



# Swiss Art Brut

From the origins of the collection to the present

Edited by Sarah Lombardi

Foreword by Metin Arditi

Contributions by Michel Thévoz

Contributions by Lucienne Peiry

Contributions by Andreas Steck

Contributions by Astrid Berglund

Contributions by Eleanor Philippoz

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- Marks the 50th anniversary of the Collection de l'Art Brut in Lausanne
- Presents a wide range of works that are exclusively Swiss or created in Switzerland
- Highlights the lasting relationship between Jean Dubuffet and Switzerland, the cradle of his collection
- Unpublished document: includes facsimile handwritten notes made by Jean Dubuffet on his trip to Switzerland (1945)
- Accompanies the anniversary exhibition from February 2026-September 2026, with high-quality visuals

**Swiss Art Brut 1945–2026** is being published to coincide with an exhibition celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Collection de l'Art Brut (Swiss). It brings together a wide range of works from the Lausanne museum's collection that were created by Swiss artists or artists who worked in Switzerland. With Switzerland as the common thread, this publication and the accompanying exhibition highlight the close and lasting ties between the originator of the concept of art brut Jean Dubuffet and this country. Indeed, it was this close bond that led him to donate his collection of outsider art to the City of Lausanne in order to ensure its preservation and the public's access to it.

The book includes a foreword by writer Metin Arditi and a presentation by Sarah Lombardi, director of the museum and curator of the exhibition, followed by Jean Dubuffet's own handwritten notes recounting his trip to Switzerland in search of extra-cultural works in the summer of 1945. This previously unpublished document is reproduced here in facsimile. Other authors provide further analyses of the works: Michel Thévoz, the museum's first director; Lucienne Peiry, who succeeded him until 2011; Andreas Steck, president of the Aloise Corbaz Association; and Astrid Berglund and Eleanor Philippoz, respectively curator and outreach coordinator at the Collection de l'Art Brut.

**Sarah Lombardi** is an art historian and has been director of the Collection de l'Art Brut since 2013. She has organized exhibitions within the institution and internationally, and conceived the art brut biennials, which are accompanied by the bilingual series of publications entitled *Art Brut, la Collection*. She has edited various works on art brut authors, as well as *Almanach de l'Art Brut* (2016), a project begun by Jean Dubuffet in 1948, and *Les Albums Photographiques de Jean Dubuffet* (2017). **Metin Arditi** is the author of a significant body of work, including *L'homme qui peignait les âmes* (Grasset, 2021, Catholic University of the West Award winner), *Tu seras mon père* (Grasset, 2022, Machiavelli Prize winner) and *Le danseur oriental* (Grasset, 2025). He is a Commander of Arts and Letters and a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador. **Michel Thévoz** holds a PhD in Art History and was behind the creation of the Collection de l'Art Brut, whose director he was from 1976 to 2001. He was also Professor of Art History and Museology at the University of Lausanne from 1977 to 2001. **Lucienne Peiry** holds a PhD in Art History and is an exhibition organizer, lecturer and essayist. Her doctoral thesis, which has been published in several languages, examined art brut and the history of the collection founded by Jean Dubuffet. She was director of the Collection de l'Art Brut from 2001 to 2011 and has been a member of the Art Brut Committee at the Centre Pompidou in Paris since 2021. **Andreas Steck** is Honorary Professor of Neurology at the University of Basel. He has authored a number of scientific publications and co-wrote *Creativity and Art* with his wife Barbara, a book that studies the creative process from a neuroscientific and psychoanalytical perspective. **Astrid Berglund** is an art historian and holder of an international diploma from the Institut National du Patrimoine in Paris (curatorship section). She has been a curator at the Collection de l'Art Brut since 2014 and is responsible for loaning works and coordinating travelling exhibitions. **Eleanor Philippoz** is an art historian and has been outreach coordinator at the Collection de l'Art Brut since 2025, as well as carrying out research on the collections.