



**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

## SIKART Lexicon on Art in Switzerland

### Artists: selection criteria

Entries will be made for artists

- who work or have worked primarily in the visual arts;
- who have created verifiably autonomous works (in the case of historic artists);
- who were or are regularly present with solo or group exhibitions in professional art institutions and take part in recognized festivals;
- who held or hold Swiss or Liechtenstein citizenship, or who were or are active within the current borders of Switzerland or of the Principality of Liechtenstein for a protracted period.

The SIKART Lexicon will not include artists who worked or work exclusively in the applied arts.

Our editors allocate all artists to categories ranging from ●○○○○ to ●●●●●. The reception level – in other words, the length of the entries and articles – is determined on the basis of these categories. We attempt to grade the artists according to objective criteria (public reception: publications, participation in exhibitions, grants and awards, purchases for collections, etc.) and art-historical aspects. We shall be pleased to hear your **criticisms and suggestions**.

Wherever possible, the following basic data is provided for artists in all categories:

- Name and variants
- Dates of birth and death
- Nationality
- CV/brief description of activity
- Areas of activity
- Lexica entries
- Website (artist) / Hyperlinks to artist's estates

Entries for artists in categories ●●●○○, ●●●●○ and ●●●●● will also be complemented by additional, thoroughly researched articles (of 3,600, 7,200, 10,800 characters respectively) featuring a biography and appraisal of their work. The appropriate specialists will be commissioned to write these articles – of which there are 1,900 in 2021. The entries will be supplemented by lists of literature for further reading and illustrations. The length of the entry is subject to modifications when historical sources are sparse or if the artist has worked only partially in Switzerland.

●●●●● (Approximately 0.5% of all artists)

Historic artists (primary focus on work up to the mid-20th century) with a distinctive œuvre that is the subject of continuous discussion among art researchers. The work of these artists is represented in museums of international repute and internationally acknowledged in specialist circles.

Contemporary artists who receive prestigious awards, and have created a distinctive œuvre that occupies a lastingly exemplary position in artistic discussion. The work of these artists is represented in museums of international repute and internationally acknowledged in specialist circles.

●●●●○ (Approximately 1.5% of all artists)

Historic artists whose works are represented in museums and collections of national or international repute. Their œuvre is the subject of several individual publications in the field of art research.

Contemporary artists who have received important awards, whose œuvre is acknowledged in current artistic discussion, and whose works are represented in museums, galleries and collections of national or international repute. Numerous solo exhibitions in museums and professionally managed galleries of national or international repute. In the case of artists who focus on art in public spaces, what counts is recognition from professional circles and the number of projects realized. Their work is the subject of numerous individual publications in the field of art research.

●●●○○ (Approximately 9% of all artists)

Historic artists whose works are represented in museums and collections of national repute. Their œuvre is the subject of individual publications in the field of art research.

Contemporary artists who have received numerous awards, and whose works are represented in museums, galleries and collections of national repute. Numerous solo exhibitions in museums and professionally managed galleries of national repute. In the case of artists who focus on art in public spaces, what counts is recognition from professional circles and the number of projects realized. Their œuvre is the subject of several individual publications in the field of art research.

●●○○○ (Approximately 44% of all artists)

Historic artists who have created a regionally prominent œuvre and whose work is the subject of publications in the field of art research.

Contemporary artists who have received certain grants and awards, and whose works are represented in museums, galleries and collections of regional repute. Several solo exhibitions in professionally managed galleries of regional renown or realized art projects in public spaces. Their œuvre is the subject of individual art research publications and of regional art criticism.

●○○○○ (Approximately 45% of all artists)

Historic artists who have created an œuvre of local repute.

Contemporary artists who are regularly represented in solo and group exhibitions in professionally managed galleries and art spaces of local repute or who have realized art projects in public spaces. Their œuvre is discussed by local art critics.

### **Illustrations: selection criteria**

The illustrations in SIKART provide an overview of the œuvre of artists with a reception level of ●●●○○, ●●●●○, ●●●●●. Illustrations of works that are part of an SIK-ISEA research or catalogue projects are published in the research portal.

### **Exhibitions, performances, video screenings, art in architecture: selection criteria**

SIKART references exhibitions, performances and projects realized in public space by Swiss artists or artists living in Switzerland.

Exhibitions:

Exhibitions by Swiss and Liechtenstein artists or by foreign artists who live in Switzerland or the Principality of Liechtenstein are included in SIKART. We are grateful to artists, galleries and museums for providing us with the appropriate information on a regular basis.

Our documentation office and team of editors enter all exhibitions accompanied by a catalogue in SIKART, as well as individual exhibitions whose invitation cards are sent by e-mail as PDF files or by post in printed form ([dokumentation@sik-isea.ch](mailto:dokumentation@sik-isea.ch); Dokumentation, SIK-ISEA, Zollikerstrasse 32, CH-8032 Zurich, Switzerland). All documents sent to us concerning Swiss artists – even if they are not registered in SIKART – will be filed in the SIK-ISEA documentation office and are available for public viewing by prior appointment.

Performance art and video screenings:

SIKART documents performance art and video screenings as artworks. If a performance piece takes place within the framework of a group exhibition (with catalogue), the performance artist(s) will be listed among the other participating artists. Regularly held festivals have the same status as group exhibitions; in this case, an accompanying publication is not necessary for registration in SIKART, but an affiliation with a professional art institution is mandatory.

Art in public spaces / Art in architecture:

The decision to include art in public spaces lies with SIKART editors. In any case, they must be provided with the exact data, the persons involved as well as the venues.

All documents relative to Swiss artists (or living in Switzerland) are archived in our Documentation Center in Zurich and are available to the public upon request.

Exhibitions by Swiss and Liechtenstein artists or by foreign artists who live in Switzerland or the Principality of Liechtenstein are included in SIKART. We are grateful to artists, galleries and museums for providing us with the appropriate information on a regular basis.

### **Literature: selection criteria**

About 10% of entries on artists (those with a depth-of-coverage rating from ●●●○○ to ●●●●● provide a selected bibliography alongside the scientifically researched article for the lexicon. This facilitates well-founded exploration of the artist's work.

Additional literature can be identified using the Swiss network of libraries and information centres ([swisscovery.slsp.ch](http://swisscovery.slsp.ch)). Newspaper clippings were added only from 1998 to 2008.

### **Awards: selection criteria**

Awards include prizes, scholarships, and studio residencies. Only awards relating to Switzerland are referenced in SIKART; they must be endowed on a regular basis (federal, cantonal, and communal grants). Scholarships and subsidies granted by recognized foundations are also collected. Contact details are welcome.

The editorial board discusses exceptions, as well as the data entry of distinctions awarded by important public or private institutions abroad.