

**Jos Näpflin**  
*NÄCHTEN*

**Opening: Friday, October 28, 2016, from 6:30 pm**

**Exhibition: October 29, 2016 – January 30, 2017**

Counter Space is pleased to present a solo exhibition by artist Jos Näpflin (b. 1950) consisting of new installations, as well as graphic, video and audio works.

In the past months Näpflin has been taking an in-depth look at Robert Walser. Time as one of the constants in Walser's work appears in the transformation of Walser's 1914 short story *The Dreamer* wherein the artist has interchanged seasons, turning the setting from summer into winter. A lad, dreaming in the grass, becomes a solitary wanderer, who one icy morning, frozen, no longer wakes up.

The daily walks taken by Walser in and around Herisau, in the canton of Appenzell Ausserrhoden in Switzerland, were a staple activity in life of Walser, having walked for a period of more than twenty years. The iconic last photograph of him shows him toppled in the snow. The locality and its situational elements became materials for *Report (R.W.)* (2016) and also for *The Last Walk (Footprints)* (2015).

Näpflin preferably moves at a distance from what is happening, changing his position. This he shows in *Report (R.W.)*, with various analyses on the terrain where Walser was found, with both a topographic map and an aerial photograph. The transformed short story re-appears, as well as a photograph with Walser's suited torso bespeckled with snow.

Several identical columns are reproduced in the installation *FROST* (2016), an existing element of the exhibition site, a mimickry of the architectural space, and complemented by the peculiar coolness of water, possibly insinuating the remnants of melted snow.

On a specially crafted table lies the multiple *NÄCHTEN*, comprised of a dividing branch. All the recent works by Jos Näpflin bear a duality: day-night as the most obvious, the change of from solid to liquid, the directions of East-West, or Walser's last steps, standing-lying. These dual elements appear seamlessly throughout the exhibition. Already when entering the gallery space of Counter Space visitors have to decide: either left or right, life or death.

**Jos Näpflin**

**Solo exhibitions (a selection):**

*SYSTEMOIDS*, sobering galerie Paris (2014); Raum für zeitgenössische Kunst, Benzholz Meggen (2010); Galerie Hofmatt, Sarnen (2008); Galerie Elisabeth Kaufmann, Zürich (2005); K3/Project Space, Zürich (mit K. James und V. Santoro) (2004); o.T. – Raum für aktuelle Kunst, Luzern (2002); ...*BADEN IN MILCH UND HONIG*, Projekt *Infalze*, Baden (2000); *Home is wherever my friends are*, Nidwaldner Museum, Stans (1999); Kunsthof, Zürich (1997); Pfluäg-Galerie, Ennetmoos (1993); Galerie Partikel, Luzern (1992); Kunstmuseum Olten (1992)

**Group exhibitions (a selection):**

*Von Angesicht zu Angesicht, Werke aus der Sammlung, Kunstmuseum Luzern (2015); POSTERITY IS A FORM OF THE SPECTATOR, sobering galerie Paris (2014); MILCH, LAIT, LATTE, Musée d'art du Valais, Sion (2014); Cut!, Videokunst aus der Sammlung, Aargauer Kunsthaus (2013); Swiss Art Awards 2013, Basel (2013); Jahresausstellung Innerschweiz (juriert), Kunstmuseum Luzern (2012/2010/2009/2005); Zwischenlager - Ankäufe der Stadt Zürich 06-10, Helmhaus Zürich (2011); Kunst, Kommerz und Heilige, Nidwaldner Museum (2011); Position 2, Galerie Bob Gysin, Zurich (2011); Werkbeiträge der Stadt Zürich, Helmhaus Zürich (2010/2006/2005); WELT IN SICHT #1, Kunsthalle Luzern (2008); Werkbeiträge der Kanton Zürich, F+F Zurich (2007); Videokunst, Kunstsalon Wilde Gans, Berlin (2006); inherent discrepancy, Galerie Public, Paris (2005); Kunsthalle Palazzo, Liestal (2004)*

**Prizes and Awards (a selection):**

*Prize of the jury, Jahresausstellung Innerschweiz, Kunstmuseum Luzern (2011); Werkbeitrag Bildende Kunst, Stadt Zürich (2010/2008/2006/2004); Werkbeitrag Bildende Kunst, Kanton Zürich (2007/2004); Werkbeitrag Bildende Kunst des Kantons und der Stadt Luzern (1998); Unterwaldner Preis für Bildende Kunst (1994); VESTAG-Kulturpreis, Luzern (1991); Internationale Linzer Tonbildtage '90, Preis der Stadt Linz (1990); Munich MultiMedia, '89.art/documentary/education, Special prize of the jury (1989); Atelier Cité Paris, Luzern (1988)*

**Counter Space**

**Counter Space is an independent exhibition and project space in Zürich, which aims to present the use of temporary and process-like methods in artistic work.**

**The team comprises of: Angelo Romano, Curator; Linda Jensen, Curator; Yasmin Kiss, Research & Editing; Tashi Brauen, Associate; Vicenta Rodrigo-Jiménez, Support**

**Press Contact**

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**With the kind support of Robert Walser-Stiftung Bern**



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