

**Press release of 10 August 2015**

## **Charly Iten: «Speaking of Now»**

**A constant deluge of information, restlessness, noise and stress are all hallmarks of our present day society. Charly Iten explores this everyday, exacting hustle and bustle and contrasts it with the search for refuge. Videos of rushing people and everyday sounds are combined with paintings and a sculpture of a buddha without diminishing their aura of timeless calm. Iten's multi-layered art, often drawing from traditional Japanese culture, refuses the quick glance. It is accessible only through quiet and concentrated viewing, thus countering busy everyday life with precious moments of peace.**

The exhibition «Speaking of Now» reflects our current lifestyle, one in which we are part of an endless stream of information in the form of texts, numbers, images and sounds. They define the often hectic working environment, as well as leisure time. The need or desire to be constantly active, informed and available increasingly shapes our thoughts and feelings and allows us almost no space for apparently unproductive moments of tranquillity, contemplative pause or even boredom.

For himself personally, Iten sees the art and culture of Japan as a possible way to disengage from overloaded everyday life. He has studied this for many years as an artist, a historian of East Asian art and as a Japanologist. He works in Western media, presented in his current exhibition as a fascinating merger of painting, sculpture, video and sounds. However, the substance of his work is shaped by concepts that also characterise Japanese art forms: Asymmetry, naturalness, elegant simplicity, impermanence or tranquillity.

This is demonstrated by a buddha sculpture, pared down to essentials, whose serenity cannot be disturbed by the film projected onto it (*Rushing minds vs Shaka*); an abstract painting that fascinates not only because of its multi-layered texture and colour but also because of its title (*Thundering silence*), one that reconciles apparent opposites and encourages one to think outside the box; or a painting whose blurriness invites close inspection (*Blurred vision*). Charly Iten's artworks demand time, attention and concentration and give, in return, moments of peace and moments in which to pause in today's omnipresent hustle and bustle and constant deluge of information.

**You and your friends are warmly invited to the exhibition preview on Friday 21 August 2015, from 17.00 to 20.00.** The artist will be present.

The exhibition runs from 22 August to 3 October 2015.

**Musical dialogue:**\* Saturday 12 September 2015 at 17.30. Claude Schedler (guitar) presents a musical dialogue with the works of Charly Iten.

**Reading with performance and music:**\* Friday 25 September 2015 at 18.30. Akihito Okuno (theatre/dance) reads from «The Spider's Thread» (*Kumo no ito*) by Ryūnosuke Akutagawa and presents an interpretation of Charly Iten's works, accompanied by Isabel Lerchmüller (flute/shakuhachi).

\*Registration through the gallery at least one week before the event. Places limited. Entry: CHF 30 seated, CHF 20 standing.

**Closing drinks with Charly Iten:** Saturday 3 October 2015 from 12.00 to 14.00.

Opening hours: Wednesday to Friday 12.30 to 18.00, Saturday 11.00 to 14.00, or by appointment.

**Further information available from:**

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## Charly Iten

### Career

- Since 2007 Establishes and manages Charly Iten Art Affairs GmbH  
 Since 2004 Works as a professional artist  
 2004–2007 Academic assistant, Department of East Asian Art, University of Zurich (CH)  
 2004 PhD in Japanese Art with Prof. Dr. Helmut Brinker on «Der Teeweg und die Welt der japanischen Teeschalen – Zur Töpferkunst der von Sen no Rikyū und Furuta Oribe geschätzten Brennöfen»

### Solo exhibitions

- 2014 Maya Sulger Gold & Platin AG, Zug (CH)  
 2013 Smart Ship Gallery Tokyo presents Charly Iten, Scope Basel (CH)  
 2012 «Traces», Galerie Claudia Geiser, Zurich (CH)  
 2010 Art Show Zurich 2010, Puls 5 (CH)  
 2007 «Patterns of metal- & earthenware», Galerie Jewels of Asia, Zurich (CH)  
 «Patterns of metalware series 2», Parkhotel Zug (CH)  
 2005–2006 «Showcase 2003–2005», Park Hotel Weggis (CH)

### Group exhibitions

- 2013 Galerie am Leewasser, Brunnen (CH)  
 «Art Affairs 2013», Altstadthalle Zug (CH)  
 2012 Charity Auction for Children in Fukushima, Galerie Kunst im West, Zurich (CH)  
 «Kunst isst mit», Restaurant Braui Werner Tobler, Hochdorf (CH)  
 2011 «Artists for Japan», charity exhibition, Sotheby's Zurich (CH)  
 «Art at Work», Art van der Brugge, D4 Business Center Lucerne (CH)  
 «Tracing Japanese aesthetics – An artistic dialogue between Japan and Switzerland», Galerie Kulturschiene, Herrliberg-Feldmeilen (CH)  
 «Fragments of the Unpredictable», Art International Zurich (CH)  
 «Asian Art in Zug», Altstadthalle Zug (CH)  
 «Contemporary Art», Art van der Brugge & Art Loft Fine Art, Altstadthalle Zug (CH)  
 2010 «Revealing Metals – Creative Fire», Galerie Erika Wittenwiler, Steinhausen (CH)  
 2009 Art van der Brugge, Altstadthalle Zug (CH)  
 «Asian Art in Zug – Japanese Impressions», Altstadthalle Zug (CH)  
 2008 Art van der Brugge, Focus Business Center Zug (CH)  
 Art van der Brugge, Regus Business Center Zurich (CH)  
 2004 «Impressions», an exhibition held in conjunction with the young artists' funding competition of the Department of Culture, Canton Zug (CH)

### Selection of works

1. Charly Iten, *Thundering silence*, 2015, Mixed media with metal leaf on canvas, 120 x 80 cm.
2. Charly Iten, *Rushing minds vs Shaka*, 2015, Video installation with wooden sculpture, 40 x 39.5 x 30.5 cm.
3. Charly Iten, *I'm off*, 2015, Mixed media on canvas, 120 x 80 cm.
4. Charly Iten, *Blurred vision*, 2015, Mixed media on canvas, 100 x 100 cm.