

Media release, March 2025

2024 in review: an exceptional year for the Fondation Beyeler with a major Henri Matisse retrospective and an experimental summer show

The Fondation Beyeler looks back on an exceptionally successful year filled with prestigious exhibitions and more than 100 cultural events. In 2024, the Fondation Beyeler welcomed a total of 389'188 visitors. The exhibition «Matisse – Invitation to the Voyage» proved particularly popular: with 259'571 visitors, it is among the most well-attended exhibitions in the history of the Fondation Beyeler. In 2024, the Fondation Beyeler further welcomed its 9-millionth visitor since the museum opened in 1997. The museum collection was further enhanced with significant works by Hans Arp, Peter Fischli, Ellsworth Kelly, Fujiko Nakaya and Jeff Wall.

2024 exhibitions

At the beginning of 2024, the Fondation Beyeler presented more than 50 large-format works by Canadian artist Jeff Wall (*1946) in a comprehensive solo show. It was the first exhibition devoted to Wall in Switzerland in close to 20 years. Featuring works spanning five decades, the exhibition presented the full range of the artist's groundbreaking oeuvre, from his iconic large-scale transparencies displayed in lightboxes to his large-format black-and-white photographs and inkjet colour prints. «Jeff Wall» (28 January – 21 April 2024) drew a total of 90'879 visitors.

For the first time in the Fondation Beyeler's more than 25-year history, the Summer Exhibition transformed the entire museum and its surrounding park into an experimental exhibition of contemporary art. Organised by the Fondation Beyeler in collaboration with the LUMA Foundation, the exhibition brought together works by more than 30 participants drawn from various disciplines, among them Michael Armitage, Anne Boyer, Federico Campagna, Ian Cheng, Chuquimamani-Condori and Joshua Chuquimia Crampton, Marlene Dumas, Frida Escobedo, Peter Fischli, Cyprien Gaillard, Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster, Wade Guyton, Carsten Höller with Adam Haar, Pierre Huyghe, Arthur Jafa, Koo Jeong A, Dozie Kanu, Victor Man, Cildo Meireles, Jota Mombaça, Fujiko Nakaya, Alice Notley, Precious Okoyomon, Philippe Parreno, Rachel Rose, Tino Sehgal, Rirkrit Tiravanija and Adrián Villar Rojas. In total, 79'497 visitors saw the exhibition between 19 May and 11 August 2024.

In the autumn, the Fondation Beyeler presented the first Henri Matisse retrospective in Switzerland and the German-speaking world in almost 20 years. With more than 70 significant works, the exhibition highlighted the development and range of the artist's pioneering oeuvre. It featured iconic as well as seldom displayed works, on loan from renowned museums and private collections in France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland and the USA. «Matisse – Invitation to the Voyage» began with the early works produced around 1900, moving on to the revolutionary paintings of Fauvism and the experimental works of the 1910s, the sensual paintings of the Nice period and the 1930s, before culminating in the legendary late cut-outs of the 1940s and 1950s. The exhibition «Matisse – Invitation to the Voyage» (22 September 2024 – 26 January 2025) drew a total of 259'571 visitors. After «Paul Gauguin» (2015), «The Young Picasso – Blue and Rose Periods» (2019) and «Monet» (2017), it thus features among the museum's best-attended exhibitions.

Next to temporary exhibitions, the museum also staged its own collection in two thematic displays. The exhibition «Honey, I Rearranged the Collection» featured distinguished popular favourites from the collection of the Fondation Beyeler. The thematic collection display «Daughter of freedom» offered unexpected and unusual juxtapositions. It devoted one room to sculptor Thomas Schütte in honour of his 70th birthday, featuring his celebrated bronze and glass head sculptures alongside drawings and watercolours – an opportunity to present a selection of Schütte's works from the Beyeler Collection for the very first time.

As part of the «Globus Public Art Project», during the summer Swiss-French artist Julian Charrière transformed Basel's historical department store Globus, currently under renovation, with a boundary-pushing artwork. For *Calls for Action*, via a large screen suspended on the department store façade, the artist opened a live feed between the city of Basel and a cloud forest in Ecuador's Western Andes to highlight the interconnectivity of our planet, along with the environmental issues that threaten such vital ecosystems.

Art education and events

The exhibition programme was framed by a richly varied schedule of guided tours, workshops and events. The Fondation Beyeler carried on with well-established formats such as «sun.set», «Sound Garden», the «Summer Fair», the «Family Days» and the «Open Studios», adding new formats such as «Morning Meditations» and «Friday Beyeler» events featuring extended opening hours on Friday evenings. Artists Gabriel Orozco, Otobong Nkanga, Francesco Clemente and Carsten Höller took part in «Artist Talks», carried out in partnership with UBS. Several «Artist Panels» were further organised together with participants in the Summer Exhibition in collaboration with the LUMA Foundation. Other popular events included a theatre monologue by Sibylle Berg, performed by German actress Katja Riemann, a screening of the film «Thomas Schütte – Ich bin nicht allein» followed by a conversation with director Corinna Belz, as well as a talk with architect Annabelle Selldorf held as part of the «Art Women» series.

The museum carried out a total of 1'503 guided tours and workshops, among them tours for children, families and people with special needs (visually and hearing-impaired visitors, dementia sufferers). Overall, 642 school and kindergarten classes visited the Fondation Beyeler and took an active part in its art education programme. Over the course of the year, 48'595 children, youngsters and young adults benefited from free programmes and concessions – especially the free admission scheme for those up to age 25.

Collection

The Fondation Beyeler's collection was enriched with works by Hans Arp, Peter Fischli, Ellsworth Kelly, Fujiko Nakaya and Jeff Wall. In 2024, a total of 157 works from 74 lenders in 15 countries made their way to the Fondation Beyeler as loans. In turn, 62 works from the Fondation Beyeler's collection were loaned to international museums, including a large set of drawings by Philippe Parreno to the Pola Art Museum in Japan. Further loans went to: Albertina, Vienna; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Fondation Louis Vuitton pour la création, Paris; Fondation Maeght, Saint-Paul-de-Vence; Kunsthaus Zürich; Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen (K 20), Düsseldorf; Mori Art Museum, Tokio; Musée national Picasso, Paris; Musées Royaux des Beaux-Arts de Belgique, Brussels; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid; Museu de Arte de São Paulo (MASP); Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; National Portrait Gallery, London; Saint Louis Art Museum.

The Fondation Beyeler thanks the following for their generous support:

Beyeler-Stiftung; Hansjörg Wyss, Wyss Foundation; Thomas und Doris Ammann Stiftung, Zurich

Public sponsors: Swiss Federal Office of Culture; Department of Culture of the Canton of Basel-Stadt; Municipality of Riehen

Main partners: Bayer; Novartis; UBS

Partners: accurART; BLKB; Globus; Hatje Cantz; Bank J. Safra Sarasin; Richard Mille; Ruinart

Foundations and patrons:

American Friends of Fondation Beyeler; Art Club of the Fondation Beyeler; Art Mentor Foundation Lucerne; Asuera Stiftung; Cristina & Dr Thomas W. Bechtler; Claire Sturzenegger-Jeanfavre Stiftung; Christina de Labouchere; Tatiana de Pahlen Lorenceau & Charles Lorenceau; FX & Natasha de Mallmann; Ulla Dreyfus-Best; Sabine Duschmalé-Oeri; Erica Stiftung; Ernst Göhner Stiftung; Fondation Coromandel; Simone Forcart-Staehelin; Friends of the Fondation Beyeler; Annetta Grisard; Hans Imholz-Stiftung; Hilti Art Foundation; HMSL Stiftung; Karitative Stiftung Dr. Gerber-ten Bosch; A. Michael und Ursula La Roche Stiftung; L. + Th. La Roche-Stiftung; LUMA Foundation; Max Kohler Stiftung; Nachson & Natalia Mimran; Dr Christoph M. Müller and Sibylla M. Müller; Patronesses of the Fondation Beyeler; Ellen & Michael

Ringier; Craig Robins & Jackie Soffer; Fundación Almine y Bernard Ruiz-Picasso; Fondation Philanthropique Famille Sandoz; Scheidegger-Thommen-Stiftung; Georg und Bertha Schwyzer-Winiker-Stiftung; Max & Marianne Staehelin-Seidel; Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF); Sulger Stiftung; Tarbaca Indigo Foundation

as well as further foundations and private patrons who wish to remain unnamed.

The art education programme and the free admission scheme for children and young adults up to 25 years of age are supported by the Thomas und Doris Ammann Stiftung, Zurich.

Press images are available under www.fondationbeyeler.ch/en/media/press-images

Fondation Beyeler

The Fondation Beyeler in Riehen near Basel is internationally renowned for its high-calibre exhibitions, its significant collection of modern and contemporary art, as well as its ambitious schedule of events. The museum building was designed by Renzo Piano in the idyllic setting of a park with venerable trees and water lily ponds. It boasts a unique location in the heart of a local recreation area, looking out onto fields, pastures and vineyards close to the foothills of the Black Forest. In collaboration with Swiss architect Peter Zumthor, the Fondation Beyeler is constructing a new museum building in the adjoining park, thus further enhancing the harmonious interplay of art, architecture and nature.

Further information:

Dorothee Dines

PR & Media Relations

Tel. + 41 (0)61 645 97 21, presse@fondationbeyeler.ch, www.fondationbeyeler.ch

Fondation Beyeler, Beyeler Museum AG, Baselstrasse 77, CH-4125 Riehen, Switzerland

Fondation Beyeler opening hours: 10am to 6pm daily, Wednesday 10am to 8pm