

## Artistic freedom yesterday and now

Our big fall exhibition is the kick-off for the approaching season of homages to Meret Oppenheim in 2013. In this year Meret Oppenheim would have celebrated her 100th birthday were she still alive today. In 2013 exhibitions commemorating this exceptional artist will be taking place in Vienna and Berlin. Our exhibition traces how various contemporary artistic creations are inspired by Meret Oppenheim's art and ideas: Some 50 works by the outstanding surrealist woman artist enter into a dialogue with sculptures and paintings by the young Swiss artists Maya Bringolf, Vidya Gastaldon, Tatjana Gerhard, Elisabeth Llach and Francisco Sierra.

The show at the Kunstmuseum Bern inquires into the international standing of the great Swiss woman artist Meret Oppenheim and explores her impact on recent Swiss art. It illustrates how very much alive, relevant, and articulate Meret Oppenheim's work still is today.

### True to herself

Still a young artist, Meret Oppenheim moved in surrealist circles while living in Paris. She comprehended the controversial art movement surrealism as a field for experiment in her search for free modes of expression and as a basis for incorporating personal experience and confrontation with the teachings of C.G. Jung. By studying Meret Oppenheim's art we encounter a fascinating person and highly profound artworks. They soon reveal an early manifestation of the distinctive facets we expect in contemporary art: an interdisciplinary approach, thematic and formal diversity, a broad spectrum of techniques and materials used. At the same time, Meret Oppenheim defended her right to artistic freedom by constantly exploring novel forms of visual language. And foremost Oppenheim remained true to herself rather than dedicate her art to a specific style or movement. Her intellectual and artistic versatility and self-determination are still seen as trail-blazing even though she never sought to be a role model.

### Absurd, irrational, oneiric

The surreal is the linking thread in the art of Maya Bringolf, Vidya Gastaldon, Tatjana Gerhard, Elisabeth Llach, and Francisco Sierra. They all allow absurd, irrational, and oneiric qualities to flow into their work. Despite the fact that these young Swiss artists could be Meret Oppenheim's great-grandchildren, they still use the same media and materials as well as address similar subject matter and illustrate similar motifs as did their great predecessor. They too engage with realities that deviate from what is visible in the everyday, honing in on the spiritual, on contemporary man's relation to nature, on issues of creativity and its sources, on identification processes, and processing psychological urges that can neither be explained logically nor by conventional means. Their diverse repertoire of motifs and the exceptionally varied ambience in their work also reminds us of their famous precursor: Their representations range from naive and childlike to erotic, unfathomable, and ominous. And similarly, their art is representative of a critical stance despite its strongly poetical nature. All the artists in the show create worlds that can be interpreted as stages for representing reactions to our present world.

In a total of six exhibition rooms, our selection of young Swiss artists presents new installations, paintings, and sculptures that were made especially for the show. In the exhibition's lucid dialogue between the past and the present, we have the opportunity of discovering yet another side of the "classic early avant-garde artist" Meret Oppenheim, and her work helps us understand many of the modes of surrealism that can be found in art today.

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## The Exhibition

**Opening:** Thursday, October 18, 18h30

**Duration:** 19.10.2012 – 10.02.2013

**Curators:** Kathleen Bühler

**Admission fee:** CHF 14.00 / red. CHF 10.00

## The Exhibition catalogue



**Merets Funken. Die Sammlung Gegenwartskunst des Kunstmuseums Bern, Teil 2.**  
Hrsg. Kunstmuseum Bern. Mit Beiträgen von Kathleen Bühler, Matthias Frehner, Rita Bischof, Thomas Hirschhorn, Jacqueline Burckhardt, Frantiček Klossner und Hans Christoph von Tavel, Christiane Meyer-Thoss (Dt./Engl.), zahlreiche Farabbildungen, gebunden, ca. 250 S., ISBN: 978-3-86678-678-3.

## The Poster



F4  
89,5 x  
128 cm  
CHF  
20.00

## The Special Events

**Öffentliche Führungen:** Sonntag, 11h:

21. Oktober, 4./18. November, 9./30. Dezember, 13./20. Januar, 10. Februar und Dienstag, 19h: 23. Oktober, 6./13. November, 18. Dezember, 8. Januar, 5. Februar

**Einführung für Lehrpersonen:** Dienstag, 23. Oktober, 18h und Mittwoch, 24. Oktober, 14h. Anmeldung: T 031 328 09 11, [vermittlung@kunstmuseumbern.ch](mailto:vermittlung@kunstmuseumbern.ch). Kosten: CHF 10.00

**Visite commentée publique:** Mardi, 30 octobre, 19h30

**Zeitfenster Gegenwart: Gespräche mit den**

**Künstler/innen:** jeweils Dienstag, 18h – 19h  
30. Oktober: Maya Bringolf im Gespräch mit Kathleen Bühler, Kuratorin

27. November: Vidya Gastaldon en dialogue avec Fabrice Stroun, Directeur Kunsthalle Bern

11. Dezember: Francisco Sierra im Gespräch mit Magdalena Schindler, Kunstvermittlerin

15. Januar: Elisabeth Llach im Gespräch mit Kathleen Bühler, Kuratorin

29. Januar: Tatjana Gerhard im Gespräch mit Sarah Merten, wiss. Mitarbeiterin

**Katalogvernissage und Performance-Abend:**  
Dienstag, 20. November 2012, 19h

**Improvisation:** Anna Huber (Tanz), Martin Schütz (Cello, Electronics)

**«masepain»:** Noëlle-Anne Darbellay (Violine, Violinophon und Stimme), Samuel Stoll (präpariertes Marschmusikwaldhorn und Stimme)

**«Charisma, Lust und Libido»:** Sonntag, 10. Februar 2013, 16h. Performance mit Studierenden der Hochschule der Künste HKB unter der Leitung von Frantiček Klossner

**Kollektiv Frei\_Raum: Wir träumen Meret - eine integrative Hörinstallation zum Meret Oppenheim-Brunnen:** «Der Künstler träumt für die Gesellschaft». Ausgehend von Meret Oppenheims Zitat, tappen wir im Dunkeln, atmen ihre und unsere Träume ein. Beim Ausatmen klingt die Welt. [www.freiraumkultur.ch](http://www.freiraumkultur.ch). Kopfhörer mit dem szenischen Hörspiel können vom 5. Januar bis 10. Februar 2013 an der Kasse bezogen werden.

**KINO KUNSTMUSEUM – Filmreihe zur Ausstellung:** gezeigt werden u.a. Filme von Man Ray, Luis Buñuel, Jean Cocteau, Maya Deren, Hans Richter, Alain Resnais, Alejandro Jodorowski, Werner Herzog, David Cronenberg. Mehr Informationen ab Mitte Dezember unter [www.kinokunstmuseum.ch](http://www.kinokunstmuseum.ch)

## With the support of:

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