

MEDIA RELEASE

Zurich, 25 May 2009

Launch of the «Digital Catalogue Raisoné Aloïse»

The Swiss Institute for Art Research (SIK-ISEA) in Zurich and Lausanne and the Fondation Aloïse in Chigny VD have agreed to work together to prepare the output of Lausanne artist Aloïse (1886–1964) for publication. From 2011 the prolific œuvre of this internationally renowned proponent of art brut will be published in the form of a digital catalogue raisonné on the Institute's Web platform www.sik-isea.ch.

The Lausanne-born Aloïse Corbaz (1886–1964), known as Aloïse, lived from 1918 until her death in two psychiatric institutions in the Canton of Vaud, and here she generated a sizeable œuvre (about 780 works, many with a front and back, and 37 sketchbooks). In 1941 the doctor Jacqueline Porret-Forel got to know Aloïse; from that point on she systematically recorded her work, evaluated it and made it available to a broad public through numerous publications and exhibitions. The first time that works by Aloïse were presented in an artistic context was in 1948, when the French artist Jean Dubuffet showed her at the Compagnie de l'Art Brut in Paris; since then she has been regarded as one of the major proponents of art brut. In 1972 Dubuffet donated his own collection to the City of Lausanne, on condition that it would be accessible to the public. The Collection de l'Art Brut was consequently opened in 1976, and 116 of the works in it are by Aloïse. Major groups can also be found in the following public collections: Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts in Lausanne, Kunstmuseum Solothurn, Musée d'art moderne Lille Métropole in Villeneuve d'Ascq, Museum im Lagerhaus in St. Gallen, La Fabuloserie in Dicy, the Irish Museum of Modern Art in Dublin and the American Folk Art Museum in New York.

Collaborative scholarship

There is still no systematic catalogue of Aloïse's prolific output. A digital catalogue raisonné on the œuvre of Aloïse will now be compiled, thanks to close collaboration between the Swiss Institute for Art Research (SIK-ISEA) in Zurich and Lausanne and the Fondation Aloïse based in Chigny (Canton Vaud).

As a national documentation and research centre on Swiss art, SIK-ISEA is the ideal partner for this demanding task. The Institute has already produced a number of seminal catalogues raisonnés on Swiss artists and had experience in online publishing. SIK-ISEA is supporting the project with academic and technical consultancy, and making its own database available for the work. In this manner, the Institute can ensure that the digital catalogue raisonné Aloïse will meet the criteria to go live on its Web platform at www.sik-isea.ch and to be searched using SIK-ISEA's online lexicon (www.sikart.ch). That will guarantee wide dissemination.

The Fondation Aloïse will fund the compilation of the catalogue raisonné. It will also take responsibility for the scientific inventory of the works, collecting and classifying bibliographical data, establishing provenance and evidence of exhibitions for each work, and will obtain detailed commentaries from Dr. Porret-Forel. The Fondation Aloïse is furthermore to act as a contact and information hub for owners of the artist's works.

The production of the digital catalogue raisonné is being funded by various institutions, foundations and private benefactors.



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