

New exhibition
Museum Bellerive

Chandeliers – Jewels of Light

Exhibition:	December 3, 2010 to March 27, 2011
Media conference:	Wednesday, December 1, 2010, 10 am
Opening:	Thursday, December 2, 2010, 7 pm
Curator / Project management:	Eva Afuhs, Head Curator Museum Bellerive
Expert consultancy / collaboration on the concept:	Dr. Käthe Klappenbach, curator of the Collection of Chandeliers, Prussian Palaces and Gardens Foundation Berlin-Brandenburg
Assistant to the curator:	Tanja Trampe, Museum Bellerive
Scenography:	Alain Rappaport, Zürich

Whether made of rock crystal glass or plastic hardly any other design theme has undergone such a varied and fantastical development as the chandelier.

The production of a chandelier has always combined very different kinds of craftsmanship with the latest in technology. It brings together practical and decorative values, symbolic content and luxury with a delight in experimentation in terms of both art and design. Chandeliers already existed in the Middle Ages. In the 17th century the Sun King Louis XIV made them into a “must-have” item in the palaces of ruling dynasties and their inherent symbolism elevated chandeliers to a princely status symbol. Fortunes were spent on “light fixtures consisting of several arms, that hang from a cable in the centre of a room”, as this desirable object was described in the *Oeconomische Encyclopädie (1773-1858)* by Johann Georg Krünitz. Frederick the Great was fascinated by chandeliers, buying models *en masse* in France for his own craftsmen to imitate.

The invention of the light bulb and the arrival of the chandelier *en miniature* in the living rooms of the middle classes made it into merely a decorative object. Today the chandelier no longer hangs just in the centers of power, of luxury or culture but can also be found in organic food shops and night-clubs, in shop windows or in a hair stylist's. Architects use it as counterbalance to their reduced designs and see the chandelier as part of their spatial concepts. It even illuminates the kitchens of flat-sharing communities – the former anti-bourgeois concept of the naked light bulb hanging from an electric cable appears to have fallen out of favor. The chandelier was – and regularly still is – an expression of the *zeitgeist*, today just as much as 300 years ago. The pieces selected for the exhibition range from the oil lamp to the light-emitting diode, from a Bohemian Baroque chandelier to Philippe Stark's extravagant chandelier for Baccarat. A design drawing dated 1720 from the

workshop of Giovanni Battista Metellino for a chandelier with rock crystal ornaments is to be found in the exhibition as well as a contemporary interpretation of a chandelier detail by Berlin artist Martin von Ostrowski in Sanssouci Palace. Lighting designers such as Ingo Maurer also experiment with the material, and the artistic positions of the Californian Jason Rhoades and urich artist Ursula Palla explore the hidden potential of this object.

Program:

Opening

Thursday, December 2, 2010, 7 pm

Speakers: Prof. Dr. Thomas D. Meier, rector, Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK)

Dr. Käthe Klappenbach, curator of the Collection of Chandeliers, Prussian Palaces and Gardens Foundation, Berlin-Brandenburg

Eva Afuhs, Head Curator Museum Bellerive

Music: Yvonne Ritter, student, Master of Performance ZHdK

Baroque music played on the cembalo

Events

Special guided tour with Dr. Käthe Klappenbach

Sunday, January 30, 2011, 2 pm

Lunch-time guided tours

Thursday, January 20, 2011, 12.30 pm

Eva Afuhs

Thursday, February 10, 2011, 12.30 pm

Tanja Trampe, assistant to the curator

Thursday, March 17, 2011, 12.30 pm

Eva Afuhs

Thursday, March 24, 2011, 12.30 pm

Tanja Trampe

Guided tours

Every Sunday, 2 pm

Further services and information: christina.wellinger@zhdk.ch

Education

With Ursina Spescha, museum education officer

Guided tours and workshops for children from kindergarten age to young people in vocational and cantonal schools.

Family workshops on March 19 and 20 in the framework of "Blickfelder 2011 – Künste für ein junges Publikum" ("Fields of Vision – Arts for a Young Public").

Information and registration under www.schuleundkultur.zh.ch

Open House

Sunday, February 6, 2011, admission free

Winter hours of opening,

Tuesday–Sunday 10 am–5 pm

The museum is closed on Mondays and from December 24, 2010 through January 1, 2011

Symposium

Friday 25 / Saturday, 26 March, 2011

“Jewels of Light”

An event organized by the Museum Bellerive in collaboration with LIGHT & GLASS European Society and Documentation Centre for Chandeliers, Light and Lighting

www.lightandglass.eu

Program at www.museum-bellerive.ch and www.lightandglass.eu

Advance sales in the museum shop

Admission: CHF 25/15

We wish to thank our sponsors

Baccarat Switzerland

J. & L. Lobmeyr

Contact:

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Zurich University of the Arts, Zürcher Fachhochschule