

## Orientalism Vol.38 No.2, March 2007

Philippe Horowitz

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The Museum Rietberg Zurich

In the short space of 55 years, the Museum Rietberg Zurich has rapidly established a reputation for the quality of its eclectic collections, its enlightened approach to exhibitions and the groundbreaking research they engender, and its sensitive treatment of works entrusted by donors and long-term lenders. A dramatic increase in visitor numbers and Switzerland's burgeoning interest in non-European art allowed the museum to embark on a visionary expansion in 2002.

On 18 February, the Rietberg reopened with a new entrance, The Emerald, and larger galleries for permanent and special exhibits. Museum director Albert Lutz and architect Adolf Krischanitz discuss the thinking behind the extension.

Helmut Brinker gives accounts of the museum's history and its landmark exhibitions.

Jan Fontein explores how the understanding of Southeast Asian sculptures from the Rietberg's founding collection has evolved with advances in research and archaeology.

Katharina Epprecht explains how the balance between aesthetics and subject-matter was achieved in the inaugural exhibition on early Japanese Buddhist art.

During his tenure as director, Eberhard Fischer was largely responsible for developing the museum into an institution known for its expertise on Indian miniatures. His exposition on the Pahari painter Manaku reflects his continued dedication to the field.

With events for Asia Week in New York beginning in mid-March, there are previews for the fairs and gallery openings. Read the commentary for Peter Marks's futuristic take on the art world fifty years from now.

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