

**2018**

**"Baustelle Fortschritt. Emil Zbinden und der Staumauerbau Grimsel-Oberaar"**

15 March to 19 August 2018

Alpine Museum of Switzerland, Biwak#21

*Emil Zbinden spent the summer months from 1950 to 1953 in the Bernese Alps, in the Grimsel region. On Oberaar, together with his artist friends Eugen Jordi and Rudolf Mumprecht, he drew the towering dam wall and portrayed the workers. Photographers, including Jakob Tuggener and Anita Niesz, also travelled to the huge construction site near the glacier. The bivouac exhibition in the Alpine Museum of Switzerland gathered this largely unpublished pictorial material and put it up for discussion again in 2018. The exhibition was curated by Jürg Spichiger and Etienne Wismer. The installation by the Zurich artist group CKÖ dealt with the material concrete in the independent art space Grand Palais and supplemented the show in the Alpine Museum with a perspective of contemporary art. The finissage of the exhibitions took place on the Oberaar dam at around 2,300 metres above sea level.*

Curators: Jürg Spichiger and Etienne Wismer

[Press pack Alpine Museum Bivouac](#)

Exhibition reviews: [Der Bund](#), [Hochparterre](#), [Jungfrauzeitung](#)  
[Exhibition flyer](#) incl. supporting programme

Picture material: [Exhibition view](#), [Finissage Grimsel](#)

**2015**

**„L'Albigna di Emil Zbinden“**

6 June - 20 October

Ciäsa Granda Museum, Stampa, Val Bregaglia

*The exhibition was dedicated to the beginning of the construction of the Albigna dam in the 1950s. It showed tempera, watercolours and subsequent woodcuts by Emil Zbinden from the years 1956 to 1959. Parallel to this, photographs by Urs Beyeler were shown in the Galleria il Salice in Castasegna.*

*Film documentation of the double exhibition 2015 about the dam construction Albigna in Bergell: [Qt-Film](#) (1.28 GB), [poster](#) (886 kB), [publication about the exhibition](#).*

The exhibition was curated by Jürg Spichiger and Etienne Wismer and was part of a project that included 2018 exhibitions at the Swiss Alpine Museum in Bern and the Grand Palais.

As part of the exhibition project, former workers, engineers and women working in the canteen were interviewed. Selected interviews were presented in the exhibition. In April 2015, the Italian-language television station RSI RETE DUE broadcast a number of interviews from the Storia Orale project.

Curators: Jürg Spichiger and Etienne Wismer

[Press documentation](#) on the exhibition: [press text long \(91 kB\)](#), [press text short \(88 kB\)](#)

## 2013

### **„Aus Holz geschnitten – eine Gegenüberstellung. Die Holzschnitte von Emil Zbinden und altes Werkzeug aus dem Emmental“**

29 June – 31 October

Exhibition of the Hasenlehn Foundation, Heimatmuseum Trubschachen.

## 2009

### **„Emil Zbinden und das Buch. Das buchgestalterische Werk des Berner Zeichners, Holzschneiders und Typografen“ (The Book Design Work of the Bern Draughtsman, Woodcutter and Typographer)**

September 18 – November 14

Cantonal and University Library Freiburg, Curators: Emmanuel Schmutz, Martin Good, Christine Felber

### **„Ich schweige nicht! Carl Albert Loosli (1877 – 1959) Schriftsteller“**

15 May – 30 August

Swiss National Library, Hallwylstrasse 15, 3003 Bern.

*The exhibition featured designs and sketches by Emil Zbinden on works by C.A. Loosli and on the subject of poor children as bonded farm labour. Zbinden and Loosli were friends and shared a similar view of world affairs. Emil Zbinden designed three dialect works by C. A. Loosli for Scherz Verlag and Büchergilde Gutenberg and provided them with wood engraving illustrations. One of these books (Mys Ämmital) has been newly published by Rotpunktverlag.*

## **„Emil Zbinden 1908 – 1991. Für und wider die Zeit“**

12 March – 10 May

Retrospective at the Museum der bildenden Künste Leipzig

*Curators: Anna M. Schafroth, Bern and Susanne Petri, Leipzig*

### **2008**

## **„Emil Zbinden 1908 – 1991. Für und wider die Zeit“**

19 September – 18 January 2009

Retrospective at the Kunstmuseum Bern

*Curator: Anna M. Schafroth*

*Panorama pictures of the exhibition rooms (© Karl Zbinden, Bern):*

[Biography and artistic environment](#) (in German) (750 KB)

[Education and early years 1926 – 1933](#) (in German) (790 KB)

[War years and post-war years 1934 – 1957](#) (in German) (812 KB)

[Gotthelf illustrations and free wood engravings](#) (in German) (520 KB)

[Industrial Reports, Travels, Experiments in Woodblock Printing](#) (in German) (940 KB)

[Commissioned late work](#) (in German) (940 KB)

*The images are best opened with a graphics program and displayed with a zoom setting of 100%. The respective room can then be viewed in panorama form by scrolling sideways.*

## **„Emil Zbinden und das Buch. Das buchgestalterische Werk des Berner Zeichners, Holzschneiders und Typografen“**

12 September – 28 February 2009

University Library/Central Library Bern

*Curator: Christine Felber*

*Panorama pictures of the exhibition: [View 1](#) (420 KB) [View 2](#) (260 KB)*

### **2004**

## **„Gotthelf – Dürrenmatt oder die Moral im Emmental/ou la morale en Emmental“.**

Centre Dürrenmatt, Neuchâtel

*wood engravings*

**2001**

**„Emil Zbinden, 1908-1991. Holzstiche und Holzschnitte. Natur und Kreatur“**

April 28 – June 2

*Galerie Art+Vision, Bern. Catalogue with text by Peter Killer.*

**„Emil Zbinden, 1908 – 1991. Gegen Süden/Zeichnungen, Aquarelle, Lithographien, Holzschnitte“**

1 September – 23 September

Galerie zur Ringmauer, Murten

**1996**

**„Arbeitslos“**

Swiss National Museum, Zurich

**1995**

**„Aufgedeckt, aufgetischt. Rezepte und Konzepte der Kunst im Umgang mit Essen“**

Kunsthhaus Langenthal

**1993**

**„Emil Zbinden“**

9 May – 31 May

Kunsthhaus Grenchen

## **GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

**1988**

Olten, Stadthaus, with Emil Jenzer

**1984**

Olten, Kunstmuseum, with Eugen Jordi

**1983**

Winterthur, Gewerbemuseum

**1979**

Mannheim, Büchergilde Gutenberg

**1977**

Zürich, Produzentengalerie

**1977**

Düsseldorf, Galerie im Studio

**1976**

Mainz, Gutenberg Museum

**1973**

Langnau, Kirchgemeindehaus, with Paul Senn

**1969**

Murten, Galerie zur Ringmauer, with Hanns Studer

**1968**

Zürich, Kunstsalon Wolfsberg

**1960**

Zürich, Stadthaus, with Eugen Jordi