

ROCAILLE RAMBLES

THE EXUBERANT SIDE OF SWITZERLAND



So Switzerland is all about the aesthetics of austerity, of clear-cut Protestant ethics, and of purity at home in remote valleys – right? Not right. This Seminarweek tour will indulge in another kind of Swissness: exuberant stucco scrolls, luscious false marble, amorous tête-à-têtes in goldleaf. In the mid-18th century, the lust for life of Rococo seized architecture and the arts from high to low, from abbey church to farmer's cabinet. We will trace this culture of ornament, abundance and asymmetry from A(ppenzell) to Z(ürich) and from the German to the Rom-ontsch to the French speaking parts of the country in all its forms, and explore how this style reflected and enabled aesthetic, political and societal ambitions and liberties, and how it migrated from the spaces of the clergy and nobility to the homes of the upcoming bourgeoisie and farmers' bedrooms.

We are looking for potential drivers (in possession of a driver's license B). Please contact the chair if you are able and willing to drive: nadya.vonmoos@arch.ethz.ch