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## Research in the Grisons

### **Discovering Davos with the smartphone app**

A new view of cultural heritage thanks to augmented reality

Simonne Bosiers and Onna Rageth, scientists at the University of Applied Sciences of the Grisons, have developed the smartphone app “Augmented Swiss Heritage” together with the company afca. ag, using technically sophisticated spatial anchors. The app has been online since this summer and makes Davos points of interest from the fields of art, culture, health and sport come alive by supporting their viewing with digital elements. Bosiers explains the idea: “The



app is aimed at young people in particular. They are mostly out and about with their smartphones. Switzerland is so rich in heritage sites, and to convey that to them, we wanted to use something they already use in their everyday lives.”

The content of the app is based on the exhibition ‘Europa auf Kur’ ([www.europa-auf-kur.gnm.de](http://www.europa-auf-kur.gnm.de)), which is on display at the Kirchner Museum Davos until

*The former Zurich sanatorium in Davos Clavadel as an interactive augmented reality puzzle. Image provided.*

October 30, 2022. ‘Europa auf Kur’ is a cooperation project between the Kirchner Museum Davos and the Germanisches Nationalmuseum Nürnberg and traces the development of Davos from a quiet mountain village to a city in Europe. Based on the exhibition catalog, cultural scientist Rageth selected the sights for the app and distributed them over four different routes. Users can choose between the routes ‘Flüela’, ‘Wildbodenhaus’, ‘Schatzalpbahn’ and ‘Promenade’ as well as currently 28 sights on their adventure tour through the Davos landscape. Rageth cites a concrete example of an augmentation idea: “In the Kirchner Museum Davos is the unique bed that Ernst Ludwig Kirchner carved for his partner Erna Schilling. When you stand in front of the bed, you can view a portrait of Erna painted by Kirchner in the app. Using lip-sync animation, it comes to life and ‘Erna’ narrates why the bed is so remarkable.”

Bosiers, a lecturer in Multimedia Production, is responsible for the technical implementation of the app: “Since the whole venture is also a research project, we have thoroughly researched, defined and documented the entire creation and production process of the app. We are using the app to investigate how we can improve the user experience of augmented reality applications in terms of conscious experience and active participation. Another project goal is

for the app to be used as a template for other destinations. Therefore, we have worked out the basics - processes, technical know-how and quality criteria - for a Swiss-wide replication. The app is constantly being refined. We are currently working on a second release with more features and ten more attractions.” Onna Rageth will present the project on Thursday, September 22, at “Graubünden forscht” in Davos.

Simonne Bosiers, Onna Rageth und Daniela Heinen

The Augmented Swiss Heritage-App can be downloaded here: Apple Store <https://apps.apple.com/ch/app/augmented-swiss-heritage/id1601190019>; Google Play: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.afca.ag.ASHContentTester>

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*Simonne Bosiers. Image provided.*