Art Museums of Switzerland 2023
Switzerland’s major art museums are home to tremendous artistic treasures that are just waiting to be discovered. Because of Switzerland’s compact size, you can visit a number of different museums within a short space of time, and in between visits you can discover art in the cities’ public spaces.

Ten of the country’s major art institutions have joined forces to form the Art Museums of Switzerland association, with the aim of ensuring a memorable museum visit for all art enthusiasts.

The following pages present brief portraits of the institutions, supplemented with an overview of the most important exhibitions of the year.

More information
Information on the Art Museums of Switzerland can be found at: MySwitzerland.com/amos
Here’s where you’ll find the Art Museums of Switzerland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Museums</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Basel</td>
<td>Basel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fonation Beyeler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>Museum Tinguely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kunstmuseum Basel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Bern</td>
<td>Bern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td>Zentrum Paul Klee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Lake Geneva</td>
<td>Lake Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
<td>MAMCO, Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td>Plateforme 10, Lausanne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Lugano</td>
<td>Lugano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td></td>
<td>MASI Lugano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Zurich Region</td>
<td>Zurich Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fotozentrum, Winterthur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td></td>
<td>Museum für Gestaltung Zürich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kunsthaus Zürich</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Art and culture in Switzerland

Curation
Switzerland is proud of its commitment as a mediator, and not just in the political arena. Art mediation has also been significantly promoted by a number of Swiss people – most notably Harald Szeemann, who in his time was one of the most influential curators in the world. His legacy lives on today through the successful work of people such as Bice Curiger, Hans Ulrich Obrist and Chus Martínez.

Collections
Switzerland has a large number of high-calibre art collections that are open to the public, which can be admired at the Art Museums of Switzerland, among other places. These are not limited to the well-known names and works in art history, but rather they are dynamically complemented by contemporary art. Works by young artists are also continuously being added to the collections.
Modern folk music
Simple instruments such as the alpine horn, the büchel or the dulcimer play an important role in Swiss folk music. Their magic continues to the present day – although it is open to debate whether the way in which the melodies have been developed can still be called folk music or belongs to a new category. It’s probably best to form your own opinion, for example with Christine Lauterburg or Stimmhorn.

Helvetica
Known for their eye for detail, over the years the Swiss have produced many typefaces that continue to shape the world today. The most famous of these is the Helvetica typeface by Max Miedinger, which made its name as the corporate typeface of SBB, the Swiss federal railway company, and of international corporations such as Lufthansa, Motorola, 3M, Jeep and Panasonic. The 50th anniversary of the typeface was commemorated with an exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in New York in 2007.
Basel
In 1474, in what is now the cultural metropolis of Basel, a cockerel was put on trial for laying an egg – which was considered against the laws of nature. People feared that this egg would hatch into a basilisk, a dangerous chimera made from both a cockerel and a snake. Therefore, after due process, the poor bird was beheaded, and the incriminated egg was burned.

These days, people feel more relaxed about the connection to the basilisk, and it can be found throughout Basel as the mythical beast that bears the city’s coat of arms. Keep your eyes peeled for it!

Drittes Tier
(Third Animal)
A mythical creature by sculptor Thomas Schütte watches over Baloise Park.

Among other benefits, the BaselCard affords hotel guests free travel on public transport and a 50% discount on admission to museums.
basel.com/baselcard
### Fondation Beyeler
In a lovely park just outside of the city, an impressive building by Renzo Piano has housed the collection of Hildy and Ernst Beyeler since 1997. fondationbeyeler.ch

### Museum Tinguely
As well as showing the world’s largest collection of works by Swiss artist Jean Tinguely, the museum runs an exhibition programme that seeks dialogue with other artists and art forms. It promises to be an interactive museum experience for all the senses. tinguely.ch

### Kunstmuseum Basel
Kunstmuseum Basel invites visitors to embark on a journey through the history of art from the 15th century to the present day at its three venues. Masterpieces of the collection, world-class special exhibitions and programmes offer multi-layered approaches to art. kunstmuseumbasel.ch

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### Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Museum</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Opening Hours</th>
<th>Admission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fondation Beyeler</td>
<td>Baselstrasse 101</td>
<td>Mon, Tues, Thurs–Sun 10 a.m.–6 p.m.</td>
<td>CHF 25 (adults)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4125 Riehen/Basel</td>
<td>Wed 10 a.m.–8 p.m.</td>
<td>CHF 20 (concessions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum Tinguely</td>
<td>Paul Sacher-Anlage 1</td>
<td>Tues, Wed, Fri–Sun 11 a.m.–6 p.m.</td>
<td>CHF 18 (adults)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4002 Basel</td>
<td>Thurs 11 a.m.–9 p.m.</td>
<td>CHF 12 (concessions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kunstmuseum Basel</td>
<td>St. Alban-Graben 16</td>
<td>Tues, Thurs–Sun 10 a.m.–6 p.m.</td>
<td>CHF 16 (adults)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4051 Basel</td>
<td>Wed 10 a.m.–8 p.m.</td>
<td>CHF 8 (concessions)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Architect Renzo Piano, built in 1997

Architect Mario Botta, built in 1996

Architects of the new building Christ & Gantenbein, built in 2016
Highlights 2023

Jan–May 2023
① Wayne Thiebaud
This exhibition on renowned American artist Wayne Thiebaud (1920–2021), who began his career as a graphic designer, features still life studies and portraits as well as multi-perspective cityscapes and landscapes.

May–Sept 2023
② Doris Salcedo
In her work, Colombian artist Doris Salcedo (*1958) explores the ever-repeating cycle of violence, outrage, grief, remembrance and oblivion. The large-scale exhibition presents significant works from various creative periods.

Sept 2023–Jan 2024
③ Niko Pirosmani
Georgian artist Niko Pirosmani (1862–1918) is one of the outstanding exponents of early modernism. Consisting of around 50 rarely seen masterpieces from the collection of the Georgian National Museum in Tbilisi, the exhibition introduces visitors to the artistic world of Pirosmani.

Information on the latest exhibitions and other offers.
La roue = c’est tout. New permanent exhibition
According to Tinguely, “we live in a wheel-based civilisation” in which man and machine are interdependent. The collection of works will be exhibited in the great hall for the first time since the museum’s founding.

À bruit secret. Hearing in Art
What is the soundscape of the Rhine like? Can the noise of the city or individual voices be used as sculptural material? Museum Tinguely hosts a variety of interactive auditory encounters with works from different eras.

Janet Cardiff & George Bures Miller. Dream Machines
This pair of Canadian artists create installations that stimulate all the senses. In doing so, they transport the audience to fairytale worlds driven by a desire for storytelling and discovery.

Information on the latest exhibitions and other offers.
Highlights 2023

**Mar–Jul 2023**

1. **Shirley Jaffe**
   This retrospective finally gives American artist Shirley Jaffe (1923–2016) the attention she has long deserved! This is a chance to discover her colourful, abstract, yet very accessible paintings.

**Apr–Sept 2023**

2. **Andrea Büttner**
   Andrea Büttner (*1972, lives in Berlin) works in a variety of media, combining art history with the social issues of today. The exhibition presents Büttner’s work from the past 15 years – partly in juxtaposition with old master paintings.

**Sept 2023–Jan 2024**

3. **Matisse, Derain and their circle**
   Matisse, Derain and their circle left their mark on Paris from 1904 until 1908 as “Les Fauves”. This is the first major exhibition about this avant-garde group to be held in Switzerland in 70 years, and presents some magnificent works that have never been seen in this country before now.

Information on the latest exhibitions and other offers.
The romantic old town of Bern enchants visitors with a multitude of fountains depicting figures, such as the Kindlifresser, Moses or Justitia.

But the people of Bern were shocked back in 1983 when the very stark Meret Oppenheim Fountain was unveiled. Despite vehement protests, the concrete column was allowed to remain and, as planned, provide a support for tufa to form, in the meantime overgrown with moss and grasses. It has gained a special place in the hearts of the people of Bern, who would now be reluctant to give it up.

Meret Oppenheim Fountain
A symbol of life made from concrete and sheet metal, overgrown with moss and grasses.

The Museum Card entitles the holder to free entry to the collections and special exhibitions of all museums in the city of Bern for a period of 24 or 48 hours. bern.com/museum-card
Zentrum Paul Klee
The futuristic building by Renzo Piano is both museum and cultural centre. Alongside the world’s most significant collection of Paul Klee’s works, contemporary exhibitions, master concerts, readings and an in-house agriculture are waiting to be discovered by culture aficionados. The creative workshops at the Creaviva children’s museum round off the offering. zpk.org

Monument im Fruchtland 3
3006 Bern

Opening hours
Tues – Sun 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Admission
CHF 20 (adults)
CHF 18 / 10 (concessions)
Architect Renzo Piano, built in 2005
Highlights 2023

Jan–May 2023

① Joan Miró. New Beginnings
Particularly after his long-awaited move into his own studio in 1956, Joan Miró expanded his concept of painting in a hitherto unfamiliar direction. For example, he began to “paint” with fire and scissors. This moment of self-criticism provides the starting point of the exhibition.

Nov 2023–Feb 2024

② Hannah Höch. Assembled Worlds
German artist Hannah Höch is one of the inventors of the collage genre, which she also referred to as “photomontages”. The exhibition shows these in dialogue with the avant-garde cinema of the 1920s.

May–Oct 2023

③ Paul Klee. Everything Grows
Paul Klee kept shells, sea snails and a collection of plants in his studio. These materials are exhibited together with works in which Klee explores nature.

Information on the latest exhibitions and other offers.
Zentrum Paul Klee
Lake Geneva
From the magical vineyards of the Lavaux to the proud regional capital Lausanne and the cosmopolitan city of Geneva, the Lake Geneva Region is one of the most attractive landscapes in the world. The success of this region is also reflected in the generous patronage of good architecture, art and culture. This is an inspiring place for people to enjoy.

The Swiss Museum Pass gives the holder access to 500 museums, including MAMCO and Plateforme 10.
museumspass.ch

Yes to All

The lettering designed by Geneva-based artist Sylvie Fleury has been commenting on the city’s consumerism since 2007.
MAMCO
Housed in a former industrial building in Geneva’s Plainpalais neighbourhood, the Musée d’art moderne et contemporain has been home to around 6,000 works and contemporary objets d’art since 1994. mamco.ch

Plateforme 10 – Lausanne’s art district
Plateforme 10 – a new arts district over 25,000 square metres near Lausanne’s train station – brings together the MCBA, mudac and Photo Elysée, as well as other exhibition spaces, restaurants, bookshops and boutiques. It hosts a rich programme of cultural and festive events. plateforme10.ch

Rue des Vieux-Grenadiers 10
1205 Geneva

Opening hours
Tues – Fri 12 noon – 6 p.m.
Sat – Sun 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Admission
CHF 15 (adults)
CHF 10 (concessions)

Place de la Gare
1003 Lausanne

Opening hours
Mon–Wed, Fri–Sun 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Thurs 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

MCBA closed on Mondays,
Photo Elysée / mudac
closed on Tuesdays

Admission
3 museums ticket CHF 25
(full rate)
3 museums ticket CHF 19
(concessions)
The MCBA, architects Fabrizio Barozzi & Alberto Veiga, built in 2019

Founded in 1994
Highlights 2023

Feb–Jun 2023

① General Idea
Founded in Toronto in 1969, this collective is considered an important driver of the conceptual art scene. Their “Ecce Homo” exhibition addresses current issues of social coexistence.

Feb–Jun 2023

② Ian Burn
Ian Burn was an activist, trade unionist, journalist, art critic, curator and art historian. The exhibition reveals Ian Burn as a self-critical representative of conceptual art and focuses in particular on how he is a member of a collective while struggling to assert his individuality in the company of others.

Jul–Sept 2023

③ été 2023
A concept has been chosen for the 2023 summer of culture: this provides a starting point for selected artists to develop a multi-format programme of encounters, performances and offsite experiments all waiting to be discovered.

Information on the latest exhibitions and other offers.
Highlights 2023

Mar–May 2023

1. **Blur**
This exhibition traces the history of blur in photography, from the invention of the process to the present. Incorporating comparisons with painting and cinema, it shows how this phenomenon developed as well as how it is applied.

From April 2023

2. **Dialogue between an octopus and a citrus squeezer**
From Mai–Thu Perret’s ceramic sculptures to Philippe Starck’s everyday objects: contemporary works in the fields of design, glass art, ceramics, printmaking and jewellery. Works by internationally recognised creatives as well as young, promising talents.

Oct 2023–Mar 2024

3. **Immersion. The Origins**
Key works of immersive art from 1948 to 1969 invite the audience to immerse themselves in expanded spheres and spaces of art.

elysee.ch, mudac.ch, mcba.ch

Information on the latest exhibitions and other offers.
Lugano
You’ll find water wherever you go in Lugano. Lake Lugano and its sensitive ecosystem shape not only the landscape but also the attitude of the locals, who treat the precious resource on their doorsteps with care and respect.

At the turn of the new millennium, this interaction with water bore fruit in the “Water Trail Revisited” themed trail. At various stations along the trail, visitors are encouraged to think about our relationship with water and its enormous importance in our everyday lives.

Iridescent Jellyfish
The jellyfish of L7matrix is part of Lugano’s street art tour.

The Ticino Ticket grants the holder a discount of up to 30% on museum admissions. ticino.ch/ticket
Museo d’arte della Svizzera italiana

Founded in 2015, the Museo d’arte della Svizzera italiana (MASI Lugano) acts as a cultural bridge between the areas north and south of the Alps. Occupying two locations – the LAC Cultural Centre and the historic Palazzo Reali – it offers a rich collection of art and culture. masilugano.ch

MASI Lugano, Palazzo Reali
Via Canova 10
6900 Lugano

MASI Lugano, LAC
Piazza Bernardino Luini 6
6900 Lugano

Opening hours
Tues, Wed, Fri 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Thurs 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Sat, Sun and public holidays
10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Admission
LAC
CHF 20 (adults)
CHF 16 (concessions)

Palazzo Reali
CHF 8 (adults)
CHF 6 (concessions)

Combined ticket
CHF 24 (adults)
CHF 19 (concessions)
Highlights 2023

Mar–Aug 2023
① Rita Ackermann. Hidden
MASI is exhibiting around 50 drawings and paintings developed by Rita Ackermann (*1968 in Budapest) over the past 30 years in New York.

Apr–Oct 2023
② Hedi Mertens. Logic of Intuition
This exhibition offers an insight into the life and work of Hedi Mertens (1893–1982), who, over a period of 20 years, developed an independent artistic vision that is quite remarkable in the context of concrete art in Switzerland.

Sept 2023–Jan 2024
③ From Dürer to Warhol. Highlights from the Graphische Sammlung ETH Zürich
This exhibition presents the most important groups of works from the Graphische Sammlung ETH Zürich on view together for the first time at MASI. This selection includes masterpieces by Albrecht Dürer, Albrecht Altdorfer, Francesco Parmigianino, Rembrandt van Rijn, and many others besides.
HOW TO WORK BETTER
1 DO ONE THING AT A TIME
2 KNOW THE PROBLEM
3 LEARN TO LISTEN
4 LEARN TO ASK QUESTIONS
5 DISTINGUISH SENSE FROM NONSENSE
6 ACCEPT CHANGE AS INEVITABLE
7 ADMIT MISTAKES
8 SAY IT SIMPLE
9 BE CALM TO SME
Street art already enjoys a long tradition in Switzerland’s largest city that continues to this day. One of the first exponents was Harald Nägeli, who enlivened the public space with elegant figures starting in the 1970s. Nägeli, like many of his fellow street artists, has made a name for himself in today’s art world. If you keep your eyes peeled as you wander through the city, you will still find works by him and others, such as Redl, Mickry 3, Not a Picasso or One Truth.

How to Work Better

By placing it on the railway line to the airport, Fischli/Weiss gave a work instruction a new context.

The Zurich Card gives the holder free travel on public transport and free or reduced admission to 43 museums.

zuerichcard.ch
Fotozentrum
The Fotozentrum is Switzerland’s leading centre of competence for presenting, discussing, collecting and sharing photography and photo-based art. It is comprised of two independent institutions: the Fotostiftung Schweiz and the Fotomuseum Winterthur.
fotostiftung.ch, fotomuseum.ch

Museum für Gestaltung Zürich
The leading Swiss museum for design and visual communication is split over two sites (Ausstellungsstrasse and Toni-Areal) as well as the Pavillon Le Corbusier. Its internationally acclaimed collection comprises over half a million objects from the history of graphics and design.
museum-gestaltung.ch

Kunsthaus Zürich
At Heimplatz square, the Kunsthaus houses one of the largest art collections in Switzerland. It boasts works from the 13th century up to the present day. The extension designed by David Chipperfield was opened in 2021.
kunsthaus.ch
Fotomuseum Winterthur, founded in 1993

Built in 1933, renovated in 2018

Architect David Chipperfield, built in 2021
Highlights 2023

Feb–May 2023
① VALIE EXPORT. The Photographs
This is the first exhibition to focus on the photographic oeuvre of the artist VALIE EXPORT (*1940), whose at times provocative performances and experimental installations have been a source of controversy. Photography plays a key role in the creative output of EXPORT and the photographs offer viewers a new perspective on her work.

Aug 2023–Jan 2024
② Werner Bischof. Unseen Colour
In addition to his work in black and white, Werner Bischof experimented with colour photography at an early stage. In particular, the photographs he took with the Devin Tricolour camera testify to a search for new artistic modes of expression. The exhibition represents a journey through Bischof’s worlds of colour and reveals a largely unknown area of the great Swiss photographer’s body of work.

Information on the latest exhibitions and other offers.
Highlights 2023

Feb–Jul 2023
① Game Design Today
Video games have long since found their way into everyday culture. A differentiated analysis of the medium and its many artistic facets provides a glimpse behind the scenes of international productions, with a particular focus on design processes.

Apr–Oct 2023
② Repair Revolution!
When things break in our day-to-day lives, we tend to buy replacements instead of repairing them. This exhibition shows that mending is not just a stopgap solution, but a cultural, social and economic practice that offers an alternative to a throwaway society.

Nov 2023–Feb 2024
③ Talking Bodies. Body images in poster art
The human body has been a popular subject since the infancy of modern poster art. Taking current debate as its context, this exhibition considers the body as a visual, social, political and cultural phenomenon.

Information on the latest exhibitions and other offers.
Highlights 2023

Mar–Jul 2023
① Re-Orientations. Europe and Islamic Art
The exciting interaction of European artists and Islamic art from 1851 to the present day is illuminated in this exhibition.

Apr–Jul 2023
② Giacometti/Dalí. Dream Gardens
In the 1930s, Alberto Giacometti and Salvador Dalí formed a friendship among the Paris Surrealists. They engaged in a fruitful artistic dialogue. Together they imagined surreal spaces and planned fascinating gardens and squares.

③ The Collections
The Kunsthaus is Switzerland’s largest art museum. The significant long-term loans are a particular draw: these include key works of Impressionism, Early Modernism, Fauvism, Expressionism, and American Abstraction. They complement the already impressive body of works in the Kunst-haus collection.

Information on the latest exhibitions and other offers.
Multifaceted art

Switzerland is a place where art flourishes. You’ll find profiles of a few artists on the following pages that will make you want to discover the local world of art.

huber.huber
The surreal collages of multi-award-winning twin brothers Reto and Markus Huber combine objects from different worlds to create fantastic new realities in a delicate and poetic way. In doing so, they often address the relationship between man and nature, thus encouraging the viewer to reflect on their own position in the area of conflict between different interests.

Yves Netzhammer
Plenty of humour and surprising moments will be found in the work of this former structural draughtsman. His precise line work and fine sense of the unexpected make viewing his works a happy experience. He complements his drawings with computer-generated films to create spacious installations in which the viewers feel like they are part of the work.
Pamela Rosenkranz
The multimedia artist, who strongly focuses on the human being and explores both the body and the human condition in her work, enjoyed great success very early on. While still a student, she was afforded the opportunity to exhibit her work at Manifesta, and later in Venice and renowned museums. In 2015, the Swiss Post published a stamp designed by Pamela Rosenkranz showing a piece of skin of average European skin colour.

Monica Ursina Jäger
The artist Monica Ursina Jäger, who won the Swiss Art Award in 2007, creates, among other things, large-format ink drawings whose mysterious motifs occasionally venture into the surreal. She analyses the relationship between man and nature and encourages us to think about how we design our living spaces.
Ugo Rondinone
A successful multimedia artist, Rondinone has mastered numerous disciplines, which is why his works can be found all over the world, from the Nevada desert to the Pompidou Centre. One of Ugo Rondinone’s most famous works is the “Seven Magic Mountains”, which consists of brightly painted rocks piled on top of each other to form columns. Thanks to his interest in freely accessible art, since 2014 he has been on the board of the Public Art Fund, which brings art to public spaces in New York.

Mickry 3
The three artists Nina von Meiss, Dominique Vigne and Christina Pfander are part of a growing group of Swiss street artists who have long lived out their passion under the cover of darkness and are now emerging into the benign light of day with great success. Mickry 3’s sculptures playfully address social taboos and encourage us to question the boundaries in our minds.
Mai-Thu Perret
The Geneva-based artist with Franco-Vietnamese roots works in a variety of disciplines as well as performance. Mai-Thu Perret’s work, which is also included in the MoMA collection in New York, is very politically influenced. She champions feminist causes with an avant-garde aesthetic and addresses social issues.

Valentin Carron
A sculptor from the Valais village of Fully, Carron created an 80-metre-long forged iron snake that crawled through the Swiss Pavilion during the Venice Biennial in 2013. Traces of his homeland can almost always be found in his work, in which lovely landscapes full of fragrant flowers merge seamlessly with rapturous mountain worlds of ice and rock. The people of this region and their attitude to the land are recurring elements in his work.
Museums in Switzerland
Did you know?

What is a museum?
According to the International Council of Museums (ICOM), a museum is “a not-for-profit, permanent institution in the service of society that researches, collects, conserves, interprets and exhibits tangible and intangible heritage. Open to the public, accessible and inclusive, museums foster diversity and sustainability. They operate and communicate ethically, professionally and with the participation of communities, offering varied experiences for education, enjoyment, reflection and knowledge sharing.”

1,081 museums
15% of Swiss museums display art, design or photography.

69,988 guided tours
In the art museums, there were 14,666 guided tours given.

24,546 events
33% of all museum events were organised by art museums.

77.1m objects
Almost 10 million of them belong to the collections of the art museums.

10.3m admissions
The art museums registered 2.7 million visits.

1,346 temporary exhibitions
The art museums each show around 2.9 temporary exhibitions each year.

174 days
The art museums could be visited on 174 opening days.
Bucket list
Swiss art

This bucket list is an enjoyable way to discover ten of Switzerland’s best art museums.

+ Count chairs — p.10
+ Operate machines — p.12
+ Watch wildcats — p.14
+ Award prizes for apples — p.20
+ Reflect on the colour blue — p.26
+ Squeeze lemons — p.28
+ Look for Rita — p.34
+ Marvel at colour — p.40
+ Repair shoes — p.42
+ Launch a rocket — p.44