It is always interesting to discover what people from other countries and cultures find fascinating about our city. Take, for example, Wu Tsang and her partner, Tosh Basco, who have been working as artists in residence at the Zurich Schauspielhaus theatre for the past three years. Their production of *Orpheus* will be celebrating its premiere shortly. Next spring, they will be following this up with a monumental deconstruction of *Moby Dick*.

For a star of the art world, and from Los Angeles to boot, you might think that living in Zurich would be a palpable change of scenery. And yet, there seems to be something appealing, nearly magical, at the very least magnetic, about our way of living here.

That is why we have dedicated an extensive portfolio in this issue to precisely these pioneers who have recognised an opportunity for a sweeter life, far from their home, here in Zurich: The Italians. It is thanks to them that Zurich has become the most elegant and, above all, the most delicious city north of the Alps.

And perhaps it also works for Zurich's lifestyle: our city, the crew of which is international to a high degree. Plus, something many people don't discover for themselves until they first come here: we have an abundance of water. Zurich lives from and with its water, everywhere. In summer, people cover the few metres from the city centre to the lakeside before and after work to go for a swim or cool off there. In addition, there are more than a thousand fountains scattered throughout the city, and crystal-clear water gushes out of all of them, all the time. Early in the morning, many can be seen filling their water bottles with the day's supply.

And even though we may be accused of having a very dry sense of humour, you can be sure that Zurich is very close to water.

Welcome, please dive right in!

Martin Sturzenegger Beda Achermann