

Swiss-Libyan Art Project

The Swiss-Libyan Art Project is a private initiative of Jörg Mollet (visual artist, Solothurn) and Aurel Schmidt (writer, Basel).

It originates in several travels into the Sahara (Messak area in Libya, Oued Djerat in Algeria) made in the past. The interest of Mollet and Schmidt was focussed on Rock Art which is part of the UNESCO world's cultural heritage. (The Swiss UNESCO Commission is patronizing the Swiss-Libyan Art Project.)

The project of Mollet and Schmidt pursues a double intention: (1) to draw the public attention to the importance of the precious prehistoric and archaeological rock art works and (2) to put them into a broader cultural and esthetic context.

In the course of their preoccupation with Rock Art Mollet and Schmidt have realized that (1) it can be dealt with in the same way we consider present-day art problems, and that (2) Rock Art can be seen in a worldwide context and be compared with other art works in other places all over the world; also with the same terms, and that therefore (3) Rock Art is of universal meaning and is part of the memory of mankind.

Moreover, the Swiss-Libyan Art Project pursues plans to forge links between cultural domains of Switzerland and Libya. In so doing, it presents Libyan artists and writers along with their work (Salem Tamimi, Ali Abani, Ali Ezouik, Redwan Abushweisha among others).

The Swiss-Libyan Art Project is designed principally as an Internet enterprise. The Internet allows a worldwide dissemination and and to combine text, picture, different additional hints, internal and external links to have them result in an ever progressing

process. This means that the Swiss-Libyan Art Project is expandable and can be continued at request. This is exactly the intention of Mollet and Schmidt.

Swiss-Libyan Art Project can be found under www.swiss-libyan-art-project.info. A version in English and Arabian is under continual construction.

A print version remains a desideratum.

Swiss-Libyan deserves and needs every kind of support.

Solothurn/Basel, January 2008

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