

MEDIA RELEASE

Zurich, 19 May 2009

Digital Catalogue Raisonné Ferdinand Hodler online!

To commemorate the 91st anniversary of the death of Swiss artist Ferdinand Hodler (1853–1918), the Swiss Institute for Art Research (SIK-ISEA) will upload the digital version of the catalogue raisonné of landscape paintings on 19th May 2009. Anyone who owns a printed copy of the catalogue raisonné will be able to research all the landscape paintings of this major artist online at www.sik-isea.ch in return for a small subscription fee. Compared with the printed version, the digital catalogue provides a number of innovative search options, making it a unique tool for scholars and the interested public alike.

When the two volumes constituting the landscape section of the catalogue – “Ferdinand Hodler. Catalogue Raisonné of Paintings. The Landscapes” (Zurich: Scheidegger & Spiess, 2008, ISBN 978-3-85881-244-5; CHF 640.- or CHF 720.- including online access) – appeared in October 2008, SIK-ISEA achieved a milestone in the systematic scholarship that has been devoted here to the most significant Swiss artist at the turn from the 19th to the 20th century. The catalogue of Hodler’s paintings was compiled over a number of years by our research team at SIK-ISEA led by Prof. Dr. Oskar Bätschmann and lic. phil. Paul Müller. Other volumes will follow in coming years (portraits, figure paintings, biography with documentation on Hodler’s life and work).

The foundation for this monumental opus has been laid by the SIK-ISEA database, in which the Institute has systematically collected information on artistic output and the art sector in Switzerland. Selected data have been accessible since 2006 through the SIKART *Lexicon and Database* (www.sikart.ch). The database is constantly growing, and will continue to supply the basis during future research projects for publications in book and Web-based formats.

Dynamic search options

The SIK-ISEA database is now also generating the digital catalogue raisonné on Ferdinand Hodler for Web-based use. This will permit new options for dynamic searches, i.e. the ability to combine different criteria, such as title, year of origin, exhibition, literary reference or general key words, in any way. A full text search completes this spectrum. The data on individual paintings, publications and exhibitions are constantly updated by dedicated staff. Because Hodler’s work is embedded within the virtual environment of the SIKART online lexicon, it can be studied within the context of artistic production in Switzerland as a whole.

The project “Ferdinand Hodler: Catalogue Raisonné of Paintings” is being funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation and by many reputed cultural foundations and private benefactors.

Order publication

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