

Château St. Germain – 1663 Gruyères – Suisse
Tel. +41 26 921 22 00 – info@hrgigermuseum.com

Press Release

We cordially and with great pleasure invite you to our celebration

25 YEARS MUSEUM HR GIGER

On the occasion of this anniversary, two vernissages and numerous events will take place, which you will find listed in the program below. We would like to make special mention of world-renowned Swiss filmmaker Fredi M. Murer and esteemed digital artist Till Nowak.

At the same time, we celebrate

20 YEARS MUSEUM BAR

Moreover, thanks to the generous support of the city of Gruyères, we will be able to inaugurate the extension of the bar on the second terrace outside. Three of Giger's Zodiac sculptures are to adorn this terrace. Mayor Jean-Pierre Doutaz will cut the ribbon, inaugurate the first of these sculptures and deliver a commemorative speech.

The festivities will take place on

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2023

and will start at 12 noon.

In June 1998, at the age of 58, HR Giger was able to open the doors of his museum in Gruyères. The respected artist, who some circles unfortunately still refer to as "notorious" or "morbid", managed of his own accord to establish and sustain his four-storey museum in this medieval château - and five years later his museum bar - containing a collection of unique works.

He had fallen in love with the town in 1990, when he was given the opportunity to show his works for several months in a major exhibition at Gruyères Castle: "Alien dans ses meubles".

Seven years later, the opportunity arose to acquire the Château St. Germain, located just down the road from the castle. HR Giger, who hardly ever revealed his ambitions for a museum of his own, acquired it immediately. The old fortification, whose walls partially date back to the 13th century, had fully enchanted him.

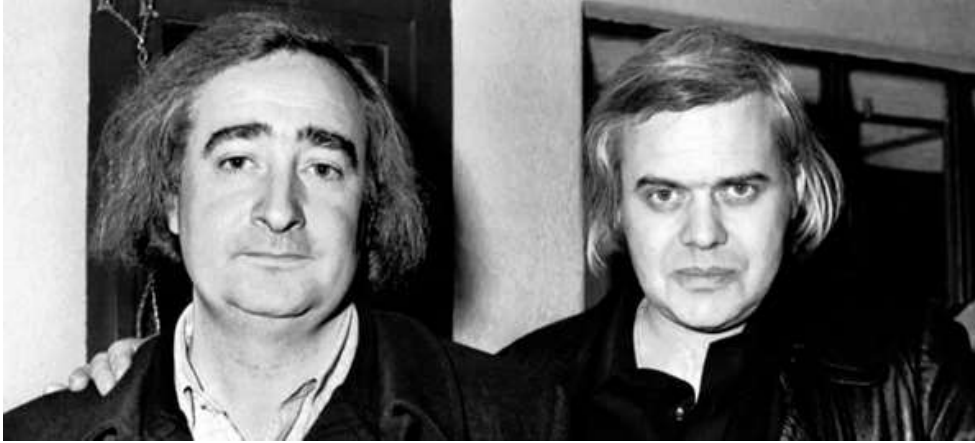
The museum now houses some two hundred of his best works, including the temple "The Spell" and most of the creations for "Alien", the film for which he won an Academy Award in 1980. His private collection is displayed on the top floor, with pictures by esteemed artists, mostly from the realm of the fantastic or surreal.

Last year, all of the works housed by the museum were transferred to a foundation - the "Fondation HR Giger".

The museum bar was inaugurated in 2003; a Gothic-inspired small masterpiece in the sense of "walk-in art". This was certainly one of Giger's favourite creations, and is still capable of converting even the most unconvinced visitors (and critics).



FREDI M. MURER



© Keystone

On the occasion of the museum anniversary, the double DVD **HR Giger & F.M. Murer: Passages** will be released by edition atalante in collaboration with the museum. It contains films created by **Fredi M. Murer** ("Höhenfeuer", "Vitus") together with his college friend HR Giger about Giger and his work.

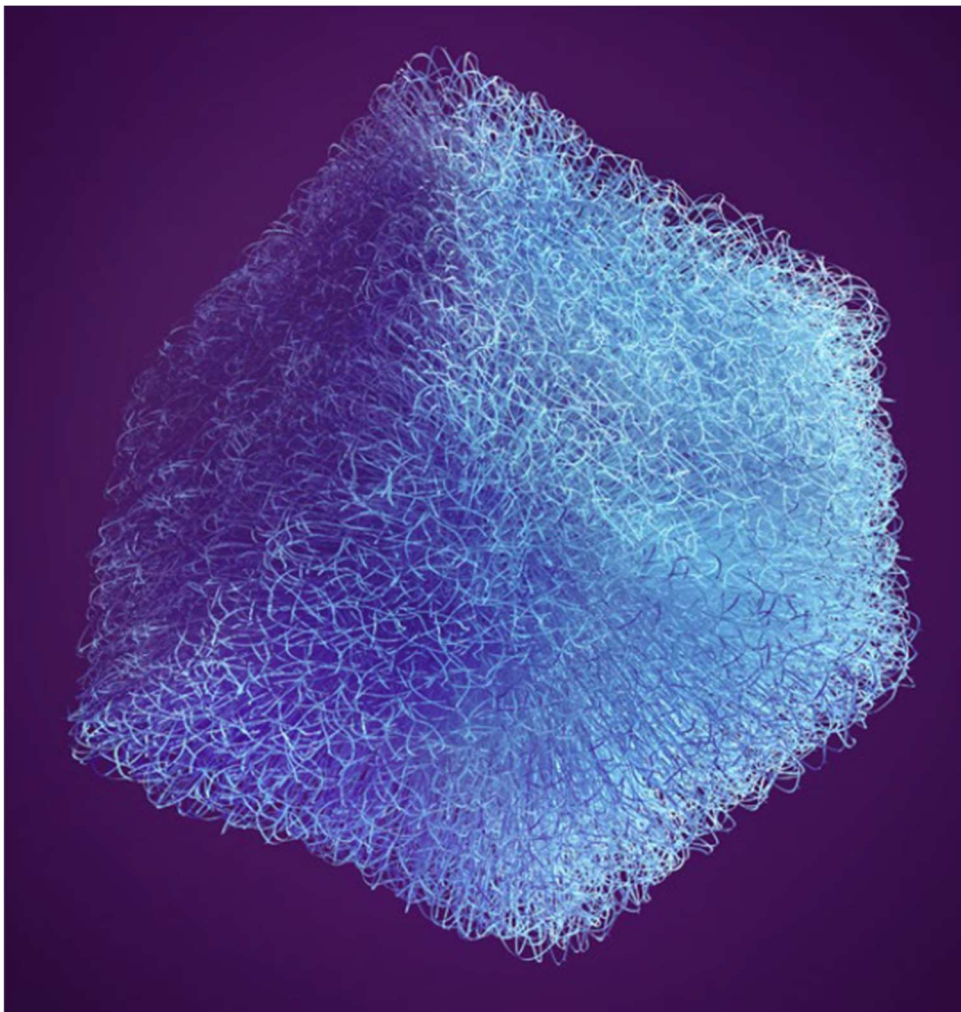
In addition to "Passages," a multi-layered cinematic approach to the artist, the DVD also contains the joint science fiction project "Swissmade - 2069," for which HR Giger designed something of an early "Alien" entity. Moreover, the DVD also features several short films as well as Giger's own home movies of his work on the film set of "Alien".

The box is completed by a booklet detailing the film work by F.M. Murer & HR Giger as well as an extensive, filmed interview with F.M. Murer about their collaborations, produced by director Belinda Sallin. The films are presented or subtitled in German and English; the double DVD is available in the museum store or at trigon-film.org.

As part of the anniversary celebrations, this new DVD will be presented by F.M. Murer in person, at the museum.

Presentation Fredi M. Murer beginning at 2 pm in the seminar room, 3rd floor.

TILL NOWAK



© Till.Nowak

Till Nowak, born in Bonn in 1980 and currently living in the USA, is considered one of the most innovative and imaginative artists in the digital art scene. His works are produced using various techniques - video art, pictorial works in digital printing, objects and installations - as well as shown in public spaces, such as the HafenCity and the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, the Rendsburg High Bridge and the Castello di Napoli in Naples. His artworks are featured in collections in Europe, Asia and North America. He is currently working on a film project with world-renowned director Francis Ford Coppola.

The opening of his exhibition is a special highlight of the museum festivities.

Vernissage from 16:30, address and apéro on the 3rd floor. The artist will be present.

THE BEAUTY OF GEMINA



© Fida Gothik

With their unmistakable and fascinating mixture of melancholic wave, warm, hypnotic blues and earthy folk that has evolved over the years, **The Beauty Of Gemina** are in many ways an exception in the Swiss music landscape. Over the past 15 years, they have enjoyed success after success. In fact, few other artists in the country can claim to have headlining qualities, to be featured in Rolling Stone magazine and to also grace the covers of various other music magazines.

Concert, 7 – 8:15 pm in the garden.

BIG BONE



© Big Bone by Mik Clavet

A power trio from Nyon, influenced by the subtle melodies of excavators and steam rollers. Vocals, bass and drums, a simple and straightforward fresco, a raw music - **Big Bone** is Stoner Rock or even Gasoline Rock!

A voice from the seventies carried by "a tortured bass and supported by deep drums". A different amalgam, a special imprint - heavy, raw, powerful - sounds and looks good.

Concert from 3 - 4 pm in the garden.

VAN GARDEN



© Van Garden

Van Garden is a four-piece band from the Sihl Valley in Zurich. They play groovy funk, hard rock, but also jazz and blues. Their style is fusion, it tempts the listener to dance, but often also to dream. The guitarist and bassist know each other since kindergarten, and they have been making music together for many years. The drummer and keyboarder are two extraordinary musicians and complement the two older ones perfectly. Together they feel like a musical family - and it grooves!

Concert, 5 - 6 pm in the garden.

URBANTHROPUS



DA MOTUS!_urbanthropus_© Antonio Bühler

Founded and directed by Antonio Bühler and Brigitte Meuwly, **DA MOTUS!** has been in existence since 1987. In honour of its anniversary, DA MOTUS! revisits its 1988 premiere dance performance **Urbanthropus**. Ur-banthropus is a prehistoric as well as futuristic creation. The genderless, yet erotic primordial end-time creature reminds us of the future and, during a floating time segment, allows its reality to merge with that of the spectator, discreetly staged, confusing, provoking through its innocence, in order to finally disappear from nowhere to nowhere.

Performance between 1 - 7 pm in front of the entrance of the museum, on the 2nd floor of the museum and in the garden.

TATTOOS



© Denise Del Conte

Denise del Conte was born and raised in Zurich, where she has been working as a tattoo artist for ten years. She has dedicated her life to creating images. This passion has accompanied her since she first was able to hold a pen. Sharing her skills in the form of tattoos and having the opportunity to create works together with her clients is a beautiful way to live out her creativity, always evolving and making other people happy.

Tattoo from 12 - 21 pm in the garden.



© Dirk Binder

Dirk Binder, born 1980 in Frankfurt am Main, is a freelance artist since 1991. Known since 2015 as "Corvo Nero Tattoo Artist" he is now the owner of the Hamburg studio "Corvo Tattoo Art". The art of HR Giger has influenced his work for some 25 years. This has allowed him to keep developing himself and his creative style without having to wonder if his creations might please others. Dirk Binder feels very honoured that he will be tattooing as part of the celebration.

Tattoo from 12 - 21 clock in the garden.