

**Swiss Presence at the 2019 Venice Biennale: Pauline Boudry / Renate Lorenz to exhibit at the Pavilion of Switzerland and Céline Eidenbenz to curate the «Salon Suisse» 2019**

**The curator of the Swiss Pavilion at the 58th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia, Charlotte Laubard, appointed by the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia, has announced she is developing an exhibition with artists Pauline Boudry / Renate Lorenz. Curator and art historian Céline Eidenbenz is responsible for next year's «Salon Suisse» at the Palazzo Trevisan degli Ulivi. The 58th International Art Exhibition will be held in Venice from 11 May to 24 November 2019.**

Charlotte Laubard notes about her collaboration with Pauline Boudry / Renate Lorenz: "Challenging notions of gender, Pauline Boudry and Renate Lorenz question the norms that govern our representations and our life in society. What lends their work such force is that it moves beyond mere criticism or deconstruction. Their installations, films and performances are conceived as *dispositifs* capable of inventing other ways of being in the world, ones no longer split by categories of identity and binarisms. Their practice of "denormalisation" has led them to question the "agency" of artistic objects or gestures in their relationships to those who experience them. Their interest in these modalities of action is intimately linked to their desire to find a position towards the situation of withdrawal and antagonism that we are currently experiencing."

Organised by the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia, the «Salon Suisse» runs concomitantly to the exhibition at the Swiss Pavilion and is now in its eighth year. The programme consists of a series of lectures, talks and cultural events, and, over several long weekends, aims to provide a meeting point for the entire duration of the Biennale. It offers an opportunity to discuss art and the Biennale in a relaxed and stimulating atmosphere. Céline Eidenbenz, Director of the Valais Art Museum, will develop the programme for the «Salon Suisse» 2019 and will host all events as Salonnière.

Curated by Ralph Rugoff, the 58th International Art Exhibition will take place in Venice from 11 May to 24 November 2019 (preview from 8-10 May 2019) at the Giardini and at the Arsenale, as well as at various venues in the city.

**Meeting Charlotte Laubard and Céline Eidenbenz in Basel**

In parallel with Art Basel, Pro Helvetia is holding an event titled "Living Room," which runs from Wednesday 13 to Saturday 16 June at the Kasernenareal in Basel. This series of meetings, conversations and performances, whose thematic focus this year is curatorial work, offers an opportunity to meet Charlotte Laubard and Céline Eidenbenz during the "Around Venezia" panel discussion, which will take place on Thursday, 14 June at 11am.

[www.prohelvetia.ch/livingroom](http://www.prohelvetia.ch/livingroom)

## Media information

Marlène Mauris, Pro Helvetia, Communication  
T +41 44 267 71 36, mmauris@prohelvetia.ch

Caroline Widmer, Pickles PR,  
M +44 7908 848 075, caroline@picklespr.com

Further information on Switzerland's presence at the Venice art and architecture  
biennials:  
[www.biennials.ch](http://www.biennials.ch)

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## Artists of the Swiss Pavilion at the Biennale Arte 2019

### Pauline Boudry / Renate Lorenz

Pauline Boudry and Renate Lorenz have been working together in Berlin since 2007. Their films capture performances in front of the camera that choreograph the tension between visibility and opacity. They upset normative historical narratives and conventions of spectatorship, via figures and actions that are staged, layered and re-imagined across time. Their performers are choreographers, artists and musicians, with whom they are engaging in long-term conversations about the conditions of performance, the violent history of visibility and the pathologisation of bodies, while also exploring companionship, glamour and resistance. Their most recent work, "Telepathic Improvisation," featuring a performance by Marwa Arsanios, MPA, Ginger Brooks Takahashi and Werner Hirsch, premiered in 2017 at Participant, New York. "Silent," including a performance by Aérea Negrot, premiered at the Biennale of Moving Images in Geneva in November 2016. In 2015, "I Want," with a performance by Sharon Hayes, was shown in their solo show at Kunsthalle Zürich and Nottingham Contemporary. Recent solo exhibitions include "Telepathic Improvisation" at the Centre Culturel Suisse Paris (2018) and CAMH Houston (2017); "Portrait of an Eye" at Kunsthalle Zürich (2015); "Loving, Repeating" at Kunsthalle Wien (2015); "Patriarchal Poetry" at Badischer Kunstverein (2013); "Aftershow" at CAPC Bordeaux (2013); "Toxic Play in Two Acts" at South London Gallery (2012); and "Contagieux! Rapports contre la normalité" at the Centre d'Art Contemporain Geneva (2011). For more information, please visit <https://www.boudry-lorenz.de>

## Curator of the Swiss Pavilion at the Biennale Arte 2019

### Charlotte Laubard

As Professor and Head of the Visual Arts Department at HEAD – Geneva School of Art and Design, Charlotte Laubard's research focuses on the uses and value of art, on the impact of digital technology on a society undergoing profound cultural transformation, and on self-learning practices. Currently the artistic director of the LiveInYourHead space in Geneva, she is also the co-founder of the «Société suisse des Nouveaux commanditaires» (New Patrons), which develops the participatory agenda for public art commissions in Switzerland. Holding a Master's in art history, Charlotte Laubard was director of CAPC, Musée d'art contemporain of Bordeaux, from 2006 to 2013, where she developed a multi-faceted programme of 50 temporary exhibitions and over 200 multidisciplinary events. In 2006, she worked as a consultant for the Victor Pinchuk Foundation on the opening of its contemporary art centre in Kiev. She has also collaborated with numerous contemporary art festivals and institutions. In addition to curating several major exhibitions at CAPC, including "Sigma, avant-garde festival 1965–1996" (2013); the Michel Majerus retrospective (2012); and "Jim Shaw, Left Behind" (2010), Laubard recently served as the Artistic Director of the 2017 edition of the Nuit Blanche in Paris, a venture that brought together some 30 projects striving to "Faire œuvre commune."

## Curator of the «Salon Suisse» at the Biennale Arte 2019

### **Céline Eidenbenz**

Curator and art historian Céline Eidenbenz is director of the Valais Art Museum in Sion, Switzerland. After completing her studies in Lausanne, Vienna and Paris, she worked as an assistant lecturer at the universities of Geneva and Lausanne (2007–2015). There she created “Le Cabanon,” an exhibition space for contemporary art. In 2012, she used her PhD thesis as the basis for an exhibition about hysteria at the Museum Félicien Rops in Namur, Belgium. Recently, she curated “Let’s Walk, Take a Step, Take a Stand” (2017–2018) at the Old Penitentiary of Sion, inviting Hamish Fulton for a site-specific artwork and a group walk. This exhibition integrated contemporary art with local artists and the Museum’s alpine environment.

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