

Return of the masterpieces – reopening of the Oskar Reinhart collection ‘Am Römerholz’, Winterthur

9 May 2026

Press release

The Oskar Reinhart collection ‘Am Römerholz’ is reopening its doors on 9 May following a major renovation. The reopening sees the return of key masterpieces along with structural and conceptual changes, improvements to make the space more accessible and inclusive, and a revamped food and beverage offering. ‘Am Römerholz’ is therefore positioning itself as a newly reimagined, fully integrated artistic experience with international appeal.

A unique collection

The former residence and art gallery of collector Oskar Reinhart (1885–1965) features a concentrated selection of European masterworks. Paintings by Pieter Bruegel the Elder, Lucas Cranach the Elder, Francisco de Goya and Jean-Baptiste-Siméon Chardin create a dynamic dialogue with works by Édouard Manet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Paul Cézanne, Vincent van Gogh and early Pablo Picasso.

The collection, which was bequeathed to the Swiss Confederation in 1958, features some 200 works spanning from the Renaissance to the Modern period and is considered one of the world’s most important former private collections – in particular thanks to its outstanding holdings of French Impressionism. It regularly collaborates with institutions such as the Musée d’Orsay, the Courtauld Gallery, the National Gallery London, the Städel Museum in Frankfurt and the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna.

Modernising with care

During the closure lasting several months, the building has been extensively renovated with great sensitivity to heritage preservation. The wall surfaces have been refurbished, the wall coverings re-harmonised in terms of colour, and the hanging systems renewed in keeping with the historic originals. Upgraded environmental and lighting control systems ensure state-of-the-art conservation conditions.

Meanwhile, accessibility for people with disabilities or impairments has been improved in line with the ‘Kultur inklusiv’ label. The entrances to the building and wheelchair lift have been widened and the garden now also has step-free access.

At the same time, the historic grounds have been restored to their original state. They again take inspiration from the Mertens brothers’ landscaping concept from the early 20th century, and besides reconstructed planting schemes – including the historic espalier fruit trees – also include refurbished water basins.

International collaboration

The temporary closure of the museum was the perfect opportunity for an unusually wide-ranging collaboration with London's Courtauld Gallery.

For the first time, 25 major works left the collection in Winterthur for an exchange with another collector's museum. The exhibition 'Goya to Impressionism. Masterpieces from the Oskar Reinhart Collection' (14 February – 26 May 2025) was a resounding success, with over 100,000 visitors.

Local restaurateur takes over museum café

The reopened museum will also offer a revamped culinary offering. The café and restaurant will now be operated by top local chef Alex Bindig, former host at the outstanding Winterthur restaurant Trübli, with a rating of 16 from Gault & Millau. During the day, the venue will be a museum café open to all visitors, offering a wide range of food and beverages. In the evenings, it will bring something new to the table with its seasonal fine dining concept.

The reopening

The collection will be officially reopened on Saturday 9 May. A varied event programme, including tours of the redesigned gallery space, workshops for children and adults, and other activities, invites visitors to come and rediscover the Römerholz.

The public reopening ceremony will take place at 11am in the presence of Federal Councillor Elisabeth Baume-Schneider and Mayor Michael Künzle. Admission to the museum will be free on the opening day.

Museum opening: Saturday 9 May 2026 with press briefings

- 9am First press briefing with photo opportunity in the collection
- 11am Ceremony with Federal Councillor Elisabeth Baume-Schneider and Mayor Michael Künzle
- 11.45am Second press briefing with opportunity for short interviews

Followed by an extensive event programme and pop-up bar in the gardens.

Please register as a media representative by emailing medien@sor.admin.ch before 7 May 2026.

Further information, as well as press packs and visuals, will be available on roemerholz.ch from 1 May 2026.

Press tours will be possible at any time from 9 May 2026. For scheduling reasons, it is advisable to pre-book.

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