

PORTRAIT

The Swiss Institute for Art Research



SIK ISEA

THE INSTITUTE



Art and Research

For the last seven decades, the Swiss Institute for Art Research (SIK-ISEA) has been Switzerland's leading centre of competence in art history and art technology. Our core activities are research, documentation, the dissemination of knowledge and the provision of services in the field of fine arts. Our focus lies with the production of art in Switzerland from the Middle Ages until the present day.

The Institute operates all over Switzerland with headquarters in Zurich, an Antenne romande at the University of Lausanne and an Ufficio di contatto at the Museo d'arte della Svizzera italiana (MASI) in Lugano. We are an independent, not-for-profit research institution and we make carefully verified information available to an interested public in both analogue and digital form. At a time of growing uncertainty about the origin and quality of data, we guarantee reliable information about Swiss art past and present.

By supplying expertise, holding public events, providing training and engaging in research partnerships, SIK-ISEA promotes dialogue between stakeholders in the national and international art and research communities. As a place where students can learn and work, the Institute plays an important role in acquainting junior academics with professional practice.

Innovative and robust

SIK-ISEA carries out research on questions of art history and art technology. Drawing on a wide range of methods, these projects address themes around art and its exhibition and sale in Switzerland. Catalogues raisonnés and catalogues about specific collections are a core feature of our investigations in the field of art history. This type of basic research often calls for innovative approaches and generates extremely robust results. Costs are covered by third-party competitive funding, private donations and revenue from services.

The research we conduct with our art technology has centred on the technical aspects of painting around 1900 and the effects of ageing in pigments and binders. The conditions for this work are excellent, thanks to the close links between technological and historical research and access to the archives held by the Institute. The art technology services we provide also generate valuable findings, helping to enhance our knowledge about the genesis of works, their preservation status and their date of origin.

[Our research projects are published online](#)

www.sik-isea.ch

RESEARCH



PUBLICATIONS

Print and digital

Research outcomes at the Institute feed into publications in both print and digital formats. These frequently set new standards not only for content, but also for methodologies and technical applications. Series such as our “Catalogues Raisonnés of Swiss Artists”, “Catalogues of Swiss Museums and Collections”, “outlines” and “KUNSTmaterial” are long-established references for the discipline. The spectrum is broadened by thematic publications, editions of letters and facsimiles; these ventures are often founded on close collaboration with partner institutions and experts from museums and universities.

A growing proportion of our books are available online free of charge, ensuring the widest possible dissemination of knowledge. Apart from our own research and publication projects, SIK-ISEA also produces books by contractual arrangement.

Do you have a book project we can help to publish?
We look forward to hearing from you.

Publications

T +41 44 388 51 56
publications@sik-isea.ch

Our publications are available online

www.sik-isea.ch

EVENTS AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Dialogue

The Institute offers a forum for specialist exchange and debate around research findings. This takes the form of lectures, workshops and conferences open to both experienced experts and junior academics. Interested members of the public are also welcome. The Villa Bleuler Gespräche are entirely devoted to contemporary art production: artists present their current work and discuss it with art critics and the audience.

Our one-year course “Applied art studies: materials and techniques” provides continuing education for professionals, enabling them to acquire practical insights in art studies and build their skills. Teaching in specialist museums and research institutes introduces the participants to Switzerland’s leading centres of competence in the field of art research. And by examining objects themselves they gain valuable experience.

Our events and courses are published online

www.sik-isea.ch

LIBRARY



Knowledge warehouse

The Library is open to the public for reading on site. It specialises in the art and art history of Switzerland and contains some 143,000 books and periodicals. The collection can be searched online by using the Swiss library union catalogue.

Big sections are devoted to exhibition and collection catalogues and catalogues raisonnés from Switzerland and abroad, international publications on art theory and art technology, journals of art scholarship and auction catalogues. These holdings are complemented by the “Prof. Eduard Hüttinger Library / Annette Bühler Donation” specialising in European art history and the “Dr Willi Raeber Donation” for the study of Swiss alpine painting in the 18th and 19th centuries. The “Carola Giedion-Welcker Special Collection” enhances the SIK-ISEA Library in the field of pre-war and post-war avant-garde art.

Members of the public can use our Library from Mondays to Fridays between 1.30 and 5.30 pm. Friends from the Association for the Promotion of SIK-ISEA also have access from 9.30 am to 12 noon.

Library

T +41 44 388 51 60

library@sik-isea.ch

Library catalogue

www.sik-isea.ch/library

Competent advice

SIK-ISEA creates inventories of Swiss art in private and public collections either on its own initiative or by contract. This has enabled the Institute to compile a detailed record of historical and contemporary art production in Switzerland. As a centre of competence in the field of Swiss art, SIK-ISEA provides scientific expertise on paintings and graphic works by Swiss artists and performs valuations of single objects or collections for insurance or probate purposes. We also provide an appraisal service to determine damage or impairments in compensation cases. SIK-ISEA offers consultancy for collectors wishing to evaluate their holdings and for companies and individuals seeking to define a collection strategy. An advice centre based at the Institute provides information on how to manage artists' estates.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Inventory

T +41 44 388 51 30
inventories@sik-isea.ch

Expertise and appraisals

T +41 44 388 51 40
expertise@sik-isea.ch

Consultancy

T +41 44 388 51 30
consultancy@sik-isea.ch

EXPERTISE AND APPRAISALS



RESEARCH PORTAL AND
SIKART LEXICON

Digital tools

SIK-ISEA's online research portal grants access to a unique wealth of well-researched information about Swiss art and art history, including biographical data about artists, reproductions of works, lexicon entries, details of exhibitions and secondary literature, digitised documents, artist videos and digital catalogues raisonnés. Combined search options and applications optimised for tablet and smartphone use make this an innovative research tool for anyone interested in Swiss art.

A key component is the SIKART *Lexicon of Swiss Art*, which is updated daily by the editorial team. This multilingual reference work contains more than 17,000 entries on contemporary and historical artists, with about 1,800 detailed biographies and thematic articles, over 23,000 reproductions of works and pointers to current events in the art world.

[Visit our research portal and consult SIKART](#)

www.research.sik-isea.ch

www.sikart.ch

SWISS ART ARCHIVES

Back to source

The Swiss Art Archives are a specialist, open-access resource offering an extensive collection of letters, photographs, sketch-books, diaries, records of works and exhibitions and press clippings relating to Swiss art from the 19th to the 21st century. There are two sections: the Document Collection and the Fonds Collection.

The roots of the Swiss Art Archives date back to the foundation of SIK-ISEA in 1951. Today, the Document Collection contains material on approximately 20,000 artists and art institutions. The Fonds Collection contains personal papers from the estates of more than 330 well-known Swiss artists.

The Art Archives publish data about artists and documents relating to the art world in Switzerland – not only in the online lexicon SIKART, but also in our Virtual Showcases. Regular guided tours and talks on selected documents provide deeper insights into the archive holdings. Our team are on hand to explain how you can make the best use of these resources and will be happy to retrieve documents for you to view, subject to advance request. The manuscripts have been published online (www.sik-isea.ch/artarchives).

[The Art Archives can be visited by prior arrangement](#)

T +41 44 388 51 04

artarchives@sik-isea.ch

PHOTOGRAPHY, DIGITAL IMAGING AND ARCHIVES



In the picture

Taking professional photographs of artworks has always been one of the Institute's core skills. Either in our own studio or in situ, SIK-ISEA generates colour-proof, high-resolution photographs of paintings, prints, sculptures, installations, art in the built environment, applied art, artists' studios and exhibition views. Apart from reproductions, the Institute specialises in scientific techniques such as multispectral photography and photogrammetry to aid in-depth examination and documentation. We can also digitise analogue photographs. SIK-ISEA's image archives contain about 100,000 photographs of Swiss art from the Middle Ages to the present day. Our team can assist with searches and supply you with high-quality visual material.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Photography

T +41 44 388 51 75

photography@sik-isea.ch

Image editing

T +41 44 388 51 02

imageediting@sik-isea.ch

Photo archives

T +41 44 388 51 07

photoarchiving@sik-isea.ch

Close up

Service provision is a cornerstone of art technology at SIK-ISEA. Paintings, polychrome sculptures and contemporary objects are all examined and treated in our conservation and restoration workshop, while our science laboratory performs material analysis in support of our own research and for our clients. Other services include authenticity examinations, condition reports and consultancy.

Diversity creates synergy: our restoration team and natural scientists work closely with our photographer and help our art historians to draw up expert reports and appraisals or to clarify genesis, chronology and authenticity for a catalogue raisonné.

Art technology at SIK-ISEA is almost as old as the Institute itself. The founders had already defined a role for it in their vision. Within a few years it was well established and has always kept pace with new developments in practice, theory and research.

We look forward to hearing from you.

[Conservation, restoration, authenticity examinations](#)

T +41 44 388 51 71
restoration@sik-isea.ch

[Scientific analysis](#)

T +41 44 388 51 01
analysis@sik-isea.ch

[Information about our analytical techniques is available online](#)

www.sik-isea.ch

CONSERVATION, RESTORATION AND MATERIAL ANALYSIS



BECOME A MEMBER



Stay in tune

Join the association for friends of SIK-ISEA. Your membership will help our unique Swiss institution to carry out projects and meet our research objectives. It will also bring you valuable opportunities to join other art lovers in making new discoveries and preserving Switzerland's cultural heritage. At lectures and guided tours you will meet the staff of our Institute and gain personal insights into art and research.

YOUR BENEFITS

Friend / Young Friend

- Take part in discussions, guided tours and visits and learn about new trends in art and recent research.
- As a Young Friend, look behind the scenes of the art world at events organised especially with you in mind.
- You can use our library in the mornings, not only at the regular opening times.

Sponsor

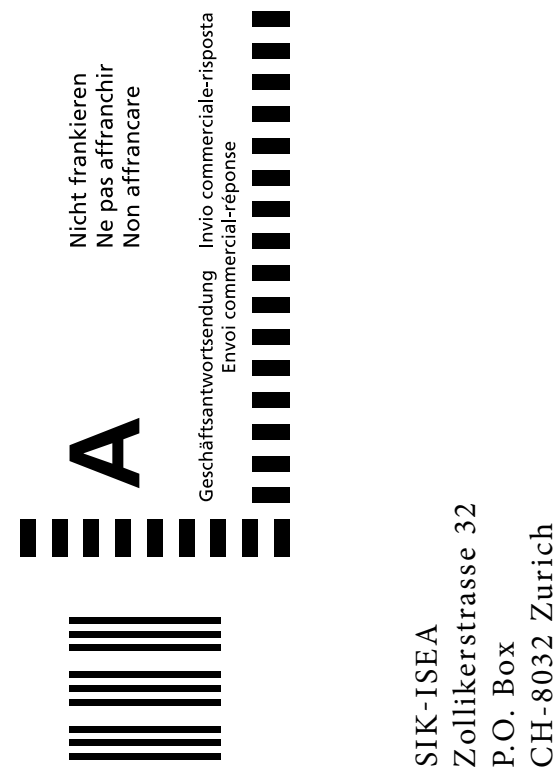
In addition to the above benefits:

- You will be invited to the annual reception with a keynote address.
- You will receive the annual special publication.

Benefactor

In addition to the above benefits:

- You will visit private collections and enjoy insights into spheres of the art world that are not easily accessible.
- You will be invited to join the annual art tour, spending a few days at an unusual destination.



I wish to join the association.

Choose a membership format (annual fee)

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend | CHF 100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young Friend (under 30) | CHF 40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor | CHF 250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | CHF 1000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Company | _____ (from CHF 1000) |

Surname

Forename

Date of birth (Young Friends)

Company

Contact

Street, no.

Postcode, town

E-mail

Telephone

Place, date

Signature

For more details, to apply online or to make a gift of membership: www.sik-isea.ch/membership,

T +41 44 388 51 32

SIK-ISEA

Zollikerstrasse 32

P.O. Box

CH-8032 Zurich

T +41 44 388 51 51

sik@sik-isea.ch

www.sik-isea.ch

www.facebook.com/SIKISEA

SIK-ISEA

Antenne romande

UNIL-Chamberonne, Anthropole

CH-1015 Lausanne

T +41 21 692 30 96

isea@sik-isea.ch

SIK-ISEA

Ufficio di Contatto per la Svizzera italiana

c/o Museo d'arte della Svizzera italiana

Via Canova 10

CH-6900 Lugano

T +41 91 921 01 83

documentazione@sik-isea.ch

Bank account

IBAN CH76 0483 5030 8188 4100 0

BIC CRESCHZZ80A

Book a guided tour of SIK-ISEA's

Zurich headquarters at Villa Bleuer:

T +41 44 388 51 32, sik@sik-isea.ch

© 2021 Swiss Institute for

Art Research (SIK-ISEA)

text / design: SIK-ISEA

layout: Notice Design GmbH

photography: SIK-ISEA, Zurich

translation: Kate Vanovitch



SIK ISEA

Schweizerisches Institut für Kunstwissenschaft

Institut suisse pour l'étude de l'art

Istituto svizzero di studi d'arte

Swiss Institute for Art Research