



Swiss Institute Holds Record-Breaking Event at 30th Anniversary Benefit Dinner and Auction on November 10th, 2016, raising over \$750,000 for Exhibitions and Newly Launched Education Initiative. Hosted by SI Chair Maja Hoffmann, the benefit honored artists Olivier Mosset and Jordan Wolfson, as well as Gallerist Eva Presenhuber, and former Chair Fabienne Abrecht.

New York – On November, 10th, 2016, Swiss Institute hosted its most important fundraising event, the annual Benefit Dinner and Auction. The event raised over \$750,000, the most successful benefit in the institution's history. Proceeds from the event will directly fund the New York-based institution's innovative exhibitions and public programmes, and a newly-launched education initiative that will begin next year at its new 38 St Marks Place building in the East Village. This year, the New York-based contemporary art institution honored its former Chair Fabienne Abrecht with a special 30th Anniversary Award, while Eva Presenhuber was named 2016 SI Honoree. SI Artist Tributes 2016 were given to Olivier Mosset, whose work was shown nine times in the institution's history, and Jordan Wolfson, who had his first institutional solo exhibition at SI in 2008.

Swiss Institute welcomed over 320 guests to this year's benefit, held at the recently restored Williamsburgh Savings Bank building. Many artists were in attendance, including Harold Ancart, Joe Bradley, Dora Budor, Liam Gillick, John Giorno, Mona Hatoum, Jonathan Horowitz, Jamian Juliano Villani, Wyatt Kahn, Inez van Lamsweerde & Vinood Matadin, Christian Marclay, Olivier Mosset, Paulina Olowska, Amy O'Neill, Sarah Oppenheimer, Sarah Ortmeyer, Adam Pendleton, Rob Pruitt, Ugo Rondinone, Yves Scherer, Steven Shearer, Josh Smith, Ryan Sullivan, [Rirkrit Tiravanija](#), and Jordan Wolfson. Guests included Phil Aarons and Shelley Fox Aarons, Sheikh Mohammed Al Thani, Countess Olympia Arco, Jack Bankowsky, Stefan von Bartha, Dorothy Berwin, Francesco Bonami, Peter Brant, Christophe Cherix, Laurent Claquin, Lyor Cohen and Xin Li, Bice Curiger, Clarissa Dalrymple, Amalia Dayan and Adam Lindemann, Eva Dichand, Ulla Dreyfus Best, Alexandra Economou, Caryl Englander, Alison Gingeras, Massimiliano Gioni, Melanie Grieder-Swarovski, Andre Hoffmann, Laura Hoptman, Noah Horowitz, Hadeel Ibrahim, Carola Jain, Gianni Jetzer, Bettina Korek, Albert Kriemler, Dominique Lévy, Olivia Marciano, Svetlana Marich, Susanne von Meiss, Hans Ulrich Obrist, Monique Péan, Rodman Primack, Almine Rech-Picasso, Michael Ringier, Patrick Seguin, Marc Spiegler, Stefano Tonchi and Marc-Olivier Wahler, Christian Wassmann, Lisa Woodward and Tiffany Zabłudowicz.

The evening began with cocktails, followed by tributes by Maja Hoffmann and SI Director Simon Castets to the evening's honorees. During dinner, guests viewed a 30th Anniversary video exploring the history of Swiss Institute, featuring tributes from a great number of artworld luminaries and a message from Swiss music legend Tina Turner. The video also announced a new special edition Victorinox Swiss Army Knife designed by artist Christina Forrer, featuring details of one of the artist's intricate weavings that draw on rural and archaic Swiss folk traditions.

A live auction was conducted by Simon de Pury for the Swiss Institute, featuring artworks by Harold Ancart, Joe Bradley, Dan Colen, Cindy Sherman, Camille Henrot, Ugo Rondinone, Olivier Mosset, Fischli/Weiss and Pipilotti Rist. After dinner, board member Dominique Lévy took to the stage to announce SI's new education initiative, which will provide opportunities for families, children, students and local residents to interact with the artistic programming at Swiss Institute under the guidance of contemporary artists. Dominique Lévy appealed for donations for the initiative, and guests pledged generously, raising over \$75,000.

SI would like to thank all artists, bidders, donors, gallerists and sponsors who contributed to the great success of the 2016 Benefit Dinner & Auction, as well as Simon and Michaela de Pury, who together with board member Lisa Schiff, helped to organize the 2016 auction.

2016 Benefit Patrons

LUMA Foundation, Charles Abrecht, Monique & Max Burger, Sadie Coles HQ, Hauser & Wirth, Dominique Lévy Gallery, Galerie Eva Presenhuber, Almine Rech Gallery, Ricola and Rolex Watch USA.,Inc.

2016 Benefit Committee

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In 2017 Swiss Institute will move to a new building at 38 St. Marks Place in New York's East Village. This is a major turning point for the institution, which will increase the reach of SI's programming to a much wider audience. Until then, the institution has temporarily relocated to a 5,000 sq ft project space at 102 Franklin Street in Tribeca, presenting programming under the name Swiss In situ, where exhibitions and public programs are focused on temporary structures - including publishing formats, social experiments and architectural forms. Expanding upon the success of Swiss Institute's ONE FOR ALL series, which offered emerging artists a first institutional exhibition in the US, Swiss In situ presents new systems of research and production to New York audiences.

SWISS INSTITUTE PROGRAMMING IS MADE POSSIBLE IN PART WITH PUBLIC FUNDS FROM PRO HELVETIA, SWISS ARTS COUNCIL, THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS, WITH THE SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR ANDREW CUOMO AND THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE, AND THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY COUNCIL. MAIN SPONSORS INCLUDE LUMA FOUNDATION, THE ANDY WARHOL FOUNDATION FOR THE VISUAL ARTS, AND FRIENDS OF SWISS INSTITUTE (FOSI), 30th ANNIVERSARY LEADING PARTNERS INCLUDE UBS AND VICTORINOX. SWISS INSTITUTE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES STELLA ARTOIS AS BENEFACTOR, SWISS RE AS PUBLIC PROGRAMS SPONSOR, VITRA AS DESIGN PARTNER, SWISS AS TRAVEL PARTNER AND UOVO FINE ART AS RELOCATION PARTNER.

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