

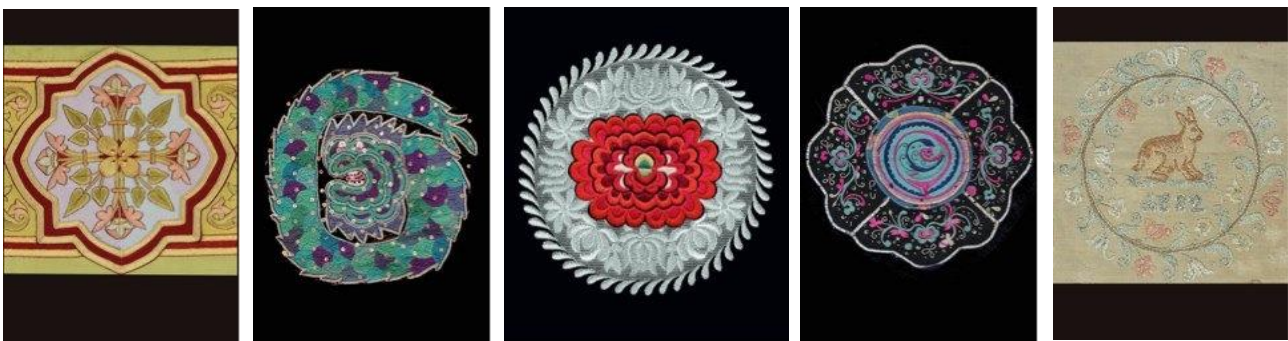
„Nadelkunst – Handstickereien aus China und der Schweiz“

„Needle-Art – Hand Embroideries from China and Switzerland“

24 October 2014 – 28 March 2015

An exhibition of the *cultural foundation* „Ernst Hohl-Kulturstiftung Appenzell“
at Haus Appenzell, St. Peterstrasse 16, 8001 Zurich
Free admission

“Nadelkunst – Handstickereien aus China und der Schweiz”, the upcoming exhibition at Haus Appenzell in the centre of Zurich, presents hand embroideries originating from China and the East of Switzerland. The exhibits on display range from children’s bonnets to insoles and from white to colourful. Some of them bear significant symbolic meaning, others are purely beautiful to look at. The garments, accessories, everyday objects, and ornaments were artfully embroidered by members of Chinese nationalities and Swiss women, respectively, and demonstrate vividly how a traditional craftwork is performed in different cultures. Furthermore, the exhibition offers a glimpse at the latest embroidery trends in fashion design.



Symbolic designs from China and Switzerland

For centuries, the art of embroidery has been practised in various regions of the world. Every country, every region has developed its own characteristics in terms of the choice of motifs, colours, and in the purpose of the embroidered objects.

In China, embroidery can look back on more than 3000 years of tradition. And to this day colourful hand embroideries full of symbols are part of the everyday life of many Chinese nationalities living in rural areas. They also mark special events like weddings and births. At first glance the pieces may look like they are simply pretty – a closer inspection, however, will reveal deeply meaningful symbols. There are motifs that stand for good luck and wealth, others shall protect from evil. Thus, every embroidered piece of clothing or object tells its unique tale.

In the East of Switzerland, too, embroidery used to be of great importance. Once one of the region’s primary export products, it has lost much of its economic value, however. Yet, the traditional white-work and costume embroidery still represent an important part of the folk culture and a well-known product of the craftworks typical for Appenzell Innerrhoden and Ausserrhoden.

“Nadelkunst” focuses on the symbolic meaning of the motifs as well as on the intended use of the approximately 400 exhibits. The symbolism is especially strong and vivid in the Chinese pieces whereas only the historical Swiss embroideries contain a meaning beyond the literal one. To see works made by Chinese nationalities (Miao, Dong, Yi, Yao, Tu, HaNi, Shui, Tuji, Zhuang etc.) and by Swiss embroiderers in one exhibition gives a fascinating impression of the cultural differences but also of the analogies in the execution of this beautiful craftwork.



Wool embroidery showing a scene from Tobias' Tale, Switzerland



Embroidery sample, Bischoff Textil AG

Besides historical Swiss and contemporary Chinese exhibits "Nadelkunst" also presents some of the latest trends in embroidery. Select samples from current Swiss textile collections illustrate how important embroidered designs still are on catwalks and in wardrobes of Hollywood stars alike.

"Nadelkunst" was curated by Yu Hao and is supported by Textilmuseum Museum St. Gallen, Museum Appenzell, Toggenburger Museum Lichtensteig, and Bischoff Textil AG, St. Gallen. It presents a unique selection of Chinese and Swiss hand embroideries which is inspiring and intriguing.



Children's bonnets, China/Switzerland



Collar, Switzerland



Insoles, China

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