

## Press Release

### “If you please ... draw me a sheep!”

***In this case, black sheep are not in the service of political propaganda but are the subject of an art action. Artist-in-Residence Katharina Hohmann and Winterthur artist Katharina Henking bring together hundreds of black sheep in an art project that will be on view beginning October 19 in Winterthur's Galerie Kunsttreppe. Art historian Dorothee Messmer and committed politician Andrew Katumba will both be present at the opening.***

Winterthur, October 12, 2007 – Over the last few weeks the Villa Sträuli has been the recipient of a tremendous amount of correspondence. Black sheep of all sizes and shapes, made from a wide range of materials, have been arriving from Winterthur and its surrounding area, as well as from across Switzerland. The appeal, “If you please ... draw me a sheep!”, has found enormous resonance among people. The opening will take place on October 19 at 7 p.m. in the Galerie Kunsttreppe, concluding at the Villa Sträuli. Dorothee Messmer, art historian and curator of the Kunstmuseum des Kantons Thurgau, will introduce the exhibition along with both artists. Andrew Katumba, film director and councilman for the city of Zurich, will also be present as a further guest speaker.

The current political discussion around the subject of the black sheep gave Weimar resident and guest artist Katharina Hohmann the idea for this participatory project. The artist allows the individual contributions and interpretations to speak for themselves. The amassing of the black sheep into a flock a few hundred sheep strong dissolves the image in current circulation of the black beast as inadvertent lone wolf. Katharina Hohmann and Winterthur artist Katharina Henking are currently organising the entire collection at the Galerie Kunsttreppe, where it will be on display from October 20 to December 2.

The exhibition is made possible by “Without Borders,” a cooperative project of the Villa Sträuli and the Galerie Kunsttreppe. Villa Sträuli Artists-in-Residence are periodically given the opportunity to present work they have done in collaboration with local artists at the Kunsttreppe.

### **Lost Chandeliers in the Villa Sträuli's garden and the municipal park**

In November the Villa Sträuli will be one of the venues of the Internationale Lichttage Winterthur (International Festival of Light Winterthur): stunning light objects will hang on trees in the Villa Sträuli's garden and in the municipal park – gleaming, flickering, and twinkling until 10 p.m. every evening between November 3 and 25.

Katharina Hohmann, who has been living and working in one of the three studios at the Villa Sträuli since July, found the inspiration for this project in lamps she discovered in old Winterthur villas shortly before these buildings were demolished. She was able to save some of the lamps and integrate them into her installations. On Friday, November 2, in conjunction with the opening of the Festival of Light, the Villa Sträuli's bistro will be open from 6 p.m.

### **Preview: Winter programme – all about light**

In November the Villa Sträuli's cultural programme revolves entirely around light – be it in the context of a literary and musical evening with Roger Girod and Jürgen Klein or in the form of a talk on light art given by Dr. Yvonne Ziegler, curator of the Internationale Lichttage Winterthur (International Festival of Light Winterthur). As Christmas approaches the Glasharfen Ensemble Zürich (Glass Harp Ensemble Zurich) will perform in the Villa's salons: six virtuoso hands will play works by classical and contemporary composers. And those who find the Advent season too hectic won't want to miss Theater Jetzt!'s musical reading, rolling in drolleries – watch and listen as they rekindle the good old days, a twinkle in their eyes.

The programme for November and December will be made public on October 22, 2007.