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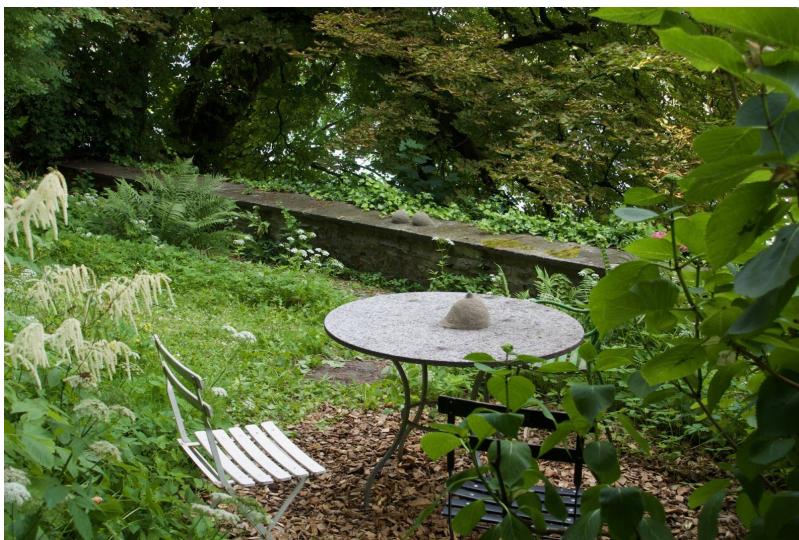
TagesWoche

The breasts on the parapet and other art surprises at the zero tariff

There are people who complain that the Art Basel has nothing to do with much money and has nothing to do with Basel. The exceptions to this rule were found at the Art Parcours and the Art Museum.

[Dominique Spirgi](#)

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Breasts on the parapet, chest on the table.

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The "Basler Zeitung" summed up the prejudice of the art fair, which had just been lifted. At the start of the Art Week, it listed almost exclusively events on a whole page, which were accessible

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only to hand-picked VIPs. But there are alternatives. There are many places in Basel, where you can be surprised by the art week without an entry on a guestlist, without registration and even without paying for art.



Dead tree, powerful and also not again: «Iron Tree» of Ai Weiwei on the Münsterplatz. (Picture: Dominique Spirgi)

In the Solitude Park in front of the Tinguely Museum, for example. There, the impressive sculptures of Tinguely, Luginbühl and Niki de Saint Phalle have been joined by an impressive concrete truck, which the [Belgian artist Wim Delvoye has transformed](#) into a filigree, mobile Gothic chapel. (To this artist, who also presents less filigree in the museum, later on this page.)

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The seventh citizen of Calais



Old acquaintances in the usual place: Rodin's "The citizens of Calais" in the courtyard of the main art museum building. (Picture: Dominique Spirgi)

Or in the courtyard of the Kunstmuseum. There you will meet Rodin's well-known "citizens of Calais". They are always free, but we want to start the course here. This is the official [art parade](#), presented by the great art fair, which this year once again leads to wonderful places, where there are also some wonderful works of art to be discovered.

But why now at the famous Rodin group? Because you are not too far from a seventh citizen of Calais. Concretely on a survival-giant marble sculpture of the Iranian Reza Aramesh before the civil court at the Baumleingasse. Blindfolded and bound with a rope, this man stands as lost in front of the imposing court building as Rodin's citizen in front of the Kunstmuseum.

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The old masters are astonished: contemporary marble sculpture by Reza Aramesh in the presence of ancient sculptures. (Picture: Dominique Spirgi)

A second sculpture of Aramesh is in the sculpture hall of the Antiquity Museum. An athletic man in underwear, skeptical of the ancient busts of old men.

Open on Mondays

If this text appears, it will no longer be Monday. But the nature trail ensured that the museums were open for the first time at the beginning of the week: the Antiques Museum, the Natural History Museum and the Museum of Cultures. The Kunstmuseum also, but there you have to solve a ticket, in order to be able to visit the very remarkable current special exhibitions.

Course curator [Samuel Leuenberger](#) proves a good sense of creating connections between the places of the presentation and the works. For Miriam Cahn's battlefield / age work, for example.

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"Battlefield / Age" by Miriam Cahn in the Museum of Cultures. (Picture: Dominique Spirgi)

The well-known Basler artist, who is also at the [Documenta in Kassel at present](#) a brilliant appearance, has grouped a group of worked tree trunks in a hall of the museum in such a way that they remind of stranded boat refugees. At the same time, an exhibition entitled "Migration" can be seen in the museum. "As if the content had been discussed," says Museum Director Anna Schmid.

Magnificent courtyards, enchanted gardens

And Leuenberger has places to visit, whose visit alone is worth a small trip. The cozy courtyard of the House Zum Fälklein on the Stapfelberg for example. The headless deer carcass made of iron ("My Deer") from Berlin de Bruyckere is an impressive work, but first the views are attracted by the charming Baroque sea-white fountain and the beautiful half-timbered facades.

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It is the same when one enters the enchanted garden of the reading society. A wonderful place to stay. Or ask yourself what the sandbrigs on the balustrade and on the garden table are. «City Lights (Dead Horse Bay)» is the work of Lena Henke.

And, of course, the Münsterplatz itself is a fantastic environment for a work of art. This year the Chinese superstar Au Weiwei with his monumental «Iron Tree» is the turn. In addition to the Münster, the work is not so monumental. Only when you stand in front of him: a huge tree that has lost all its jewelry. Through a lightning strike? Once upon a time the reformers burned the church decorations of the cathedral on the square ...

Finally, a glass of Armagnac

Continue to go down the Rhine. With a trip into the Elfdausigjumperstube, where strange things happen. A zombie cat is to be tamed with plush toys after a group of Dr. Jekylls in laboratory experiments in Mister Hydes. Or so. Specifically, it is the double performance "The Green Room & Science Lab" by Marvin Daye Chetwynd.



«Please use»: A glass of Armagnac for the art installation «The secret life of things is open» by Wu Tsang in the Club de Bâle. (Picture: Dominique Spirgi)

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Finally, there is a moment of relaxation in an adjoining room of the Club de Bâle. In the installation "The secret life of things is open" by Wu Tsang. The artist has a dignified living room with leather sofas, a book wall, pictures on the walls, as well as two portrait format screens, with two simultaneous speakers. Next to the sofa, there is a side table with a bottle of Armagnac on it, along with glasses and the request "Please use yourself".