

MEDIA RELEASE

06.12.2025 08.02.2026**Solo Teo Petruzzi**

Last year, the Kunstgesellschaft Luzern awarded the *Solo* exhibition prize to Teo Petruzzi (*1994). Petruzzi's work includes video, installation and performance art. Petruzzi's artistic studies scrutinise social norms and systems. At the centre of Petruzzi's first institutional solo exhibition is the video installation *Der sichere Hafen* (The safe haven), which takes a humorously critical look at the Swiss National Bank.

The Swiss National Bank is an institution that is known to many, yet understood by only a few. Thick walls protect it against inquisitive eyes, and access is only granted to a small circle of people. It safeguards the Swiss state assets and harbours a broad knowledge of economics. Petruzzi's work is intended to both explain the mechanisms of the Swiss National Bank and point up its questionable investments, and also to examine in detail its resistance to reform. To facilitate this approach, Petruzzi deliberately adopts a very particular narrative perspective: that of a toilet bowl in the men's restrooms at the Swiss National Bank.

Petruzzi's expansive video installation grants viewers a look into a toilet cubicle. The toilet bowl speaks—in the form of a monologue, and despite its obligation to be discrete—about small and large-scale business, that is to say, about the “clean, discrete and efficient liquidation of emissions”. It reveals intimate views of the internal world of the National Bank and defends the values of the capitalist market economy. Along the way, the hegemonic structures and the reticence of the banking system are questioned. For the script, Petruzzi worked closely with the economist and business journalist Fabio Canetg and the comedian Johannes Dullin, who also lends his voice to the toilet bowl; the urinal is voiced by Azur Gosteli.

The toilet is an artistic motif that recurs throughout art history: Marcel Duchamp's upturned urinal called *Fountain* (1917) is regarded as an icon of “anti-art” and was reinterpreted in bronze by Sherrie Levine as *Fountain (Buddha)* in 1991. Maurizio Cattelan's publicly accessible toilet made of 18-carat gold *America* (2016), Luis Buñuel's film *Le Fantôme de la liberté* (1974) and Alexey Gerasimov's satirical YouTube-series *Skibidi Toilet* (since 2023) take the toilet (or urinal) as a point of departure for critical engagements with society and culture.

The toilet in *Der sichere Hafen* can also be understood as standing for Switzerland. With this work Petruzzi points up the injustices in a country that under the guise of “neutrality” provides a quiet, secretive and discreet service—disposing of the world's dirty business.

In the context of the *Solo* exhibition and complementing the work *Der sichere Hafen* the edition *Pocket Change* will be issued, consisting of printed Lego bricks, the design of which references the current Swiss banknotes. The edition can be bought in the museum shop during the course of the exhibition.

curated by Milena von Schulthess

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DATES

Media Preview

Friday, 05.12., 10.15 am

Opening and Award Ceremony

Friday, 05.12., from 6 pm

Greeting and introduction

Andi Scheitlin, President Kunstgesellschaft Luzern

Fanni Fetzer, Director Kunstmuseum Luzern

Dr. Armin Hartmann, State Councilor, Department of Education and Culture, Kanton Luzern

Barbara Hennig Marques, President Visarte Zentralschweiz

Eveline Suter, Curator *zentral! XL*

Milena von Schulthess, Curator *Solo*

«Wir sind da für die Ewigkeit»

Wednesday, 04.02., 6 pm

Conversation about the Swiss National Bank with Teo Petrucci, artist, and Fabio Canetti, monetary economist and economic journalist, moderated by Milena von Schulthess, curator

Edition Teo Petrucci

Pocket Change, 2025, printed Lego bricks with key ring, edition of 100, each CHF 50.-

Opening hours during the holidays

24./25., 31.12. closed,

26.12. and 01.01., open from 11 am to 6 pm

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