

HAUSER & WIRTH

Press Release

HAUSER & WIRTH INVITE(S)

A new initiative for hosting fellow artists, galleries and writers—offering wider visibility of their work and ideas and engaging with the city's vibrant creative community—that now comes to Zurich for the first time.

URBAN ZELLWEGER

With a text by Eleonora Bitterli

In collaboration with Karma International
and Galerie Oskar Weiss

Hauser & Wirth Zurich, Limmatstrasse
9 May – 23 May 2025



Hauser & Wirth Invite(s)

This new initiative reflects Hauser & Wirth's longstanding commitment to building a sense of connection in the places where it works, collaborating with artists (or estates) who may benefit from an additional platform, galleries of different scale and writers addressing new audiences, all in support of a sustainable art ecosystem. By hosting fellow artists, galleries and writers, we offer wider visibility of their work and ideas to engage with each city's vibrant creative community.

Organized with Olivier Renaud-Clément, Hauser & Wirth Invite(s) launched in Paris in February 2025. The project is now coming to Zurich for the first time, where it will be hosted on the lower level of our Limmatstrasse gallery and will complement our ongoing series of exhibitions by gallery artists on the upper floors.

About the exhibition

The first Zurich iteration of Invite(s) features a solo exhibition by Swiss artist Urban Zellweger, presented in collaboration with his Zurich galleries Karma International and Galerie Oskar Weiss. A new text by Eleonora Bitterli will accompany the exhibition. On view through 23 May, the presentation continues the spirit of Invite(s) by creating an open framework for exchange, experimentation and visibility within Hauser & Wirth's Zurich location.

About Urban Zellweger

In his work, Urban Zellweger deals with the transitions between figurative and abstract elements. Bodies and figures combine, merge into one another, are painted over, or dissolve into the background. While mundane events and biographical occurrences inform Zellweger's visual lexicon, they are hardly recognizable as such. Normality is distorted with surreal wit, and yet everything appears perfectly calm.

Urban Zellweger has exhibited at the Bechtler Foundation, Uster; CAN Neuchâtel; Kunstverein Nürnberg; Istituto Svizzero, Milan; Belgrade Biennale; LUMA Foundation, Zurich; Astrup Fearnley, Oslo; Plymouth Rock, Zurich; and Shoot the Lobster, New York, among others.



About Karma International

Karma International was founded by Marina Olsen and Karolina Dankow, who opened their first space in 2009 in Zurich. The gallery started its initial program with artists from their own generation—such as Pamela Rosenkranz, Ida Ekblad and David Hominal, among others—who have been crucial in defining the gallery's identity. Over the past decade, the program has expanded to include artists from various generations, including Meret Oppenheim, Ser Serpas, Vivian Suter, Sylvie Fleury, Małgorzata Mirga-Tas, Judith Bernstein, Urban Zellweger, Jasmine Gregory, VALIE EXPORT and Simone Fattal.

From 2015 to 2020, Karma International operated a second space in Los Angeles. The dialogue between Europe and the United States brought a new quality to the program, allowing for experimentation with an ongoing, parallel exhibition program. In 2020, the gallery opened a second space in Zurich, located across from the main gallery, which serves as an extended local platform for artists from its roster.

About Galerie Oskar Weiss

After running Weiss Falk for nine years, Oskar Weiss founded Galerie Oskar Weiss in 2025 in Zurich, resuming all collaborations and representations from the former program. The gallery currently represents 13 national and international artists and two estates. It organizes five to seven exhibitions a year and publishes books under its own publishing house, Hacienda Books.

About Eleonora Bitterli

Eleonora Bitterli is a Zurich-based art historian specializing in modern and contemporary art. She works as a research associate at the Kunstmuseum Luzern and independently as a curator and writer on international projects, including Café des Glaces in Tonnerre, Tsinghua Art Museum in Beijing and the Fumetto Comic Festival in Lucerne. She is the co-founder of the Zurich-based off-space Sweet Tooth. Her practice bridges contemporary artistic discourse with the investigation of archival material from recent history.

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Opening hours:
Tue – Fri, 11 am – 6 pm
Sat, 11 am – 5 pm

www.hauserwirth.com

Caption and Courtesy

All images must include:
© Urban Zellweger

Urban Zellweger
Photo: Flavio Karrer

Urban Zellweger
Outbreak IV
2022
Oil on canvas
100 x 80 cm / 39 3/8 x 31 1/2 in
Courtesy of the artist and Karma International
Photo: Nicolas Duc

Urban Zellweger
Table de Tennis
2018
Oil on canvas
80 x 60 cm / 31 1/2 x 23 5/8 in
Courtesy of the artist and Galerie Oskar Weiss
Photo: Gina Folly

Urban Zellweger
Untitled
2023
Oil on canvas
100 x 70 cm / 39 3/8 x 27 1/2 in
Courtesy of the artist and Karma International
Photo: Sebastian Lendenmann