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PRESS RELEASE

Baz'art opens its doors and an exclusive Caroline Tschumi piece is unveiled

Chillon Castle Foundation is pleased to announce the opening of its new space: the Baz'art. This ancient, listed building will take on a new form in the off-peak season, welcoming visitors, fostering creativity and providing open access to culture. This is also where the Foundation's resident artist, Caroline Tschumi (*1938), will henceforth exhibit two new portraits of princesses of the House of Savoy, as part of our contemporary art exhibition.

Chillon Castle has inspired a huge number of painters, from the likes of Turner or Courbet to Hornung. Their pieces once helped the fortress and the Swiss Riviera region gain international renown. Now, in a bid to encourage artistic creation and highlight contemporary art in French-speaking Switzerland, the Chillon Castle Foundation has decided to temporarily transform the Bazaar – located just in front of the castle entrance – into a unique creative and artistic hub. The project forms part of the castle's commitment to supporting young artists presenting artwork connected to the history of the fortress and the content of our exhibitions. The space offers them a unique, one-off opportunity to let their creativity run wild.

As part of this endeavour, the Foundation commissioned Caroline Tschumi to create an exclusive artwork depicting Margaret of Bourbon and Claudine de Brosse of Brittany – two princesses who reigned in Savoy during the 15th century. The artist created these exceptionally large pieces on site, adopting a new, unusual technique known as Neocolor®. Caroline Tschumi took inspiration from these women's lives before letting her imagination run wild; her spontaneous, fluid touch breathing life into these quirky portraits. The result is a unique atmosphere and a permanent dialogue between past and present, history and the imaginary.

The piece forms part of the exhibition 'Caroline Tschumi - Illuminated Princesses', which pays homage to the female aristocrats of the House of Savoy (13th to 16th centuries) through 12 commissioned portraits. The exhibition comes complete with a wider historical package, which includes a programme of cultural events and a catalogue, and will be on display at the castle until 19 February.

The Baz'art is a unique, inspirational place that fosters an exchange between the public, the history of the castle and the lives of these princesses. This timeless experience is free and open to all during castle opening hours. Further information is also available to help familiarise visitors with the artist's work.

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Caroline Tschumi at work



The Baz'art

Photos and videos available to the press on request

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#swissculturalheritage #carolientschumi #IlluminatedPrincesses #ChillonInspiration #Bazart