

Media release
Zug, Jun 3, 2025

Dive In!

Judith Albert, Nathalie Bissig, Pascale Birchler, Yvonne Christen Vagner, Moritz Hossli and Johanna Gschwend, Christian Kathriner, Nils Nova, Denis Twerenbold
Jun 28, 2025–Jan 4, 2026
@Kunsthhaus Zug

Dive in! Why not just switch off and flee the everyday hurly-burly? In turbulent times, that can sound very tempting indeed. The Kunsthhaus Zug captures a current mood: from Jun 28, 2025 to Jan 4, 2026, it will present works by nine artists from Central Switzerland who are all united by the topic of immersion – but the exhibition goes far beyond mere escapism.

Curated by Jana Bruggmann

Waves roll onto the shore. Two tiny bathers can be seen at the bottom of the picture, playfully striding across the beach towards the sea. It's just a normal day at the seaside, you might think. But then the landscape begins to flow, as if it wanted to swallow up the bathers. **Judith Albert's** video work *Côte de Granit Rose* (2024) unleashes an eerie, poetic power to pull you in, setting the stage for our exhibition "Dive in!"

This exhibition features nine different artists from Central Switzerland whose works have one thing in common: Their immersive impact. The concept of "**immersion**", derived from the Latin "immersion", meaning to immerse or submerge, encompasses the process of being completely enveloped by an experience or a medium. In art, we talk about how the viewing public can be "immersed" in sensory worlds where the boundaries between observing and experiencing become increasingly fluid.

Nils Nova has accordingly designed the entire space assigned to him as a walk-in work of art. Wall-sized architectural photographs expand the real environment, while paintings with intense colors and multifaceted overlays create a powerful visual pull. Nova here deliberately plays with our perception – the exhibition space oscillates between reality and illusion, creating a sense of spatial disorientation.

Nathalie Bissig creates visual worlds that are inspired by local myths and legends. In her photographs in the series *The Wolfes* (2021–2024), she conceives gloomy landscapes populated by fantastic figures and mysterious objects. Her works prompt in us feelings of fascination and unease – as if we were part of a captivating story whose outcome remains uncertain.

In the works of **Yvonne Christen Vagner**, moss and stardust come together. Her *Mossboard III* (2019/2025) here comes face-to-face with photographs of supernovae. This juxtaposition opens up an immense epoch in which you can't help but lose yourself – stretching from the very origins of life (mosses are among the oldest plants) to the finitude of galaxies, as well as of our own "star".

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Pascale Birchler creates a melancholic scene in *Da sind wir, losgekettet von der Sonne* ("There we are, unchained from the Sun", 2022): a figure in knight's armour sits before an overcast, cloudy sky. The title refers back to Friedrich Nietzsche and thematises the forlornness and sense of disorientation felt by human beings since the loss of metaphysical certainties.

The work of **Moritz Hossli** is also uncanny in mood: his 3D-video work *Stereo Kinematica* (2018) depicts a walk through dark woodlands. There are moments when it seems as if we are reminded of those trials that fairy-tale characters have to endure in gloomy forests. It is a place that eludes our grasp, situated between memory and simulation and seeming to hover in an in-between world. This state of "floating" continues in Hossli's joint work with **Johanna Gschwend** called *Schwarm* (Swarm, 2016) that depicts a flock of birds silently circling in waves along the horizon — between lush green meadows and the autumn forest beyond. It is a never-ending moment of taking off and flying away.

Denis Twerenbold works with reduced means and intense atmospheres. In his video work *aesculus* (2020), the camera observes in real time how the substance aesculin emerges from the branch of a chestnut tree and begins to glow blue under UV light. This gradual transformation has an almost hypnotic effect that blurs the boundaries between mere observation and intense, real experience.

Christian Kathriner's large-format paintings have an equally intense impact. He made them in an experimental process, and his canvases completely absorb the viewer. His work *Greks inconnus* ("Unknown Greeks") plays with the topics of remembering and forgetting. Here, Ancient Greece — the cradle of Western civilisation — confronts us in the form of portraits of Greeks who are unknown today. Like other pieces in this exhibition, this work enables us to experience how "diving in" can also mean disappearing — a dissolution of the individual in time and space.

The worlds that open up to us in this exhibition go beyond any mere escapism. They lead the observer to the mysterious, the unsettling and the incomprehensible. Or, to put it another way: it is only when we are "seized" by what we see that we are able to comprehend it. The boundary between viewing and experiencing is then dissolved — and we find ourselves not standing before the artwork, but immersed in the very midst of it.

This exhibition is being generously supported by

→ GLENCORE → LANDIS&GYR STIFTUNG → Stadt Zug → Annemarie und Eugen Hotz — Stiftung

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Events

Fri, Jun 27 18:00–22:00	Opening	Dive In!	With Jana Bruggmann (curator)
Tue, Jul 8 12:15–12:45	Art at Lunchtime	About Pascale Birchler	With Fabienne Loosli (art historian & exhibition manager)
Sun, Jul 27 10:30–12:00	Guided Tour	About „Dive In!“	With Jana Bruggmann
Tue, Jul 29 12:15–12:45	Art at Lunchtime	About Judith Albert	With Jana Bruggmann
Thu, Jul 31 18:00–19:00	Art in the Evening	About „Dive In!“	With Fabienne Loosli
Fri, Aug 1 10:30–16:45	Impulse sessions	About „Dive In!“	With Barbara Tresch-Stuppan (every hour from 10:30, 15 min. each)
Tue, Aug 5 12:15–12:45	Art at Lunchtime	About Moritz Hossli and Johanna Gschwend	With Severin Villiger (freelance art educator)
Tue, Aug 12 12:15–12:45	Art at Lunchtime	About Denis Twerenbold	With Fabienne Loosli
Sun, Aug 17 10:30–12:00	Guided Tour	Lyrical guided tour	With Katharina Lafranconi (author)
Tue, Aug 19 12:15–12:45	Art at Lunchtime	About Nathalie Bissig	With Nathalie Bissig (artist) and Jana Bruggmann
Thu, Aug 28 18:00–19:00	Art in the Evening EN	Dialogue-based with creative workshop	With Liudmila Harvey (art educator)
Sun, Aug 31 10:30–12:00	Guided Tour	About „Dive In!“	With Jana Bruggmann and the artists

Art Education Offers

Wed, Jul 9 09:15–11:45	Zug holiday pass	Painting on canvas	With Severin Villiger
Thu, Jul 10 13:00–15:30	Zug holiday pass	Painting on canvas	With Severin Villiger
Wed, Jul 16 09:15–11:45	Zug holiday pass	Painting on canvas	With Severin Villiger
Thu, Jul 17 13:00–15:30	Zug holiday pass	Painting on canvas	With Severin Villiger
Sat, Aug 23 10:30–12:30	Family Workshop DE	About Dive In!	With Severin Villiger
Sat, Aug 23 14:00–16:00	Family Workshop EN	About Dive In!	With Liudmila Harvey

→ More events from September to December will be announced in August.

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Media orientation: Thu, Jun 26, 2025, 10:00, Kunsthhaus Zug

You can find images and texts for the press on our website, at:
kunsthhauszug.ch/en/about/media

Media contact

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Opening times: Tue–Fri 12:00–18:00, Sat–Sun 10:00–17:00, Mon closed

New: Open until 20:00 on the last Thursday of every month (except on public holidays)

Admission: Regular CHF 18, Reduced CHF 15, Kultur Legi CHF 9

(see website for those entitled to reductions and free entry)

Address: Kunsthhaus Zug, Dorfstrasse 27, 6301 Zug

Accessibility: Please go online to find information on barrier-free access to the Kunsthhaus Zug

Contact: info@kunsthhauszug.ch, +41 41 725 33 44

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