Cultural Newsletter

of the Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai

Swiss Cultural Events in November 2015

We are pleased to present the following Swiss Cultural Events in the month of November:

As it Disappears – glimpse China as it once was

Where: **Ray Art Center,** Block 5A, No. 128 Creative LOFT
Hua Yuan Rd., Hongkou District (see map)
When: Opening: October 31, 17:30
Duration: October 31, 2015 – January 31, 2016

Just a few kilometers from the glittering skylines of Shanghai and Beijing, we encounter a vast countryside, an often forgotten landscape stretching far beyond the outskirts of the megacities. Following traces of old trade routes, once-flourishing marketplaces, abandoned country estates, and the sites of mystic rituals, the authors of the book *China's Vanishing Worlds* spent seven years exploring, photographing, and observing the vast interior of China, where the majority of Chinese people live in ways virtually unchanged for centuries.

China's Vanishing Worlds is a documentary about modernization's effect on traditional ways of life and a portrait of lives burdened by hardship but blessed by simplicity and tranquility. In striking and evocative color photographs, we see picturesque villages set against a background of rolling hills, planned centuries ago according to the principles of feng shui; traditional buildings preserved by the accident of poverty and isolation; backpack-wearing children walking to school; old men playing cards; buyers and sellers at open-air markets. Matthias Messmer and Hsin-Mei Chuang will introduce their work on October 31 at the Ray Art Center and offer you a rare opportunity to glimpse China as it once was, and as it will soon no longer be.

Find out more on www.rayartcenter.org or www.messmerchuang.com.

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Stella Ciao – a documentary about exile, construction yards and karaoke

Where: **Aurora Museum**, 99 Fu Cheng Rd., Pudong
When: November 1, 14:00 – 16:00

As one of Switzerland's four national languages, Italian is spoken by 8.3% of the country's population. In the framework of the *Settimana della Lingua Italiana*, Swiss film director Vito Robbiani will present his documentary *Stella Ciao* at the Aurora Museum.

Fifty-year-old, Sardinian-born Silvio – a lover of jazz music and karaoke shows – manages the "Stella d'Oro" boarding house. Built on the Swiss side of Lake Maggiore more than a hundred years ago, the place has been accommodating less and less tourists, and a few asylum seekers. But its days are numbered: it is threatened by a property restoration project for a new private housing estate. Its few remaining days depict the passing of life in a place of encounter for the stories and dreams of people coming from different locations and cultures. Stella Ciao is the portrait of the last year and a half in the existence of a peculiar place, a unique slice of life as it was seized right before its destruction.

Stella Ciao will be screened in Italian with Chinese subtitles, the entry is free. For further information please refer to www.switzerland65china.com.

震旦博物館
AURORA MUSEUM

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Stradivari Quartett on China tour performing *Schubert: Der Tod und das Mädchen, Winterreise*

Where: **Shanghai Symphony Hall**, Chamber Hall, 1380 Fuxing Zhong Rd.
When: November 8, 19:45

Stradivari Quartett is one of Switzerland's most renowned string quartet ensembles. In annual concert tours the young ensemble performs all over the whole world. The *Stradivari Quartett* is one of the few ensembles in the world performing exclusively on instruments of the famous Italian violin maker Antonio Stradivari. Each of the four instruments, all loaned to the quartet's musicians by the Swiss *Habisreutinger* Stradivari Foundation, has its own history and some have travelled far and wide.

For this concert, the ensemble will pair up with China's well-known bass-baritone Shen Yang, and delight the audience with their marvelous interpretation of *Schubert's Winterreise*.

For tickets please see: https://www.classictic.com/ or http://www.shsymphony.com

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Made in China Diary – Lecture about a five month journey across China

Where: **Ray Art Center,** Block 5A, No. 128 Creative LOFT, Hua Yuan Rd. (see map)
When: November 14, 15:00 – 17:00

Made in China Diary is the result of a five month journey across China undertaken by Swiss designers Gregory Brunisholz and Anaide Davoudlarian.

As industrial designers, Gregory and Anaide have always been curious about the “Made in China” label. Yet a term familiar to most people, it is also very abstract. The curiosity to discover what is behind the label, how goods are produced in China and who are the people working in this huge sector, led the artists to spend almost half a year traveling through China and photographing everything from small family businesses to mega-factories.

Take the chance to hear where this unique journey led and talk to designer Gregory Brunisholz.

Please refer to www.rayartcenter.org and www.madeinchinadiary.com for further information.

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Keep going – Veronika Spierenburg at MoCA Pavilion

Where: **MoCA Pavilion**
When: Opening: November 13, 19:00 – 21:00
Artist talk: November 20

Swiss artist Veronika Spierenburg from Zurich will display her current work at the MoCA Pavilion in November. The opening of her exhibition is accompanied by a concert of guitarist Wenwei Wang.

Recurring themes in Veronika Spierenburgs videos, photographs, installations and performances are the relationships between man and architecture, formal and material qualities of everyday objects and the aesthetics of simultaneousness.

The artist creates experimental arrangements where the protagonists of her performances enter into dialogue with the architectural structures of their environment. The subtle interaction of rhythm, movement, shapes and sound is another crucial element of her works.

For further information please check www.mocashanghai.org

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None of Them – China Drifting Festival

Where: **Mao Live House**, 3/F, 308 Chongqing Nan Rd.
When: November 20, 21:00

In November 2015 China Drifting Festival will bring an exciting avant-garde collaboration to China. As always on China Drifting tours the program will consist of Swiss and Chinese musicians together on stage. Zurich based band "None of Them" will play with Germany's avant-garde band Brandt Brauer Frick featuring the Chinese musicians Huzi and Hua Dong as well as Chinese Post Punk Band Re-TROS. The whole evening will be accompanied by stunning visual arts. It's a great example for cross-cultural dialogues and certainly a live show not to miss!

None of Them make music for the twenty-second century. The duo is constantly deconstructing its stylistic boundaries and follows traditions only to destroy them. Vocals flow over bass-heavy beats and guitars – generated in little boxes full of flashing lights – sometimes smoothly, sometimes as sharp as a razor. The music ranges from bassy raps to gothic rock, from abstract hip hop to heavy electronica. Some might call it *nu wave* or *ugly pop*, an older generation might recognize a fresh take on the crossover genre of the late eighties and early nineties.

Read more on www.mao-music.com, http://china-drifting.ch and http://mp.weixin.qq.com/ (in Chinese)