

MEDIA RELEASE

Zurich and Lausanne, 27 May 2013



Lausanne University / Anthropole: home to the *Antenne romande*
Photo: Saskja Rosset

SIK-ISEA's *Antenne romande* is 25

The success story of SIK-ISEA's base in Western Switzerland

The *Antenne romande* of the Swiss Institute for Art Research (SIK-ISEA) is celebrating its 25th anniversary. It plays an important role in the research world of Romandie as a centre for documents about artistic production in Western Switzerland and also as a partner and service provider in academic matters. Paul-André Jaccard, who has headed the *Antenne romande* since it opened, will be leaving the Institute to take his retirement. His designated successor is Sarah Burkhalter, who holds a doctorate in art history.

A brief history

Ever since its foundation in 1988, the western base of the Swiss Institute for Art Research (SIK-ISEA) under Paul-André Jaccard's leadership has been devoted to artistic activity in Romandie, engaging in research, documentation and disseminating information. When SIK-ISEA decided to open its *Antenne romande*, the Institute contacted the University of Lausanne, which at the time was gradually moving out of the city centre to the campus in Dorigny. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Prof. Dr Philippe Junod, then Professor of Art History, the first agreement between the Rector of UNIL (Prof. Dr André Delessert) and SIK-ISEA was concluded in 1982. Dr Hans A. Lüthy, the former managing director of SIK-ISEA, and his successor Dr Hans-Jörg Heusser strengthened the project team and intensified the existing programme. The agreement between the University of Lausanne and SIK-ISEA was ratified in July 1985 and then renewed in 2009. UNIL provided the premises and infrastructure, while SIK-ISEA recruited the researchers and paid their salary. The 25th anniversary of the *Antenne romande* coincides with a major event in its history: Paul-André Jaccard, who has managed the base in Western Switzerland from the outset, will be retiring from his post in the summer of 2013. His successor Dr Sarah Burkhalter will take over the reins in August 2013 and will work with a proven team – Caroline Anderes, Aglaja Kempf, Sheila Jacolet, not to mention the interns who regularly come and go – to develop these activities further.

Documentation

The principal aim of the *Antenne romande* has always been to make the Institute's complete photographic archives available to the community in Western Switzerland. Since 1992 the photothèque has been consulted regularly by researchers. The photographic collection has now been digitalised and can be viewed via SIK-ISEA's own in-house database. One of its main activities, parallel to the work done in Zurich, is to document artistic output in Western Switzerland. This means sifting through the major daily newspapers in the region, recording exhibitions and collecting information about galleries and artists. The first results of that work fed into the "Directory of Swiss Artists 1980–1990" published in 1991. To build on this core lexicographic function, the Institute began work in 1994 on compiling the "Biographical Lexicon of Swiss Art" (BLSK). The *Antenne romande* identifies authors for the contributions, edits the articles, ensures that data are complete and uploads the illustrations.

Managing publication projects

The *Antenne romande* also manages ventures of its own – both research projects and publications. In this function it provides a service that is surely unique in Western Switzerland, offering authors the competent support they need, including meticulous copy editing for their manuscripts, organising photographs and procuring the funding to publish their works. Seminal *catalogue raisonnées* produced by the *Antenne romande* are: «Charles Gleyre: Life and Work» (1996), «Auguste de Niederhäusern-Rodo» (2001), «Félix Vallotton: L'œuvre peint» (2005), «James Pradier» (2010).

Managing research projects and partnerships

The *Antenne romande* fosters close links with the universities in Western Switzerland, and these contacts are, inevitably, particularly close with the University of Lausanne. The research community benefits above all from direct access to the photothèque and the artist files and from the chance to explore the archives of this SIK-ISEA base. The *Antenne romande* also carries out vitally important work by providing academic consultancy for seminars and undergraduate dissertations. The centre has provided the inspiration, support and expertise for a dozen or so dissertations in recent years. Similarly, the *Antenne romande* collaborated with the universities of Lausanne, Geneva and Neuchâtel to produce the «Catalogue des collections du Musée des beaux-arts de La Chaux-de-Fonds» (2007). At the same time, a research project on «La formation des artistes suisses à l'Ecole des beaux-arts de Paris, 1793–1863» was pursued together with the University of Neuchâtel (Prof. Pascal Griener). This fruitful cooperation with the University of Neuchâtel then continued with the research project «Léopold Robert: Correspondance d'artistes». Lecture cycles have been held jointly with the universities in Western Switzerland. One of these, organised together with the History department at UNIL, was devoted to the «Marché de l'art en Suisse». Internships are available for students, while researchers and postgraduates working on their doctoral thesis are able to take part in SIK-ISEA projects run from both Zurich and Lausanne.

Contact for more information

Sandra Ruff, Head of Communications, SIK-ISEA, Zollikerstrasse 32, Postbox 1124, CH-8032 Zurich
www.sik-isea.ch, sandra.ruff@sik-isea.ch, T +41 44 388 51 36