

**MEDIA RELEASE**

Zurich, 9 May 2018



Jean Lacroix (?), *Ferdinand Hodler in the photographer's studio*, 1883  
Archives Jura Brüscheweiler

**New publication:****Ferdinand Hodler: Catalogue raisonné der Gemälde, volume 4: *Biografie und Dokumente***

**On 17 May 2018 at the Museum of Fine Arts in Bern and on 22 May at the Villa Bleuler in Zurich, the Swiss Institute for Art Research (SIK-ISEA) will present the fourth volume of its comprehensive publication devoted to Ferdinand Hodler, the *Catalogue raisonné der Gemälde*. This volume contains the artist's biography and documents about his life. It concludes the biggest study on Hodler and the most extensive research project undertaken by SIK-ISEA. The work was led by Oskar Bätschmann and Paul Müller. The essays on Hodler's life were contributed by Marie Therese Bätschmann, Oskar Bätschmann, Regula Bolleter, Monika Brunner and Paul Müller.**

Ferdinand Hodler (1853–1918), the most prominent Swiss painter at the turn of the twentieth century, broke free from artistic conventions and experimented with new techniques in his landscapes and portraits and also in his monumental figure paintings, where he drew on elements of historicism and symbolism, reaping acclaim far beyond the country's borders. Hodler produced approximately 1,700 paintings and several thousand drawings and sketches.

The Swiss Institute for Art Research (SIK-ISEA) has been cataloguing works by Ferdinand Hodler ever since its foundation in 1951 and studying them with the aid of its technological resources. In the process, the Institute has evolved into a centre of competence for Hodler research. The project for a *catalogue raisonné* of paintings by Ferdinand Hodler was launched in 1998. The volumes successively brought out between 2008 and 2017 were devoted to the landscapes, portraits and figure paintings, along with some animal depictions and still lifes. The fourth and last volume, which will coincide with the centenary of Ferdinand Hodler's death, includes a detailed biography of the artist, a selection of his writings, a documented chronology and an addendum listing newly discovered works.

The volume includes essays on major aspects of Hodler's life as an artist. The authors set out to produce a critical biography for our own times. This called for a review of long-established narratives which have meanwhile acquired the status of legends. The aim was to document key events in Hodler's life, important periods in his artistic development, beginning with his apprenticeship in Thun and his studies in Geneva, and his successful record of participation in competitions and exhibitions. The book describes Hodler's remarkable international career, with shows in Switzerland, France, Austria and Germany. He was also given major commissions in Switzerland and Germany. However, he did not manage to complete all these many ventures, and one contribution is therefore devoted to his unfinished projects. The essays are followed by a detailed chronology founded on research by Milena Oehy, Danièle

Rinderknecht and the authors. The volume is rounded off by an annex containing the addenda, an essay on forgeries and the bibliography.

The project was supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (SAGW) and numerous well-known cultural foundations and private benefactors.

### **Printed edition and online access**

Ferdinand Hodler (1853–1918). *Catalogue raisonné der Gemälde*, volume 4: Biografie und Dokumente

Published by SIK-ISEA, Zurich; distributed by Scheidegger & Spiess, Zurich  
23.5 x 32 cm, 328 pages, 306 illustrations, woven, linen with embossed spine, headband, 2 ribbon markers, colour dust jacket, slipcase. CHF 160, subscription price CHF 120 (until 31 July 2018). The publication is part of the series «Œvrekataloge Schweizer Künstler und Künstlerinnen» and can be ordered online via [www.sik-isea.ch](http://www.sik-isea.ch) (Publications). Order forms for submission by post can be obtained from SIK-ISEA.

The digital version of the *catalogue raisonné* of paintings by Ferdinand Hodler ([www.ferdinand-hodler.ch](http://www.ferdinand-hodler.ch)) offers additional search options to those provided in the print version and permits rapid access to all substantive data relating to his oeuvre. As the oeuvre is embedded within the virtual environment of SIKART Lexicon of Art in Switzerland ([www.sikart.ch](http://www.sikart.ch)), this broader context enables the work of Ferdinand Hodler to be studied against the full backdrop of art production in Switzerland.

### **Order this publication**

#### **Contact for further details**

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