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HEADS OR TAILS

Swissmint's coin magazine



Photo: Andrea Campiche

EDITORIAL



Dear reader,

Strong will, stamina and a good dose of courage are what we currently all need to win the collective battle against the coronavirus. The same virtues were also embodied by Switzerland's women in their struggle to be finally allowed to exercise their political rights in Switzerland. As late as 1959, two-thirds of men opposed women's suffrage, proclaiming a resounding "no". Yet, perseverance paid off. On 7 February 1971, men in Switzerland were called to the polls a second time for a federal vote on introducing women's suffrage. There was a clear majority in favour, paving the way for Swiss women to be able to have their say in future elections and votes. Thus, the Sunday on which the vote was held became one of the most important political milestones in Swiss history and the day on which Swiss women were given a voice. With its 50-franc gold coin, Swissmint is honouring the courage, willpower and tireless perseverance of the women who fought for equality in Switzerland then and now.

The world of illusion is the artistic representation of impossible objects, optical illusions and double images. One master of this art form is the Swiss Sandro Del-Prete. His works, such as "The Love Poem of the Dolphins" or the "Loubegaffer", fascinate both young and old. One of his best-known paintings, "The Bridge of Life", adorns the new 20-franc silver coin from Swissmint. If you would like to delve deeper into Sandro Del-Prete's world of illusion, you can visit "Illusoria Land" in Hettiswil near Hindelbank. As you read this issue of **Heads or Tails**, you can explore fascinating additional information on the new coins and enter a prize draw for tickets to "Illusoria Land".

We hope you enjoy reading this issue and have fun collecting!

Marius G. Haldimann
Director

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL	2
50 years of Swiss women's right to vote	3
The end of patriarchy	
Illusion – The Bridge of Life	6
Sandro Del-Prete – a master of optical illusions	
Prize draw	
2021 coin sets	10
Sales start	12
How are very limited edition products allocated?	12
Shipping after receipt of payment	12
When can I receive a discount on my order?	12
Overview of future issues	12
Visit us on Social Media	12
Imprint	12

50 YEARS OF SWISS WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

The end of patriarchy

Slogans such as “No true democracy without women’s suffrage” and “In a word, it’s time to be heard” were emblazoned on banners on the Bundesplatz in Bern more than 50 years ago. But the long struggle was worth it. On 7 February 1971, women’s suffrage was introduced in Switzerland by a federal vote. With its 50-franc gold coin, Swissmint is honouring the courage, willpower and tireless perseverance of the women who fought for equality in Switzerland then and now.

It all began at the end of the 19th century

The first fully drafted Federal Constitution of the Swiss Confederation was signed on 12 September 1848 in the Empire Hall of Bern’s zum Äusseren Stand City Hall and this laid down the basic law. It allowed Swiss citizens to have a political say regardless of social class or income, with the exception of people of the Jewish faith and women.

At the end of the 19th century, the ideology that prevailed in the families of middle-class society was that women stayed at home and took care of the children and the household. At the same time, women in working-class families toiled in factories and performed domestic tasks as well as caring for children after work. During this period, women did not have any political rights and their resentment grew steadily.

The SAFFA snail crawled across the Bundesplatz

In view of the cantonal constitutional revision in 1868, women anonymously demanded the right to vote and stand for election. This proved to be in vain but they did not give up. The founding of the “Federation of Swiss Women’s Associations” in 1899 was a milestone that emboldened Swiss women in their quest for justice. The years went by and equality between women and men in Switzerland stagnated. In 1928, as a provocation and symbol of the slow speed with which the legitimate demand for women’s suffrage was treated, the women dragged a snail across the Bundesplatz on the occasion of the “Swiss Exhibition for Women’s Work (SAFFA)”. Even today, the SAFFA snail stands as a stigma harking back to the women’s protests in the Swiss capital.

Unterbäch – women made a statement at the ballot box

Yet again, much time passed and things became quieter on the issue of women’s suffrage. During, and especially after, the Second World War, little moved at the political level in Switzerland until 1957, when the small commune of Unterbäch in the Valais made national headlines as women stormed into the polling station and threw ballot papers for the federal popular vote into the ballot box. Although the votes were not counted, the courageous Valais women sent a clear message. Women’s suffrage groups throughout Switzerland increased pressure on politicians in Bern to demand their right to political equality.



The first national vote on women's voting rights

The first national vote followed two years after the incident in the quiet Valais mountain village. In 1959, two-thirds of the men voted against women's suffrage, thus proclaiming a clear "no". But Swiss women did not give up their fight and like-minded women increasingly joined forces. The figurehead of this dynamic women's movement was Emilie Lieberherr, who called on her female comrades to march on Bern. Determined and equipped with banners, around 5,000 women from all over Switzerland demonstrated on the Bundesplatz in the early afternoon of 1 March 1969. In the centre of a podium, with a microphone in her hand, stood Emilie Lieberherr, then 44 years old, and spoke from the hearts of many when she said: "We stand here not as pleaders, but as demanders", which was acknowledged by thunderous applause from the crowd.

The revolt against the government in power at the time went down in the history of the Swiss women's movement as one of the most spectacular and significant demonstrations. No woman had ever before dared to demand voting rights in Bern with such courageous and forceful words.

The second national vote – a historic turning point

The long and relentless struggle paid off. On 7 February 1971, men in Switzerland were called to the polls a second time for a federal vote on introducing women's suffrage. The supporters won by 621,109 votes to 323,882, paving the way for Swiss women to have their say in future elections and votes. Article 74 of the Federal Con-

stitution was amended to read: "In federal votes and elections, Swiss men and women have the same political rights and duties." The patriarchal rule in Switzerland came to an end and a more than 100-year struggle for equal rights regardless of gender bore fruit.

A good few years passed before women's suffrage was introduced across all of Switzerland at both cantonal and communal level. It was not until 1990 that Appenzell Innerrhoden followed suit as the last canton, and added women as voters to the cantonal constitution.

Nevertheless, the historic Sunday of 7 February 1971 is considered one of the most important political milestones in Swiss history and the day on which women were given a voice.

Swissmint is dedicating the 50-franc gold coin "50 years of Swiss women's right to vote" to the courageous Swiss women who, through their tireless willpower and perseverance, demanded their right to equality.

Sources

Newspapers: NZZ, Blick, Schweizer Illustrierte, Der Bund, Bote der Urschweiz
Internet: <https://sp-frauen.ch>, www.ekf.admin.ch, www.ch2021.ch, www.srf.ch, www.parlament.ch, www.sozialarchiv.ch

DESIGN: KARIN WIDMER



Karin Widmer was born in 1966 in Bern. She completed the preliminary course and her training in graphic design at the School of Design in Bern between 1984 and 1989. Her tutors included the renowned graphic artists Stephan Bundi and Claude Kuhn. Karin Widmer then gained her initial experience as a book illustrator and designer of numerous LP and CD covers at the Zytglogge publishing house in Bern. Since 1995, she has been working as a freelance illustrator for various publishers and organisations. She has created illustrations, sketches and cartoons for newspapers, educational materials, children's and teenage books, the special "Heidi" Europa stamp and court drawings.

Karin Widmer is a member of illustratoren-schweiz.ch and autillus.ch (association of authors and illustrators of children's and teenage books in Switzerland). Further information at www.hookillus.ch.

PRODUCT INFORMATION

COMMEMORATIVE COIN "50 YEARS OF SWISS WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE"



Proof

Face value: 50 Swiss francs
Alloy: gold 0.900
Weight: 11.29g
Diameter: 25mm

Mintage
Proof: 5,000 units, of which
– signed: 250 units *
(certificate from the artist)

Design: Karin Widmer, Wabern

Issue date: 29 April 2021
Sales period: until 28 April 2024 or
while stocks last

* Sales per household are limited
to one piece.



Proof with certificate
of authenticity



Variation "signed" with
additional a certificate
from the artist

Photo: Andrea Campiche



ILLUSION – THE BRIDGE OF LIFE

Sandro Del-Prete – a master of optical illusions

Sandro Del-Prete describes his art movement in his first book as “illuminism”. This describes the artistic representation of illusions, impossible objects, optical illusions or double perspectives and double images. “Illuminism” means imagined or deceptive. One of his well-known works, “The Bridge of Life”, adorns the new 20-franc silver coin from Swissmint. Where does the path begin and where does it end? Sandro Del-Prete reveals more about himself and his works in this interview.

How did you decide to become a painter and artist?

Drawing and painting were my absolute favourite subjects when I was at school. However, my parents wanted me to learn a “real” profession first. So I made a few detours by taking the commercial baccalaureate, and then working as part of a sales force and later as a SUVA insurance inspector before finally turning my talent for design into a career.

What specifically interests you about the “illuminism” art movement? What do “illusion” and “deceiving the audience” mean to you?

Magicians have always fascinated me. How they trick their audience and create illusions. I therefore asked myself what triggers an illusion in our minds and why we allow ourselves to be deceived. This led me to start researching the field of optical illusions. I also found inspiration in observing a chameleon. One eye looks forward and the other looks back. I wonder what perspectives this animal’s twisted eyes have on the world?

Are there any artists who have had a significant influence on you? Why?

I am particularly impressed by the old masters such as Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo Buonarroti, Raffaello Sanzio and Giotto Di Bondone. In the museums of Florence, I taught myself their techniques, their colour and light combinations and their compositions. A very important modern-day role model for me is Maurits Cornelis Escher. His works are mathematically completely precise and yet unreal – fascinating!

How should we imagine the process between the initial idea and the finished work of art? Does it take a long time?

I can’t just pull my paintings out of a hat. Before new paintings and works are created, a long pro-

cess of brainstorming and thinking takes place. Sometimes the ideas just come pouring out, other times I cannot find fresh inspiration for months on end.

Do you still work on new works on a daily basis and even during set working hours?

I don’t have set working hours. I’m currently working on a commission for a client – the production of a copy of the Mona Lisa, so my working hours are more regular. Otherwise, I work when I need to.

The oil painting “The Bridge of Life” served as a model for the creation of this commemorative coin. How did this work come about and what thoughts did you want to convey with it?

The painting describes the fourth dimension – the passage of time. The directional concepts of the third dimension are suspended. The people in the picture are therefore all moving in the same direction: towards old age. No one can escape time and all matter dissolves one day. This is also how decay is depicted with the disintegrating bridge piers.

The “Loubegaffer”, an inversion statue you created, has stood in Bern station for many years, constantly observing passers-by. What is the story behind this work of art?

The “Loubegaffer” was originally a work commissioned by an advertising agency to enhance the new Schweizerhof Passage with a typical Bernese figure. After the “Big Mama” restaurant took over the location and created outdoor seating, the inversion statue disappeared into a shed on a farm and was seemingly forgotten. Due to high demand, also from abroad, the statue has been in Bern train station since 1997.

Do you let other people in on your ideas and designs, or do you only make your artworks accessible to others when they are made public?

I like to think of myself as open to criticism, and I listen above all to my family's suggestions. Their opinion is important to me!

In your gallery and museum "Illusoria Land" in Hettiswil near Hindelbank, you transport visitors into a world of optical illusions and holography. What can we expect from a visit?

Most of all, visitors should have fun! This includes discovering things, taking a closer look or being amazed because they experience things they never thought possible – such as when the ground tilts away from under their feet, even though this is only an illusion. There are lots of surprise effects and the whole exhibition is built on an illusion.

One of your paintings has been used as the basis for an official Swiss coin. What does this mean to you?

It is a great honour for me that one of my paintings adorns an official Swiss coin and it is also a recognition of my life's work. I would like to thank you very much for this.

Interview: Swissmint, Christoph Tanner



Interview video



Image: Sandro Del-Prete

DESIGN: SANDRO DEL-PRETE



Sandro Del-Prete was born in Bern in 1937 and completed his schooling with a commercial baccalaureate in Fribourg. His studies at Florence Academy of Fine Arts were the springboard for his artistic career. He studied the technique of light, shadow and structure through the works of the old masters. Back in Switzerland, he initially pursued a regular job. Only later was he able to devote himself solely to art. A chameleon with its eyes that looked in different directions inspired him to observe and draw things from different perspectives. This is how the first of many illusions came into being, both on paper and in the form of a statue. Sandro Del-Prete has exhibited his work at home and abroad and published books. Many of his works can be admired in his own museum "Illusoria Land" in Hettiswil near Hindelbank: www.illusoria-land.com.

PRODUCT INFORMATION

COMMEMORATIVE COIN "ILLUSION – THE BRIDGE OF LIFE"



Uncirculated

Face value: 20 Swiss francs
Alloy: silver 0.835
Weight: 20g
Diameter: 33mm

Mintage
Uncirculated: 20,000 units, of which
– in a folder: 1,000 units
Proof: 5,000 units, of which
– signed: 250 units *
(certificate from the artist)

Design: Sandro Del-Prete, Hettiswil

Issue date: 29 April 2021
Sales period: until 28 April 2024 or
while stocks last



Folder

* Sales per household are limited
to one piece.



Proof with certificate
of authenticity



Variation "signed" with
additional a certificate
from the artist

Photo: Andrea Campiche



DISCOVER THE WORLD OF SANDRO DEL-PRETE AND ENJOY AN UNFORGETTABLE TIME IN ILLUSORIA LAND.

On the occasion of the launch of the “Illusion – The Bridge of Life” commemorative coin, Swissmint is giving away 30 x 2 admission tickets for the Illusoria Land museum and gallery in Hettiswil near Hindelbank.

Since the early 1980s, Sandro Del-Prete has been transporting visitors to the world of optical illusions in his Illusoria Land. He says of his work: “Everything we see can also be seen in a completely different way. That’s why I often ask myself, isn’t everything an illusion? Reality is a matter of perception, and perception inevitably depends on our point of view.”

Conditions of participation

The closing date is 30 May 2021 (postmark). The winners will be notified in person. Prizes will not be paid out in cash. No legal recourse is possible. No correspondence will be entered into. The competition is not open to Swissmint employees. Each person is allowed to submit only one entry form.

Send the entry form (or a copy) to:

The Federal Mint Swissmint
Bernastrasse 28, 3003 Bern

Answer the following questions correctly and take part in the draw by completing and returning the entry form.

Where did the “Loubegauffer” used to be located?

- ☐ Bern train station ☐ Schweizerhof Passage ☐ Bundesplatz

Which oil painting did Swissmint use as the basis for the silver coin?

- ☐ The Bridge of Life ☐ La vie en rose ☐ Gateway to the Fourth Dimension

In which city did Sandro Del-Prete study the works of the old masters and the techniques used there?

- ☐ Milan ☐ Bologna ☐ Florence



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2021 COIN SETS

PRODUCT INFORMATION

2021 CLASSIC COIN SET *Brilliant uncirculated with "Fox" bimetallic coin*



Brilliant uncirculated

Face value: 18.85 Swiss francs
Alloy: copper-nickel and aluminium-bronze
Measurements: 171mm x 106mm x 8mm

Mintage: 8,000 units

Issue date: 21 January 2021
Sales period: until 20 January 2024
or while stocks last



2021 CLASSIC COIN SET *Proof with "Fox" bimetallic coin*



Proof

Face value: 18.85 Swiss franc
Alloy: copper-nickel and aluminium-bronze
Measurements: 171mm x 106mm x 8mm

Mintage: 2,500 units

Issue date: 21 January 2021
Sales period: until 20 January 2024
or while stocks last



PRODUCT INFORMATION

2021 BABY COIN SET *Brilliant uncirculated with bear medal*



Face value: 8.85 Swiss francs
Alloy: copper-nickel and
aluminium-bronze
Measurements: 171mm x 106mm x 8mm



Brilliant uncirculated

Mintage: 7,000 units
Issue date: 1 January 2021
Sales period: until 31 December 2023
or while stocks last



2021 BIRTHDAY COIN SET *Brilliant uncirculated with birthday medal*



Face value: 8.85 Swiss francs
Alloy: copper-nickel and
aluminium-bronze
Measurements: 171mm x 106mm x 8mm



Brilliant uncirculated

Mintage: 2,000 units
Issue date: 1 January 2021
Sales period: until 31 December 2023
or while stocks last



SWISSMINT NEWS

Sales start

Sales will start on the day of issue, 29 April 2021, at 8am. The new products will be available at www.swissmintshop.ch from this time. Alternatively, we can of course accept orders made using the enclosed order form. Please note that we **CANNOT** accept any orders by email or telephone.

How are very limited edition products allocated?

The following products are very limited editions and the following quantity restrictions apply per name and address:

- 50 years of Swiss women's right to vote, proof with certificate from the artist 1 unit
- Illusion – The Bridge of Life, proof with certificate from the artist 1 unit

Swissmint does not accept reservations for very limited products. Small quantities of these special products are destined for sale online via www.swissmintshop.ch. Remaining stock (**for orders placed using the order form**) is distributed by drawing lots. Please note that we **CANNOT** accept any orders by email, telephone or other means. Thank you for your understanding.

Shipping after receipt of payment

Your products will be sent as an insured consignment immediately after your payment reaches our account. Special dispatch requests cannot be accommodated. The delivery time for shipments within Switzerland is approximately 5 to 10 working days after payment is received, international shipments will take longer.

When can I receive a discount on my order?

You can receive a volume discount when you order certain products. For all coin sets and coins in proof quality, you will receive a discount of up to CHF 30 per unit depending on the alloy and amount ordered.

Product/quality	Minimum purchase	Discount per unit
Proof bimetallic *	From 10 units	CHF 5
Proof silver *	From 10 units	CHF 5
Proof gold *	From 5 units	CHF 30
Coin sets	From 10 units	CHF 10

* no volume discount on proof coins with certificate from the artist

Overview of future issues

9 September 2021	Silver coin	"Hydropower", the first in the energy of the future series
	Coin set	2021 Christmas coin set
	Trial minting	"Illusion – The Bridge of Life"

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We regularly share news from Swissmint and announce upcoming events on our Facebook page and on Instagram. Follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/swissmint/> and <https://www.instagram.com/swissmint/>.



Published by

Federal Mint
Swissmint
Bernastrasse 28
CH-3003 Bern
Tel. +41 58 480 08 00
Fax +41 58 462 60 07
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Distribution

FOBL, Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics, CH-3003 Bern
www.bundespublikationen.admin.ch
Art.-No. 603.000.2/21Eng



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Subscribers should use this order form exclusively for additional orders.

ORDER FORM HEADS OR TAILS 2/2021

K1H

Item	Item number	Quantity	Price in CHF	Amount in CHF
50 years of Swiss women's right to vote / 50-franc piece, gold				
Proof in presentation case	510000607		680.–	
Proof in presentation case with a certificate from the artist*	510000608		690.–	
Illusion - The Bridge of Life / 20-franc piece, silver				
Uncirculated	510000598		30.–	
Uncirculated, folder	510000599		40.–	
Proof in presentation case	510000600		60.–	
Proof in presentation case with a certificate from the artist*	510000601		70.–	
2021 coin sets				
Classic, brilliant uncirculated	510000580		40.–	
Classic, proof	510000581		85.–	
Baby coin set, brilliant uncirculated	510000582		40.–	
Birthday coin set, brilliant uncirculated	510000583		40.–	
Total amount in CHF:				

* ☐ I would like a proof coin in presentation case if the one with a certificate from the artist is sold out.

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Subject to change without notice. This offer is applicable so long as stocks last.

Payment method:

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You can order these fine products online and pay for them using your credit card: www.swissmintshop.ch

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By signing the order form, I unconditionally accept the Swissmint terms and conditions with which I am familiar (www.swissmint.ch).

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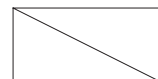
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