

The so-called Christophorus hall in the upper level of the church.



Guesthouse by night.



Soglio by Nigel Hall, 1994, corten steel

TOP SWISS MUSEUM

Sculpture at Schoenthal: Where history meets contemporary art

Hidden in the idyllic Jura Hills, Monastery Schoenthal has turned into a magic setting for art exhibitions. The former Benedictine cloister is a place of cultural encounters attracting international artists and art lovers alike.

TEXT: MARILENA STRACKE | PHOTOS: HEINER GRIEDER

The very first mention of Swiss Monastery Schoenthal can be dated back to 1145 and one of Switzerland's oldest Romanesque churches is part of it. In 2000, the site was renovated and turned into the art foundation Sculpture at Schoenthal by private investor John Schmid. Today the listed monastery complex, which spreads over 100 hectares of land, is home to various art collections. It is a place of tranquillity and inspiration.

Schmid, who is also the foundation's president tells us more: "Until 5 November 2017, visitors can explore an exhibition of sculptures by Hans Josephsohn in the courtyard and the church. The so-called Kunststall (art stables) currently hosts artworks by Peter Kamm. Our sculpture park with over 30 international artworks along paths and trails is a very unique attraction not to be missed."

The sculptures by Swiss and international artists are site-specific for their desig-

nated locations of woods and meadows surrounding Monastery Schoenthal. They give the whole area a somewhat enchanted atmosphere and promote the dialogue between nature and art. As more sculptures are added over the years, the park is a true work in progress. But the former monastery is not only for the quiet art fan, it is also a great destination for families, as Schmid mentions: "An additional attraction is the organic farm with all its animals."

Monastery Schoenthal also opens its doors to overnight guests. The traditional guesthouse invites groups and individuals to stay and recharge in this beautiful environment. The rooms of the former cloister can also be booked for seminars. Hearty local cuisine can be provided either by the surrounding farms or through catering services and the staff at Monastery Schoenthal are happy to assist.

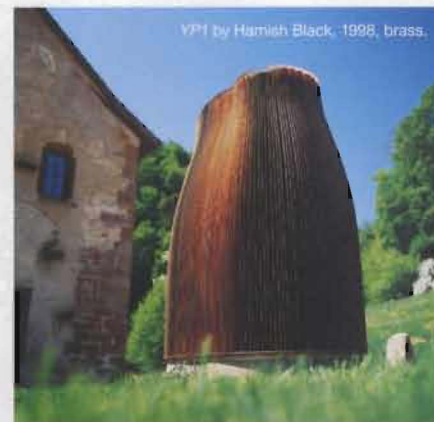
It goes without saying that this is a place where the soul can relax and creativity

flows naturally. "It is this inspiring overall project Monastery Schoenthal has become, which touches our visitors and makes them happy," says Schmid. "The Jura landscape with its biodiversity awakens your senses and opens your eyes for the treasures nature holds. At Schoenthal you can gather new strength."

Visit this empowering place near Basel where humans, nature and art work hand in hand.

Opening times and more info can be found at the following website.

www.schoenthal.ch



V71 by Hamish Black, 1998, brass.