

La Chaux-de-Fonds, October 8nd, 2015

PRESS RELEASE

EXHIBITION "LE CORBUSIER – MASTERING THE IMAGE" (FROM OCTOBER 10, 2015)

After having created and presented the exhibition "The Constructed image. Le Corbusier and Photography", (September 30, 2012 –January 13, 2013), the Musée des beaux-arts of La Chaux-de-Fonds is opening its Indian adaptation, a tight and fruitful collaboration with Embassy of Switzerland in India and Bhutan that will travel through India for a 6 steps itinerary, starting in Chandigarh, on October 10, 2015.

THE FRAME

On the occasion of the 50th death anniversary of Swiss architect Le Corbusier, born in La Chaux-de-Fonds, the Musée des beaux-arts of La Chaux-de-Fonds is collaborating together with the Embassy of Switzerland in India, and the Fondation Le Corbusier (Paris) to organise a tour of the exhibition "**Le Corbusier – Mastering the Image**", presented in **Chandigarh Government Museum and Art Gallery - built by Le Corbusier** – that will open on **October 10, 2015**. Along with the International symposium "Celebrating Chandigarh's Le Corbusier" organised by the Chandigarh administration, the exhibition will be one of the most important events of these commemorations. This exhibition is also an important part of the "Year of Swiss Innovation in India – 2015-2016"; after **Chandigarh** it will be presented in **New Delhi** and **Ahmedabad. Mumbai, Kochi** and **Chennai** will follow in 2016.

Curated by the Musée des beaux-arts of La Chaux-de-Fonds (Le Corbusier's birthplace in Switzerland), it is a partial adaption of the exhibition "The Constructed image. Le Corbusier and Photography" curated by international specialists of Le Corbusier's work as well as photography that crossed their approach of a subject rarely studied until then. The different sections have been curated by Lada Umstätter (general curator), Tim Benton, Jean-Christophe Blaser, Veronique Boone, Catherine de Smet, Isabelle Godineau, Anouk Hellmann, Michel Richard, Arthur Rüegg, Klaus Spechtenhauser and Sophie Vantieghem. Previously, the exhibition has already travelled in 2013, being exhibited at the CIVA, Brussels, Belgium.

"LE CORBUSIER – MASTERING THE IMAGE"

Le Corbusier (1887-1965) is one of the major figures of the twentieth century: his architectural practice and thought have profoundly influenced several generations of architects and urban planners, and his legacy still contributes in shaping contemporary environment.

A good many exhibitions have already been devoted to the multiple facets of Le Corbusier's work, but his relationship to photography, although it touches on many aspects of his varied career, is a theme that has so far received little attention.

Photography is, of course, an essential medium for the dissemination of his architectural work, but this exhibition is not limited to the photographic representations of Le Corbusier's creations. Indeed, in his case, photography deserves to be considered in a much broader perspective: what concerns us here therefore is photography not only as a tool for representation, promotion and diffusion, but also as a means of artistic creation.



**MUSÉE DES BEAUX-ARTS
LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS**

Throughout his life, Le Corbusier (1887-1965) used images in a variety of ways. His travels were opportunities for him to collect a great many documents that he later used in his work as an architect, urbanist, theoretician and artist. Drawing from this vast iconographic reservoir to illustrate his writings and exhibitions, he developed innovative communication strategies. He supervised the documentation of his creation with a sharp, demanding eye, which makes him the genuine co-author of certain photographs devoted to his architecture.

Moreover, Le Corbusier also experimented with composition and lighting in his personal photographic work, which remains largely unpublished. The recent discovery of thousands of negatives now provides an opportunity to observe his creative processes and confront them with his pictorial work. For the architect, photography thus served both as a means of note-taking and as a tool for experimentation with forms. Beyond his own creative work, Le Corbusier was also one of the first to conscientiously and systematically construct his image and that of his works through the medium of photography, drawing on the work of several renowned photographers for this. This legacy continues to stimulate contemporary photographers, who now revisit his work with the freedom that historical distance allows.

Visiting the exhibition "Le Corbusier – Mastering the Image", it's over 150 black and white and colored photographs that visitors can discover through its different sections. Many of the black and white photographs have been taken by Le Corbusier himself were shown for the first time in India, enhancing also the importance of Swiss born architect in India, and one of his most important construction of his career, the urban plan development and construction of the city of Chandigarh, in collaboration with his cousin, Swiss architect Pierre Jeanneret, and British architects Jane Drew and Maxwell Fry.

1. LE CORBUSIER. CHARLES-EDOUARD JEANNERET

Biographical chronology

2. PORTRAITS OF A LIFE. BETWEEN PRIVATE LIFE AND PUBLIC PERSONA

- Private Life
- The Architect and his works
- Around the World
- In Society
- Places for Creation
- The Architect, the Artist, the Icon
- Promotion of his work
- The Indian Dream

3. CONTEMPORARY APPROACHES. MODERNISM FROM A DISTANCE

Exhibited contemporary artists:

Alexey Naroditsky (Russian), Thomas Flechtner (Swiss), Diwan Manna (Indian), Stéphane Couturier (French), Cemal Emden (Turkish), Ram Rahman (Indian).

4. A SECRET PHOTOGRAPHER. MEMORY AND MENTAL PHOTOGRAPHY

- The Ocean Liner Conte Biancamano
- Objects that inspire a Poetic Reaction
- Forces Cosmiques
- New Vision
- The People of Arcacho

The curatorial work is the result of the close collaboration between the Musée des beaux-arts de La Chaux-de-Fonds (Lada Umstätter, Director-Curator and Sophie Vantieghem Assistant Curator), Dr. Linus von Castelmur, Swiss Ambassador to India and Bhutan, the cultural team of the Embassy of Switzerland in New Delhi (Françoise Gardies, Senior cultural manager; Sarah Bernasconi, First Secretary; Riccarda



MUSÉE DES BEAUX-ARTS LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS

Chanda, Second Secretary; Madhura Phatak, Cultural program officer) and the Fondation Le Corbusier in Paris (Michel Richard, director; Isabelle Godineau, Head of exhibitions).

The scenography and graphic design has been completed by Swiss/German Onlab Agency and represented by Thibaud Tissot, Swiss scenographer and graphic designer along with Niloufar Tajeri, architect.

VENUES & PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Chandigarh: Chandigarh Government Museum and Art Gallery Sec. 10 (built by Le Corbusier), from 10th October until 23rd October 2015, in collaboration with the Chandigarh Lalit Kala Akademi and Chandigarh administration.

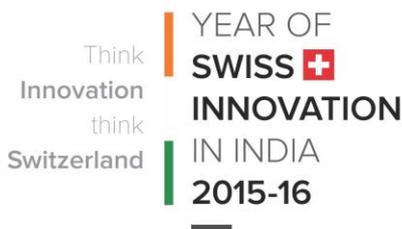
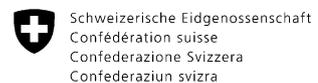
New Delhi: Embassy of Switzerland Chanakyapuri, from 6th November until 20th November 2015.

Ahmedabad: Mill Owner's Building (built by Le Corbusier), from 18th December 2015 until 3rd January 2016
Following venues in Mumbai, Kochi and Chennai, dates and places to be announced

Every exhibition will be accompanied with discussion panels and talks associating international photography specialists with modern architecture specialists, in addition to numerous guided tours. Please, find all details on our website: www.mbac.ch

CONTACT

Sophie Vantieghem, assistant curator, Museum of fine arts La Chaux-de-Fonds:
+41 32 967 60 76 - sophie.vantieghem@ne.ch



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MUSÉE DES BEAUX-ARTS LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS

Rue des Musées 33 CH-2300 La Chaux-de-Fonds
T + 41 32 967 60 76 F + 41 32 722 07 63
mba.vch@ne.ch www.mbac.ch