

Schnaps & rösti

Enamelled Glass and Swiss Pottery, 17th-19th Centuries

Musée Ariana, 09 June 2017 to 18 February 2018

Press release

Geneva, June 2017— The Musée Ariana is continuing its series of exhibitions focused on its collections. “ L’Ariana sort de ses réserves III” » considers the Swiss identity through a rich display of pottery and glass from German-speaking Switzerland. On the one hand, there are the dishes for the rösti potato cake, as well as other earthenware terrines decorated with underglaze slips, and on the other, schnapps flasks and tumblers in clear or coloured glass, decorated with polychrome enamelling. The pottery workshops represented are mainly those of Langnau, Blankenbourg, Bärswil and Heimberg; the glassware is known as Flühli glass, a designation which requires some qualification.

Although the techniques and forms differ, the iconographic motifs overlap and echo each other. This ware, as elaborate as it is fresh, is embellished with lively designs of flowers and animals, heraldic devices and genre figures. The decoration is often enhanced with religious, patriotic or gallant sayings that give us a better understanding of everyday life in the Bernese countryside and the Entlebuch valley. With the support of experts in each field, two major French-German bilingual publications accompany the exhibition.

To coincide with this exhibition, the Heritage Interpretation Service has developed a rich programme of activities linked to Switzerland and its local traditions: a demonstration of and introduction to Swiss wrestling, known as “Schwingen” or “breeches wrestling”, guided tours in French, schwyzerdütsch, German and English, ceramic and glass workshops for adults and families, a conference, a Christmas market, concerts and a yodelling workshop.

Curators of the exhibition : Anne-Claire Schumacher, conservatrice en chef
Stanislas Anthonioz, collaborateur scientifique

Catalogues:

Andreas Heege, Andreas Kistler, Isabelle Naef Galuba

Poteries décorées de Suisse alémanique, 17^e-19^e siècles

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