 pm

Members of the Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra improvise to works by Vivian Suter

### **Family Tour with Workshop**

Sunday, 21.11., 11–12.30 am

### **Book Launch**

Wednesday, 15.12., 6 pm

With Julia Born, Graphic Designer, and Fanni Fetzer, Curator

### **The Curator as Guide**

Wednesday, 02.02., 6 pm

Tour with Fanni Fetzer

### **Public Tours**

Wednesdays 8 pm and Sundays 11 am, as on website

### **Schools**

Diverse offers for all school levels

### **Publication**

The monograph *Bonzo, Tintin & Nina* will be published for the exhibition with texts by Fanni Fetzer, Roman Kurzmeyer, Anne Pontégnie, César García-Alvarez and Adam Szymczyk, Hatje Cantz, ed. by Kunstmuseum Luzern, g/e, ca. 180 pages, ISBN 978-3-7757-5193-3, N° 94 in the programme of the Binding Sélection d'Artistes, CHF 50.– / for members KGL CHF 45.–

The exhibition and monograph are supported by **Artclub Luzern, Sophie und Karl Binding Stiftung, Abteilung Kultur Basel-Stadt and Haus am See.**