



Plakat, Weniger Lärm, 1960  
Erscheinungsland: Schweiz  
Gestaltung: Josef Müller-Brockmann  
Fotografie: Peter Huber  
Auftrag: Konferenz der Städtischen  
Sicherheitsdirektorinnen und -direktoren, KSSD,  
Zürich, CH  
Material/Technik: Offset  
42 × 29,5 cm  
Eigentum: Museum für Gestaltung Zürich / ZHdK

The woman's face, contorted in pain, grabs the viewer's attention. The entire focus in the radical composition of Josef Müller-Brockmann's (1914–1996) 1960 poster is on this photograph, accompanied by two words: "weniger Lärm" (less noise). Müller-Brockmann thus created a strong signal protesting the noise pollution that since the 1950s was becoming an ever greater problem.

In the 1930s, the car and the airplane began to be celebrated as symbols of progress. A fascination with technology and the cult of speed also found new expression in the poster. With his well-known prevention posters for the Automobile Club of Switzerland in the early 1950s, Josef Müller-Brockmann drew the public's attention instead to the dangerous side of this new mobility. In collaboration with Ernst A. Heiniger (1909–1993), and later with Serge Libiszewski (b. 1930), he focused for the first time in these posters on the use of photography. The dramatic blow-up effects did not fail to have the desired impact. By the 1950s, the issue of noise pollution was also coming to the fore, initially in the form of construction and aircraft noise. For his poster *weniger Lärm* (Less Noise), Müller-Brockmann

once again relied on photography, this time with the oversized depiction of a face. The image of a woman covering both ears with her hands, tilted fifty degrees, is wedged into the picture space in such a way that her entire body echoes the pain expressed on her face. Her cropped arms create a diagonal that works with the line formed by the head and the typography to form a cross signaling opposition. The seeming simplicity of the composition is precisely what makes it so effective—something Müller-Brockmann was unable to achieve in his other drafts for the project. The 2003 protest poster against noise pollution caused by air traffic references Müller-Brockmann's classic. (Bettina Richter)

<https://www.eguide.ch/en/objekt/weniger-laerm-2/>