

1853

Ferdinand Hodler was born in Bern on 14 March.

1857

Filippo Franzoni was born in Locarno on 8 October.

1860

His father dies of tuberculosis. He also loses his mother, four brothers and his sister at an early age.

1867/1868

He starts an apprenticeship with the landscape painter Ferdinand Sommer, which he completes in 1870.

1872

He moves to Geneva, where he is granted permission to copy the paintings at the Musée Rath. He enrolls at the Écoles de Dessin, where his teachers include Barthélemy Menn.

1874

He wins first prize at the 1st Concours Calame. The following year he participates in an exhibition for the first time, at the Palais de l'Athénée in Geneva.

1876

He participates in the Turnus travelling exhibition for the first time. The following year he makes his first trip to Paris.

He begins studying at the Brera Academy in Milan, under Giuseppe Bertini.

1878

He completes his training at the Écoles de Dessin in Geneva. He stays in Madrid until June of the following year, when he returns to Geneva.

1881

He rents his first important studio in Grand-Rue 35. He displays his work at the Exhibition of Swiss Art in London and at the Salon de la Société des Artistes Français in Paris. These are the first showings of his work at exhibitions outside Switzerland. He works with Edouard Castres on the Bourbaki panorama, today in Lucerne.

1883

He exhibits at the Swiss National Exhibition (SNE) in Zurich. His *Alpine Landscape (The Stockhorn)* wins first prize at the 4th Concours Calame. He travels to Munich.

His first official participation in an exhibition is at the National Exhibition of Fine Arts (NEFA) in Rome and the Annual Exhibition of the Brera Academy in Milan.

1884

He exhibits his work at the Salon des Refusés in Paris.

He finishes his studies at the Brera Academy and opens a studio in Via Bossi 2 in Milan. He shows his work at the Società Promotrice delle Belle Arti in Turin, where he will exhibit again in 1887–1891 and 1893.

1885

His first solo exhibition, comprising over thirty works, is held at the Cercle des Beaux-Arts in Geneva.

He shows his work at the Società Promotrice delle Belle Arti in Genoa, where he will return in 1887.

1886

He acts a member of the jury for the first time at the Municipal Exhibition of Fine Arts (MEFA) in Geneva.

He starts to frequent the artistic and intellectual circle of Baroness Antoinette Saint Léger on the Brissago Islands. He exhibits his work at the Società di Incoraggiamento delle Belle Arti in Florence, where he will return in 1888.

1887

He holds a solo exhibition at the Kunstmuseum Bern. On 1 October he has a son, Hector, with Augustine Dupin.

He shows his work at the National Art Exhibition in Venice which he visits in August. He moves his studio to Via degli Orti 7 in Milan.

1888

His application to teach a course on the history of painting at the University of Geneva is rejected.

On 26 February he plays the cello in a chamber music concert with Antoinette Saint Léger at the piano and other musicians. In August he travels to Munich and in October to Venice. He exhibits his work at the NEFA in Bologna.

1889

He exhibits at the Universal Exposition in Paris where he receives his first honourable mention. He marries Bertha Stucki, whom he will divorce in 1891.

He travels to Venice and in October to Paris.

1890

Following the 11 September coup by the Liberals that overthrows Ticino's ruling conservative government, he goes to Bellinzona with his brother Guglielmo and Alfredo Pioda to support the revolutionaries.

Both artists show their work at the 1st Swiss National Exhibition of Fine Arts (SNEFA) in Bern. It is Franzoni's first time participating in a Swiss exhibition.

1891

His work *Die Nacht* is excluded from the MEFA in Geneva. He personally arranges for it to be displayed at the Bâtiment Électoral, achieving a great success. He uses the proceeds for a two-month stay in Paris. He exhibits at the Salon du Champ-de-Mars and becomes a member of the Société Nationale des Artistes Français.

He participates in the Turnus exhibition for the first time, at its debut in Lugano.

Hodler comes into contact with Joséphin Péladan. Through Alfredo Pioda, Franzoni also becomes familiar with the theories of the founder of the Salon de la Rose+Croix.

1892

He is invited to participate in the Salon de la Rose+Croix in Paris, where he also exhibits at the Salon du Champ-de-Mars.		Both artists exhibit their work at the 2nd SNEFA in Bern.
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1893

He stays in Ticino from 15 to 28 February, where he paints at least six landscapes of the lake and the surroundings of Locarno and one of Lake Lugano. On his return to Geneva, he exhibits 22 works at the Bâtiment Électoral, including the landscapes painted in Ticino.	At the end of April he leaves Milan for good, returning to Locarno.	Both artists show their work at the MEFA in Geneva. It is Franzoni's first time at the exhibition.
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1894

He has a solo exhibition of 23 paintings at the Bâtiment Électoral in Geneva. He also displays his work at the Salon du Champ-de-Mars in Paris.	He participates in the second Triennial Exhibition at the Brera Academy in Milan.	Both artists exhibit their work at the 3rd SNEFA in Bern.
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1895

He is a member of the jury at the MEFA in Geneva.	At the beginning of March he loses his mother (Hodler sends him a card with his condolences) and in early July his father.	The artists jointly win the second prize at the 10th Concours Calame with <i>Lake Geneva in the Evening from Chexbres</i> (Hodler) and <i>Maggia Delta</i> (Franzoni). Both painters exhibit their work at the MEFA in Geneva.
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1896

He makes more than 20 decorative paintings for the pillars of the Fine Arts Pavilion at the SNE in Geneva. On this occasion, the Swiss Confederation purchases his first painting. He starts teaching at the École des Arts et Métiers in Fribourg, where he will hold a course until 1899.	He is a member of the jury at the SNE in Geneva.	Both artists exhibit their work at the SNE in Geneva.
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1897

He wins the competition to decorate the Armoury of the Swiss National Museum in Zurich. The controversy sparked by his proposal will end in 1899 with the intervention in his favour of the Federal Council. The collector Oscar Miller purchases the first of a series of his works, <i>Worship</i> .		Both painters are members of the jury for the selection of Swiss artists and exhibit their work at the 7th International Art Exhibition in Munich. It is their first time at an international exhibition in a German-speaking area.
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1898

He marries Berthe Jacques. He exhibits at the Kunsthaus in Zurich with Cuno Amiet e Giovanni Giacometti.		Both artists exhibit their work at the 5th SNEFA in Basel.
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1899

He exhibits at the 3rd Venice Biennale.
He participates in the first Berlin Secession exhibition.

With Ferdinando Bernasconi, he wins the competition to build the theatre in Locarno, for which he decorates the hall and curtain. Oscar Miller visits him in Locarno and buys a work from him. Franzoni gives him a copy of a painting of a rainbow.

1900

In April he stays in Lugano and Locarno.
During the summer, he returns to Ticino, where he spends eight days in the Piora area with Oscar Miller.

Both painters are members of the jury for the selection of Swiss artists and exhibit their work at the Universal Exposition in Paris.

1901

Four key large-format compositions with figures, including *Die Nacht*, are added to the collection of the Kunstmuseum Bern.

The Swiss Confederation purchases a work by hm for the first time, *Maggia Delta*.
He is elected chairman of the Ticino section of the Society of Swiss Painters and Sculptors, a position he will hold until 1906.

Both painters are members of the jury and exhibit at the 6th SNEFA in Vevey, as well as participating in the 8th International Art Exhibition in Munich.

1903

He stays in Vienna for seven weeks at the invitation of Anton Loew.

He gets close to the community established on Monte Verità in Ascona, with which he will remain in contact until 1906.
He is a member of the Federal Fine Arts Commission until 1905.

1904

He displays 31 works as guest of honour at the Vienna Secession exhibition. He stays in Vienna for the entire duration of the exhibition.

He plays in the orchestra of *Pagliacci*, an opera conducted by Ruggero Leoncavallo at Locarno Theatre in early April. He stays for an extended period at Monte Verità to treat his health problems with a vegetarian diet.

Both artists exhibit their work at the International Art Exhibition in Düsseldorf.

1905

Between mid-February and mid-March he makes his first trip to Italy, with the principal aim of discovering the 14th and 15th-century masters.

On the occasion of the exhibition in Munich, the Antonio Caccia Foundation of Lugano purchases the first of his paintings, *Lodano, Maggia Valley, in the Evening*.
He exhibits in the foyer of Locarno Theatre with Edoardo Berta, Pietro Chiesa, Luigi Rossi, Hans Garnjobst and Albert Welti.

Both painters are members of the jury for the selection of Swiss artists and exhibit their work at the 9th International Art Exhibition in Munich.

1907

At the end of March/beginning of April Hodler and Franzoni meet in Locarno, where the former stops on his return from St. Moritz to Geneva.
Both artists exhibit their work at the MEFA in Geneva.
In September Franzoni visits Hodler in his studio.

1908

On 6 August he is elected national chairman of the Society of Swiss Painters, Sculptors and Architects (SSPSA), a position he will hold until 1918.

Both artists are members of the jury and exhibit their work at the 9th SNEFA in Basel.

1909

He participates in the organization and exhibits at the First International Art Exhibition of Switzerland in Interlaken.

On 3 November he is admitted to the Cantonal Neuropsychiatric Hospital in Mendrisio.

Both artists exhibit their work at the 10th International Art Exhibition in Munich.

1910

He is awarded an honorary doctorate by the faculty of philosophy of the University of Basel.

1911

He makes a second trip to Italy. He is a member of the jury for the selection of Swiss artists and exhibits at the International Exhibition of Fine Arts in Rome. He has major retrospectives in Cologne, Frankfurt, Berlin and Munich. He participates in the first exhibition of the Der Moderne Bund group in Lucerne.

On 17 March he dies in the Cantonal Neuropsychiatric Hospital in Mendrisio. The exact cause of his death remains unknown.

1913

On 13 November he has a daughter, Pauline Valentine, with Valentine Godé-Darel.

The Ticino section of the SSPSA pays tribute to him by dedicating a room in his honor at the First Exhibition of Fine Arts of Italian-speaking Switzerland at Villa Ciani in Lugano.

1914

Together with 120 other artists and intellectuals, he signs a protest against the bombing of Reims Cathedral by the German Air Force. This will result in his exclusion from all German artistic circles, with consequences for his critical reputation in Switzerland too.

1916

He commissions Carl Albert Loosli to compile a complete catalogue of his work. The following year, the Kunsthaus Zurich stages his largest retrospective, comprising over 600 pieces.

1918

On 19 May Hodler dies of pulmonary oedema at his home in Geneva.