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PHOTO MOSAIC SWITZERLAND

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Photo Mosaic Switzerland

The Archive of the Image Agency Comet Photo AG

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Edited by Michael Gasser

Edited by Nicole Graf

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- A rich mosaic of Swiss images from the 1950s to 1999
- Documents the country's rapid change in many fields and aspects over five decades
- Reflects Switzerland's social and cultural history of the later 20th century
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Comet Photo AG was founded in Zürich 1952 to supply images to local and national media. The agency quickly built a reputation for both the documentary and aesthetic quality of its photographers' work, with the 1950s and 1960s arguably marking the culmination their achievements. Commercially, Comet Photo's heyday were the 1960s and 1970s, followed by a slow decline eventually leading to its closing-down in 1999. Comet Photo's legacy of around 1m images is now kept at ETH Zürich's Image Archive.***Photo Mosaic Switzerland*** features some 150 images from the Comet Photo collection, documenting the rapid changes Switzerland underwent during the 20th century's later decades. They are arranged by topic, such as change and modernisation, industry, agriculture, the vanishing and vanished, the traditional and timeless, celebrities and glamour, or major events. An introductory essay tells the story of Comet Photo AG and its work and legacy, placing it among its competitors national and international, and looks also at Switzerland's social and cultural history from the 1950s to the end of the 20th century.

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