

Conference:***Nature, Culture and Perception. From the Amazon to the Alps
Visual Arts and Science in Dialogue***

Stiftung Lucerna and the University of Lucerne are jointly organising a three-part international conference under the patronage of the Club of Rome. Entitled *Nature, Culture and Perception. From the Amazon to the Alps*, it is taking place between 30th September and 2nd October 2019 in Lucerne and Altdorf. The focus of the conference is nature – and the related problem of global perception and socio-political areas of action – in the context of accelerating climate change and the unchecked exploitation of natural resources.

The combination of a methodologically innovative dialogue between representatives of art and science and the building of bridges between the Amazon and the Alps should lead to new insights. The conference is being held in cooperation with the University of Lucerne (Prof. Dr. Boris Previšić), the video art platform VIDEO WINDOW (Dr. Bruno Z'Graggen) and Haus für Kunst Uri (Director Barbara Zürcher). It forms part of a wider project, which also includes an international group exhibition in Haus für Kunst Uri, an accompanying publication and a block seminar at the University of Lucerne.

All faculties of the University of Lucerne are setting milestones in the environmental arena. The perception of nature forms a cornerstone for understanding the relationship between human life and its narrow planetary confines as, for example, represented in the arts or researched at the Stockholm Resilience Center. Works of art and scientific findings provide useful reference values for an exchange with such specialist areas of the University of Lucerne as literary, cultural, historical and legal studies.

The conference is organised in three parts and is taking an innovatively transdisciplinary and holistic approach in order to do justice to the complexity and urgency surrounding climate change. The creation of the transatlantic bridge between the Amazon and the Alps is enabling us to offer examples of how we are destroying these sensitive ecosystems with our actions. At the same time, these two regions highlight a sustainable symbiosis between humanity and nature that is characterised by biodiversity and an increase in biomass.

On the opening evening, which is being organised in cooperation with stattkino Luzern and VIDEO WINDOW, five films or videos, each by a different artist, will be presented and discussed. The works question the relationship between humans and nature in the context of the rainforest, the use of fossil raw materials and the disappearance of the Alpine glaciers.

The second part of the conference presents the concepts of the perception of nature and the earth's natural limits from the scientific perspective and discusses these with the artists. Then the focus turns to the Amazon as a living space for the indigenous population and a resource for the state and the economy in Columbia, Ecuador and Brazil. A Columbian specialist in the field of forensic architectural research, a Swiss doctoral student from the area of legal studies and a Brazilian researcher, who is also an artist and follows a historical-anthropological approach, examine opposing concepts of nature and lines of conflict with respect to the use of land, timber and water.

The third day's programme takes place in Haus für Kunst Uri in Altdorf, where an international group exhibition entitled *Nature – between Desire and Reality. From Amazonia to the Alps* brings together 36 artistic positions. These include the positions of six artists from Brazil, three of whom are participating in the conference. First of all, the curatorial team provides a guided tour of the exhibition in the presence of the artists. Then the focus turns to the Alpine Region in the form of contributions examining the exploitation of the forest and of water from both the historic and the current perspective. This is followed by a discussion of the same issues in the context of the rainforest.

A final contribution combines a legal and economic look into the future with a broader global examination of the urgent issues of sustainability and solidarity with the most immediate victims of global warming. The conference ends with an open panel discussion designed to summarise previous approaches and encourage new research avenues and socio-political interventions.

Organisation, key information and contacts

1. Conference

- Title *Nature, Culture and Perception. From the Amazon to the Alps. Visual Arts and Science in Dialogue*
- Idea, concept and leadership Prof. Dr. Boris Previšić, University of Lucerne and Dr. Bruno Z'Graggen, VIDEO WINDOW, Zurich
- Organisation Stiftung Lucerna
- Cooperation University of Lucerne, VIDEO WINDOW, Zurich and Haus für Kunst Uri, Altdorf
- Patronage Club of Rome
- Locations & dates Part 1: Monday, 30th September 2019, 17.30–20.30, stattkino Luzern
Part 2: Tuesday, 1st October 2019, 9.30–17.30, KKL Luzern, Terrassensaal
Part 3: Wednesday, 2nd October 2019, 10–16.30, Haus für Kunst Uri, Altdorf
- Programme: Participants and their contributions see appendices: Leporello and contents (Introduction, Synopsis, Abstracts)
- Language English
- Supported by Research Commission of the University of Lucerne, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF)

2. Exhibition

- Title *Nature – between Desire and Reality. From Amazonia to the Alps*
- Location Haus für Kunst Uri, Altdorf
- Vernissage Saturday, 14th September 2019, 17.30
- Duration 15th September to 24th November 2019
- Curators Barbara Zürcher & Dr. Bruno Z'Graggen
- Artists 36 positions, for list and works, see: Website Haus für Kunst Uri
- Number of works approx. 70
- Artistic media Painting, drawing, sculpture, performance, photography, film, video and installation
- Further information <https://www.hausfuerkunsturi.ch>

3. Accompanying publication

- Editors Barbara Zürcher, Dr. Bruno Z'Graggen, Prof. Dr. Boris Previšić
- Texts Barbara Zürcher, Dr. Bruno Z'Graggen, Prof. Dr. Boris Previšić, Dr. Hannah Meszaros Martin (CO), Dr. cand. Jonas Perrin, Prof. em. Dr. Jon Mathieu, Prof. Dr. Klaus Mathis, Barbara Keller, Vice Director. Swiss Alpine Museum, Bern
- Images approx. 100
- Length approx. 152 pages
- Languages German and English
- Design Iza Hren, Zurich
- Publishers edition pudelundpinscher, Wädenswil
- Print run 3,000
- Date of publication Vernissage of the exhibition, 14th September 2019
- Available from Haus für Kunst Uri, edition pudelundpinscher and selected bookshops
- Further information <https://www.hausfuerkunsturi.ch>

4. Block seminar, University of Lucerne

- Title *Nature and perception*
- Duration 16th September to 25th November 2019
- Led by Prof. Dr. Boris Previšić, Literary and Cultural Studies
- Accompanied by Dr. Bruno Z'Graggen, VIDEO WINDOW, Zurich
- Artist's talk Dr. Bruno Z'Graggen with Ursula Palla, Zurich (artist from the exhibition)

Contacts for media information and illustrative material

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Information: <https://www.unilu.ch/fakultaeten/ksf/institute/seminar-fuer-kulturwissenschaften-und-wissenschaftsforschung/kulturwissenschaften/mitarbeitende/boris-previsic/>

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