Press release
September 22 2011

To the editors

Exhibition opening
Eiapopeia. The child within Klee

The Zentrum Paul Klee opens its new temporary exhibition Eiapopeia. The child within Klee. Joining the 130 drawings and colour works from the collection is the poetic installation Carousel by Belgian artist Carsten Höller as well as short films by the Lumière brothers.

A carousel stands in the middle of the Zentrum Paul Klee (ZPK). It is the eye-catcher and at the same time the axis of the exhibition, in which everything revolves around childhood. Eiapopeia. The child within Klee is the last temporary exhibition at the ZPK on the theme of the year – Child.

The children’s merry-go-round of Belgian artist Carsten Höller does not turn at an exciting speed, but goes endlessly slowly – backwards. This might somewhat relieve the frustration that one is not allowed to enter the installation. But the films of the Lumière brothers move with more dynamic. The pictures from the pioneering film era give the impression that time has stood still. They make you aware of how quickly the contented play of a group of children erupts into an uncontrolled argument and how unrestrained children behave – a timeless reality.

Beside all the moving mechanisms and moving pictures, the focus is naturally on the work of Paul Klee. Childhood was one of the recurring themes for Paul Klee (1879–1940). He rediscovered his own childhood drawings in 1902. Impressed by his childlike scribbles, he later incorporated them into his Catalogue of Works and from then on, considered them as works of art in their own right. The exhibition Eiapopeia. The Child within Klee shows around 130 drawings and coloured works from the collection at the ZPK. As in the Lumière films, Klee shows not only nice, sweet children but also those who are angry and aggressive. They show perpetrators or victims and are not essentially naive – since the canny observer Klee knew that children can cunningly calculate how to twist you round their little finger. The exhibition about children is suited for both children and adults.

For more information, please contact:
Maria-Teresa Cano, Director of Publicity and Art Communication, mariateresa.cano@zpk.org,
Tel. +41 (0)31 359 01 01
Quotes from exhibition

«Klee is a prince, a Sunday’s child, whom we allow to play, because his playing, pure and gifted by genius, resonates with our own life in the gentle ‹Eiapopeia› of the heavenly realm.»

Waldemar Jollos in the periodical Das Kunstblatt, 1919

«If my things sometimes create a primitive impression, then this ‹Primitiveness› can be explained as the result of my discipline in reducing to a few steps. It is only thrift, hence final professional cognition. Hence the opposite of real primitivism.»

Paul Klee 1909 in his diary

Zentrum Paul Klee
«Eiapopeia. The child within Klee»

Opening: Friday, 23rd September 2011, 18.00
Exhibition: 24th September until 11th March 2012

Curator: Fabienne Eggelhöfer, Zentrum Paul Klee
Exhibition concept: Dr. Juri Steiner

Admission: CHF 18/16/8
Opening times: Tues – Sun, 10.00 – 17.00
Further information: www.zpk.org

Interactive Exhibition in the Childrens’ Museum Creaviva
«about happiness»

Opening: Friday, 23rd September 2011, 17.00
Exhibition: 24th September until 11th March 2012

Admission: free
Opening times: Tues – Sun, 10.00 – 17.00
**The exhibition**
With the confrontation of the tempting carousel, the films of the Lumière brothers and Klee's drawings, visitors are enticed into a childlike magical world on the one hand, and on the other are confronted with a mirror. All were once children and will recognise their own behaviour in Klee's drawings. For adults it will be a journey into the past, for children an excursion into the childhood world of Klee.

**Children’s portraits**
Klee examines in numerous portraits the essence of the child in all its facets and spreads before us the entire spectrum of childlike characteristics in his pictorial world. The portraits display not only great humour and irony, but also show Klee’s empathy. So the «sweet» child is to be found, but also «ugly», «oldish» or «nasty» children.

**Punishment**
In the early 1930’s a series of drawings was made dealing with children’s upbringing. In this Klee criticises the National Socialist training methods such as physical drills and sporting toughness. He sneers at the «National Socialist Revolution» linked idea of a new educational and breeding programme to bring out a purer type of Arian human being.

**Family**
The threatened child finds support in the family. Klee differentiates between various constellations of family relationships, which above all are characterised by intimacy, security and unity. In some works Klee also takes the other side of family happiness as his theme, whereby the child becomes a disturbing factor within the cosy intimacy of the couple.

**Fun**
When Klee depicts children playing, romping around in groups on playgrounds or enjoying ball games and puppets, the scenes only appear to be harmless. It is possible to feel the latent aggression and violence. The artist succeeds in suggesting the sudden but unintended about-turn in the cheerful play.

**War**
The depictions of children in Klee’s late works are often linked to the examination of power and violence. On the one hand the theme of fear of war and the threat of the National Socialist dictatorship is reflected, and on the other Klee indicates the war games children play.

**Fear**
A large number of drawings illustrate also the uncertain situation of children. They show the discrepancy between feelings of unity and security and the sense of their own dependency and helplessness. If the child is unable to avoid threats through its own efforts, the feeling of weakness and exposure dominates. Fear wins over the naive, childlike confidence.
Accompanying programme to the exhibition

Tour with Barbara Bechtler, child psychologist
«Magic of childhood »
Paul Klee was occupied throughout his life with the being of the child and these representations are evident in his pictorial worlds. To the exhibition «Eiapopeia. The child within Klee», child psychologist Barbara Bechtler and the art communicator Dominik Imhof present selected works.
Sunday, 6th November, 14.00 | Sunday, 15th January 2012, 14.00 | Sunday, 4th March 2012, 14.00

Literary tours with Michaela Wendt
«übermütig-güitig-wütig»
Children are the middle point at the Zentrum Paul Klee throughout 2011. Michaela Wendt therefore leads not only grown-ups but big and small through the collection exhibition «Paul Klee. Hilarious». With a colourful selection of texts she builds daring connections between words and pictures. A picture reading for people from 10 to 100.
Sunday, 16th October, 15.00 | Sunday, 20th November, 15.00 | Sunday, 18th December, 15.00

«Children philosophise»
The third part of our philosophical discussions with children revolves around the moment when everything stops: At the centre there is the question «Where are we going?» and it deals with the difficult themes of death and transience. The discussions will be moderated by philosophy teacher Eva Zoller Morf and are intended for persons from the age of 7 years.
Kindermuseum Creaviva. Sunday, 20th November 2011, 10.30. From 12.15: Open studio for all interested

«FilmSpiele» in collaboration with «shnit»
Two days of short films for children and families
The second weekend in the series of events for children is on 8th and 9th October 2011 and whisks children and families into the fantastic world of the moving picture. The Zentrum Paul Klee and the Kindermuseum Creaviva present the «FilmSpiele» in collaboration with the international short film festival «shnit».
With a programme of short films, workshops, open studios, celebrity-chat and music by Nils Althaus, tours.
Saturday, 8th October 13.00 – 17.00 | Sunday, 9th October 10.00 – 17.00 (Open day as part of «Musemüntschi»)

«SchauSpiele»
Two days of theatre for children and families
On 22nd and 23rd October 2011 the last of the three theme weekends takes place. We look forward to welcoming two of the most exciting puppet and children’s theatre ensembles in Switzerland to be our guests: Fabienne Hadorn and Gustavo Nanez of the Theatre Kolypan from Zurich, as well as Kathrin Leuenberger from Berne and her wonderful Theatre Lupine.
With interventions and performances with the audience in the Café on Museumstrasse and in the Kindermuseum Creaviva. In addition workshops and open studios.
Saturday, 22nd October 13.00 – 17.00 | Sunday, 23rd October 10.00 – 17.00