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What's on in Zürich: an FT Globetrotter guide

The highlights of the cultural calendar for the spring and beyond in Europe's 'most liveable city'

Cici Peng and Ian Ramsey | 11 April 2024

It probably came as no surprise to the locals, but in a recent European Commission report, Zürich was crowned most liveable city on the continent, with a satisfaction rate of 97 per cent. Personal finances, public transport, LGBTQ+ inclusivity, healthcare, air quality . . . Zürich topped the league for all of them — as it did for its cultural landscape. For while Zürich may be compact, it packs a punch on the arts and festivals front, with a depth and diversity matching that of much larger cities. Major exhibitions dedicated to Swiss ur-Modernist Ferdinand Hodler, Marina Abramović, depictions of the body in medieval art, and the luscious landscapes of the late Canadian artist Matthew Wong (displayed alongside paintings and drawings by Van Gogh)? They're all on the agenda this year, as well as music ranging from Puccini to Aussie pop sensation Troye Sivan; choreographies exploring the lives and work of Nijinsky and Jacqueline du Pré; the world's biggest techno party; and a mass-dance event in the city's main train station. And that's not forgetting summer festivals aplenty, the nation's No. 1 Pride celebration, a wine fair on the lake and, to round off the year, 300 Santas swimming across the Limmat.

On now: Art



'Kiki Kogelnik: Retrospective', Kunsthaus Zürich

The first Swiss retrospective dedicated to the late Austrian Pop artist and sculptor Kiki Kogelnik features 150 works created over four decades. Known for her experiments with collage and materials such as vinyl, Kogelnik powerfully — and playfully — examined the politics of gender and sexual identity, as well as ethical concerns about emerging technologies. Until July 14; further information and tickets here.