The new banknote. Easy to check.

Remember this man’s picture.

The portrait on the front side of the 100 franc banknote shows Alberto Giacometti (1901–1966), one of the 20th century’s most important sculptors. Giacometti made his reputation in the thirties, with sculptural works in the Surrealist style. But it was his later figures that brought him wide fame. The characteristic Giacometti style first appeared in 1946: attenuated figures which seem almost massless and weightless. The female figures are seen frontally, with feet together, arms pressed to their sides and almost like a stick. The males are usually standing. The figures seem solitary and somehow far-off. In his work Giacometti was trying to render the complexity and the brimming experiences of reality. This is also apparent in his painting, which is highly expressive and stripped of all illusion.

Get to know the sculptural side of your banknote.

"Lute II" (1956)

This banknote shows Giacometti’s fascination with surfaces. They underline a shock the sculpture emanates, associated with the appearance of low relief. The unworn edges of the lines make an intensive play of light and shade.

"Homme qui marche I" (1960)

The 100 franc banknote from four different perspectives is one of Giacometti’s best-known works. The use and balance of line has captured a physical movement. For this, Giacometti’s figures are characterized by a sense of movement even in their stillness.

Time-space relationship

This banknote stems from Giacometti’s 1946 drawing "Der Gelehrte", in which the artist aimed to express his experience. Giacometti lived a restless existence, recognized as a human being, the individual, subject to space, and at the same time part of the edge of the current stream.
Why issue new banknotes?

In 1995 the Swiss National Bank began to emit a new series of banknotes. The new series is dedicated to six famous Swiss whose contributions to cultural life have brought them international recognition.

Among them is the sculptor and painter Alberto Giacometti, whose portrait appears on the 100 franc banknote. It completes the new banknote series.

We are pleased to introduce the new 100 Franc banknote. Like the 200 and 1000 franc banknotes, it has an additional security feature. The six security features make it easy to check the authenticity of the banknotes. The Swiss National Bank provides its banknotes with these special security features to prevent counterfeiting. The rapid development of printing and copying technologies makes it necessary to update the security features used on the banknotes from time to time. The 100 franc banknotes currently in circulation remain valid and will gradually be replaced by the new 100 franc banknotes.

Swiss National Bank

The most important security features of your banknote

Discover your banknote in six different ways.

1. The magic number
   - The number 100 is printed in a shimmering, transparent colour. Depending on how the light falls on the banknote, the number reflects light in different degrees and becomes larger and smaller.

2. The coloured number
   - A registered trademark. If you rub the coloured number on a sheet of paper, it will leave distinct traces.

3. The moving number
   - The number 100 is embossed. If you hold the banknote in the light, the number 100 will seem to be a perforated number.

4. The perforated number
   - The number 100 is embossed. If you hold the banknote in the light, the number 100 will seem to be a perforated number.

5. The chameleon number
   - The number 100 is embossed. With a special ink and orange colour depending on how the light falls on the banknote, it will appear black or orange. This ink only leaves a visible mark if the colour of the chameleon number changes.

6. The glimmering number
   - The number 100 is embossed. The number seems to shimmer and is printed in a shimmering, transparent colour. Depending on how the light falls on the banknote, the number reflects light in different degrees and becomes larger and smaller.