

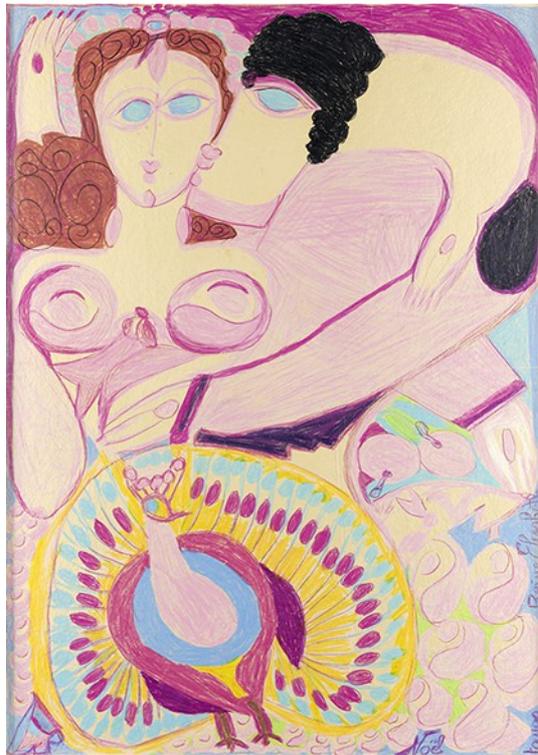
art brut: japan – switzerland.!

Opening: Wednesday, September 9th 2015 – 7:00 pm

10th September 2015 – 22nd May 2016



Shinichi SAWADA, untitled, 2010-2011,
glazed clay, ©IPEC Collection



Aloïse CORBAZ, Noël-Tango – Reine
Elisabeth, 1962, colored crayon on paper
©Association Aloïse

Curtains up on the stars of Japanese and Swiss art brut!

Starting in the 2015 autumn season, *museum gugging* und *gallery gugging* turn their eyes towards Japan and Switzerland with the contrasting show *art brut: japan – switzerland.!*

gallery gugging has been working for many years with artists and galleries from both countries and will display selected works from these countries from the 10th of September to the 18th of November 2015.

art brut: japan – switzerland.!* at *museum gugging

The impressive show consists of more than 150 works of art curated by Monika Jagfeld, Director of Museum im Lagerhaus St. Gallen. *museum gugging* has brought the exhibition

to Austria. With this show *museum gugging* would like to initiate a dialogue by comparing the Japanese and Western European Outsider worlds: Does Art Brut speak a kind of “global language”? Or are there differences between European and Japanese Art Brut? And in what ways can we see the influence of traditional Japanese drawing or Manga culture in Art Brut?

In Japan Art Brut is currently enjoying great relevancy and political attention. Unlike Europe, where interest in Art Brut developed out of the avant-garde art of the early 20th century, the original motive behind the support of Art Brut in Japan had to do with social welfare policy.

The exhibition at *museum gugging* will display not only the ‘stars’ of Japanese Art Brut, such as Shinichi SAWADA, but also new works which have never been shown in Europe before: fine and delicately-cut paper works from Yuki FUJIOKA, drawings by Yu FUJITA, Shinichi KUSUNOKI, and booklets from Takuma UCHIDA. *museum gugging* will thus be able to provide a unique show, and the field of Art Brut will be enriched by an inter-cultural dialogue.

“Art Brut Japonais” presents itself as a kaleidoscope of varying artistic facets oscillating between hermetical and subjective perspectives and influences of Japanese tradition. It conveys not just characteristics of Art Brut but also absolute beauty.

The Swiss Contribution

Big names but also unknown artists from the Swiss side of *art brut: japan – switzerland!* can be (re)discovered in this exhibition.

Aloïse Corbaz (1886-1964), one of the world's most important representatives of Art Brut, most often explores the theme of lovers, with women always at the centre. With full confidence the female subjects present sensual bodies and radiate an unusually cool eroticism, enhanced by prominent blue eyes. These eyes make it possible to look outwards, but, according to the artist herself, refuse one the opportunity to look into the heart. In the 1960s Madonnas became a main theme for Hans Schärer (1927-1997) – one of which will be seen in *Gugging*. Schärer’s Madonnas are stele-like, simplified, neckless

female characters with uncanny foreheads and threatening toothy mouths, which Schärer realized with a robust application technique using materials such as stone, wax or textiles. These Madonnas are both archaic goddesses and monsters. In addition there are a number of remarkable artists such as Alfred Leuzinger (1899-1977) – also one of the big names in the world of Art Brut – Anna Kahmann (1905-1995) – with her dazzling “Güggel” (roosters) – or Josef Wyler (1965) – with his comic-like drawings of fantasy worlds.

Even this cursory glance at the world of Art Brut clearly shows that gods, demons, monsters, flying objects, vehicles and the creation of entire worlds connect the Art Brut of the East with that of the West.

To be seen at *museum gugging* from the 10th September 2015 onwards.

Curators: Monika Jagfeld (Museum im Lagerhaus, St. Gallen), Johann Feilacher (selection *museum gugging*).

The exhibition was initially curated in celebration of 150 years of trade ties between Japan and Switzerland.

PICTURE DOWNLOAD: <https://celum.noeku.at/pindownload/pindownload.do>

Exhibition catalogue:

Monika Jagfeld (ed.), *Art Brut – Japan – Schweiz, Exhibition catalogue*. Museum im Lagerhaus, St. Gallen 2014, 176 S., German/English. With various pictures, texts and biographical notes.

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opening hours:

summer: Tuesday – Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m

winter: Tuesday – Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m