
Europe's highest gallery in Saas-Fee

Opening of the "Galerie Maste 4" at a height of 2575 m!

Europe's highest gallery opened its doors on 29 January 2010: the "Galerie Maste 4" in Saas-Fee. The exhibition high in the mountains had a few surprises in store for the numerous visitors.

The opening of what is probably Europe's highest gallery was a total success for the founder Marjolein Bos. "I am delighted with the launch. I was particularly pleased with the extensive positive feedback from the guests" said Bos. She continued happily: "I've achieved exactly what I set out to do: to surprise and enthuse! People are talking about the gallery". The artist was particularly pleased with the visit by the "De Nederlandse Club Wallis" Group which had been specially invited to the launch by the Dutch Embassy.

The "Galerie Maste 4" represents the fulfilment of a dream for the Dutch artist. Over the past few months thanks to her drive and inventiveness she has turned the old building below the Morenia mid-way station into an attractive meeting place. "Obviously I am also pleased to have received such great support from the local authority, the Bergbahnen Saas-Fee, Saas-Fee/Saastal Tourismus and many other people in the village. I wouldn't have achieved this without their support." The gallery is not yet by any means finished - but the first major steps have been taken. For example, various paintings and sculptures are already in full view on the first floor of the former restaurant, just waiting for the opinions of potential visitors. At present approx. 50% of the works on display are by Bos herself. There are however also other works on show by Victor Tikhonov (Belarus), Walther Schmeitink-Mühlbacher (NL/Austria), Beat Breitenstein (CH) or Jochen Teichert (DE). Naturally most of the works of art on exhibition in the "Galerie Maste 4" are also available for purchase. The prices range from just CHF 100.- to nearly CHF 4'000.-.

However, Bos is not resting on her laurels. She plans to stage regular new exhibitions in her gallery. The aim is to rotate the exhibition 5-6 times each year with works, sculptures and paintings by international artists. It goes without saying that there will be a small special opening day for each event. One such day has been planned e.g. for 20 March 2010. It will include works by an artist from Bulgaria and a renowned artist from the Czech Republic. Other changes are then planned for the Summer. Marjolein Bos will also be offering guest artists the opportunity to come to Saas-Fee for a specific period and paint in her gallery. What will make this interesting for visitors is that in addition to viewing the works in the gallery they will be able to look directly over the shoulders of the various artists and 'be there' as works of art are created. One guest artist from the Czech Republic has already agreed to attend and will be taking his place in the "Galerie Maste 4" for a few weeks in Summer 2010.

The artist Marjolein Bos has already put together a number of ideas for major events. These include e.g. dance workshops, theatre shows for launches, painting workshops/team building painting sessions, e.g. for corporate events, or book presentations on their visions. She also has her eye on a special band that "plays the way I paint". A band that plays with expression, combining old and new. In conjunction with the Dutch master chef and artist Angélique Schmeinck she also has plans for a special project that may well come to fruition this Winter.

First of all however the items on the artist's "to do" list have less to do with art and more with very basic aspects. For example putting signs up to the gallery because at the moment visitors still have to search around a bit to find the entrance to the gallery. The external façade will also be given a more eye-catching look. Other tasks which Bos has set herself: to expand the studio for guest artists on the Ground Floor, carry out repairs to the Terrace, expand the contacts and networks and for Winter 2011 to bring together interior and exterior art. As such, the intention next Winter is to also exhibit works of art outside the building and to include the terrace and surrounding area.

All year round offering

With the "Galerie Maste 4" Marjolein Bos offers visitors an attractive and special excursion destination all year round (coinciding with the timetable of the mountain railways). In the Winter she also aims in particular to attract non-skiers with this offering. A trip to the gallery can however also be utilised as a bad weather alternative. Since it is located in the centre of the slopes right next to the railway station it's naturally a welcome break for everyone - skiers and non-skiers alike. Positioned on the main axis route of the mountain railways (on the line which goes right up to the Mittelallalin), everyone essentially passes by the gallery at least once. In Summer guests can include a visit to the gallery e.g. on their hiking tours around the Morenia region.

Marjolein Bos - the artist

Growing up in Laren NH (the Netherlands) Marjolein Bos studied at the Academy of Art in Tilburg, where she attended numerous courses as part of her further training. For some 25 years Bos has been working on a freelance basis as an illustrator/graphic designer, portrait artist and painter. In the Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland she has also realised a number of major projects such as e.g. wall painting in the theatre at Münster (D), in the RaboBank and headquarters of the SNS Bank (NL) as well as painting in a chapel in Saas-Fee. In 2009 Bos also spent two weeks as an invited guest at the Festival of Art in Slovakia. The artist has also used various techniques in painting numerous privately commissioned portraits, e.g. of mayors or groups. As an illustrator she has repeatedly received commissions from publishing companies and just recently Bos illustrated a children's cookbook by the popular chef Irma Dütsch. *ar/sf (04.02.10)*

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