

HELVETICA 2002

The Expo gold coin

Like Expo.02 itself, the coin is intended to be a product of innovation - a synthesis of art, technology and playfulness. By using various elements, the artist Max Matter has succeeded in uniting this demanding combination on a single coin. The face shows a relief of the Lakes region with the five arteplages. These are portrayed as squares with a cross-hatched surface, and depending on the angle of light appear either light or dark. Below right, in a larger rectangle, is the inscription EXPO.02, and when the coin is tilted the writing is either clearly legible or seen vibrantly distorted in the shape of waves.

The graphic design of the obverse shows the name of the country «Helvetia» above, and the face value «50 FR» in a rectangular frame below. In the lower right segment, the Internet address of Expo.02 «www.expo.02.ch» appears on three lines. Below left, in a smaller frame, the year «2002» can be seen, completed by the mint-mark «B».



Characteristics

Effigy

«Lakes region where Expo.02 will be held»

Artist

Max Matter, Unterentfelden

Technical data

Alloy: Gold 0.900

Weight: 11.29 g

Diameter: 25 mm

Legal tender value

50 Swiss francs

Date of issue

1st February 2002

Mintage

Proof coin in presentation case only:

max. 6 000 coins

Coined and issued by

swissmint

Official Mint of the Swiss

Confederation

CH-3003 Bern

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www.swissmint.ch



Official Swiss
commemorative
coins



Expo.02



**HELVETICA
commemorative coins
A special side of
Switzerland**

Since 1936, the Swiss Confederation has been issuing commemorative coins to mark significant historical and cultural events, or to honour outstanding personalities. Tribute is also paid to typical aspects of Swiss culture. True to tradition, the commemorative coins are the work of Swiss artists. In collaboration with the Federal Department for Culture, *swissmint* allocates the commissions and holds design competitions. These special coins will bear a legal tender value and will be minted in a limited run. The Confederation will use the net profit from the sale of these commemorative coins to promote cultural projects in Switzerland.

**Three Lakes region and
arteplages**

An innovation of the sixth Swiss National Exhibition is that its site is not a city but an entire tourist region. The Three Lakes region is located in the north-east of Switzerland, between the Central Plateau and the Jura, spread out around the lakes of Bienne, Neuchâtel and Morat. Five cantons, four towns, three lakes, two languages welcome you to the national exhibition. Division of the Expo.02 into five arteplages, which are spread on the water and shores of the lakes of Bienne, Morat and Neuchâtel, makes it easier to explore the treasures of the land of the Three Lakes. Each arteplage relates to a theme which is reflected in its architecture and exhibitions: «Power and Freedom» in Bienne, «The Moments and

Eternity» in Morat, «Nature and Artificiality» in Neuchâtel, «The Universe and I» in Yverdon-les-Bains, «Meaning and Movement» on the arteplage mobile du Jura.
Expo.02

The artist
Max Matter was born in Aarau on 15th March 1941. After his school leaving examination, he attended the School of Applied Arts in Basel for three years, where he trained as a teacher of drawing. Since 1972 he has been a senior teacher for artistic design at the «Alte Kantonsschule» (Old Cantonal School) in Aarau. From 1967 until 1975 he was a member of the Ziegelrain Aarau Workshop Community. Since 1969 he has been taking part in exhibitions in Switzerland and abroad, and has carried out artistic projects for public places. As a long-standing member of commissions (Canton of Aargau Board of Curators, the Aargau Standing Commission for Public Art), he became closely involved with issues connected to the promotion of culture. Max Matter lives and works in Untertelfelden and Aarau.

