

MEDIA RELEASE

06.07. 20.10.2024

Ugo Rondinone Cry Me a River

It's snowing, the sun is setting, a storm is brewing – the expansive installation by Ugo Rondinone (*1964) invites viewers to become immersed both in his art and in the elements. The focus of this artist's work is on the overwhelming beauty of the landscape and the force of nature. Rondinone grew up in Brunnen on the Vierwaldstättersee. In the course of his international career he has since moved and made New York his main place of residence. Ugo Rondinone is now returning to his home country to present an extensive retrospective exhibition called *Cry Me a River*.

The exhibition title *Cry Me a River* quotes a song that has been interpreted by numerous singers, from Ella Fitzgerald to Justin Timberlake. In Ugo Rondinone's case, the "river" refers concretely to the river Reuss, which flows into the Vierwaldstättersee in front of the Kunstmuseum Luzern. There are parallels in the exhibition between the works of art and the immediate surroundings. The artist stages his place of origin lovingly and with a lot of cheerfulness. His love of materials also links into the legendary "Innerschweizer Innerlichkeit" (inner Swiss inwardness), for which the traditional materials of bronze, ceramics or stone were of particular importance. Ugo Rondinone's *stone figures* continue the tradition of helpful signposts in the mountains. But unlike those to be found when out hiking, his stone figures are larger than life, standing firmly in space and appearing to rise up beyond the viewers. The reverse size ratios are both intriguing and surprising, enabling us to view the figures differently. This playing with dimensions is a recurrent element in the artist's oeuvre. The work *primal*, for example, consists of 59 miniature bronze horses. On closer inspection, we can make out the artist's finger marks. Ugo Rondinone's sculptures are a consistent and clearly recognisable strand in his overall oeuvre. The horses resemble prehistorical objects; excavated by archaeologists, they might even be considered to be lucky charms for hunters.

Horses, fish, birds, rainbows, sun and lightning flashes are all familiar to us – Ugo Rondinone's motifs are simple, immediate and accessible, and therein lies the strength of his works. With *thank you silence* he introduces the beauty of slowly fluttering snow into the museum space, thus awakening childhood memories: astonishment at the white splendour, delight in snowball fights, the angel outline in the white powdery snow. The artist throws up a bridge between work and viewers by using familiar motifs, traditional materials and techniques, as well as bright colours.

Ugo Rondinone is considered to be one of Switzerland's most important contemporary artists. He has received numerous art prizes and in 2007 he represented Switzerland at the 52nd Venice Biennale. *Cry Me a River* brings together extensive and multifaceted works of the past 30 years. The artist also painted two new works for the exhibition which capture the view of the Vierwaldstättersee by day and by night. Important references for these paintings are Félix Vallotton und Ferdinand Hodler. On the occasion of the exhibition, the 16-part edition *luzern landscape* will be issued along with the book *Ugo Rondinone. Cry Me a River*, published in cooperation with the Hatje Cantz.

Curated by Fanni Fetzler

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DATES

Media Preview

Friday, 05.07., 10.15 am

Opening

Friday, 05.07., 6 pm

Greeting and introduction

Andi Scheitlin, President Kunstgesellschaft Luzern

Fanni Fetzer, Director Kunstmuseum Luzern

Events

All events take place in German. For more press information in English, please contact us:

eveline.suter@kunstmuseumluzern.ch or caroline.glock@kunstmuseumluzern.ch.

Introduction for Teachers

Wednesday, 14.08., 5 pm

The Curator as Guide

Wednesday, 28.08., 6 pm

Guided tour with Fanni Fetzer

Kunsthoch Luzern – Colour Disco

Saturday, 31.08., 2–5 pm

Drawing, listening, dancing and moving. Take part in the collective work of art made of sound and colour!

Open studio from 3 years

Book launch

Wednesday, 04.09., 6 pm

The artist Ugo Rondinone in conversation with Fanni Fetzer, curator

Family Tour with Workshop

Sunday, 15.09., 11 am–12.30 pm

Art and architecture

Sunday, 13.10., 11 pm

Tour of the exhibition and the KKL Lucerne, price CHF 25.–

Guided Tour for Generation 60plus

Thursday, 17.10., 3.30–4.30 pm

Public Tours

Wednesdays 6 pm and Sundays 11 am according to website

Schools

Various offers for all levels

Publication

Ugo Rondinone. Cry Me a River, with essays by Jarrett Earnest, Fanni Fetzer, Marc Mayer, Eric Troncy, Linda Yablonsky, d/e, ed. by Kunstmuseum Luzern, Hatje Cantz, ISBN 978-3-7757-5805-5, CHF 45.–, for members KGL CHF 40.–

Edition

luzern landscape, 2024, 16-part series in the colours of the rainbow, wood, resin, cleaned earth, acrylic paint and acrylic lacquer, each 42 × 42 cm, price on request

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