



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 are made for artists

- who work or worked primarily in the visual arts;
- who created verifiable, autonomous works (in the case of historical artists);
- who were or are regularly represented in solo and group exhibitions at professionally run art institutions, or take part in recognized festivals (e.g. performance, video);
- who held or hold Swiss or Liechtenstein citizenship, or who were or have been active within the current borders of Switzerland or the Principality of Liechtenstein over a long period of time.

The SIKART Lexicon does not include artists who worked or work primarily in the applied arts.

The following basic data for artists in all categories are provided wherever possible:

- Name, including all variants
- Dates of birth and death
- Nationality
- Short biography
- Areas of activity
- Entries in other dictionaries
- Artist's website / links to artist's estate

There are entries about artists both with and without an article. Articles vary in length depending on the artist's standing in the art world, though they all contain a brief biography and a description of the artist's work. The articles are written by specialists commissioned by the editorial board. They are supplemented by a bibliography and illustrations. If historical sources are scarce or if the work done in Switzerland forms only part of the artist's oeuvre, this may also influence the length of the text.

From 2006 to 2022, all entries in the SIKART Lexicon were categorized according to a five-point system reflecting the "documentation level". The decision to dispense with this visualization of the "documentation level" was a reaction to its being frequently misinterpreted as a rating.

Articles are allocated following a thorough evaluation in which the artist's standing is ascertained on the basis of the following objective criteria: publications, exhibitions, grants and awards, institutional collection purchases.

Lexicon entries without an article (89% of all entries)

- contemporary artists who are regularly represented in solo and group exhibitions at professionally run galleries and/or art institutions of regional renown, or who have created art projects for the public space. They will have received certain grants or awards and/or their works are to be found in museums, art spaces and collections of regional renown. Their work is a subject of critical review and art-historical publications;
- historical artists whose works won regional acclaim and are the subject of art-historical publications.
- No illustrations of the works are provided.
- No bibliography is provided.

Lexicon entries with an article (11% of all entries)

- contemporary artists whose works are shown in numerous solo exhibitions at museums and professionally run galleries of national or international renown and whose works are to be found in museums, art spaces and collections of national and/or international renown. Their work will for many years have been a subject of sustained art discourse and many monographic art research publications. These artists will also have received many major grants and awards;
- historical artists whose works feature in museums and collections of national and/or international renown. Their work is the subject of monographic publications and of scholarly discourse.
- These entries all come with a selection of works and a selected bibliography.

Further guidelines and information on the Lexicon categories

Works:

Works of art are illustrated exclusively for those entries that are accompanied by an article.

Publications:

All the artists in the SIKART Lexicon are linked to publications from the Swiss Library Service Platform (swisscovery.slsp.ch). In addition, each Lexicon article comes with a list of publications selected by the editors.

Exhibitions:

Listed here are solo and duo exhibitions at professionally run art institutions and galleries. Group exhibitions are included only if accompanied by a catalogue. The relevant invitations are required for these to be entered in the Lexicon.

Awards:

Awards include prizes, grants and studio residencies. Only awards that are connected to Switzerland and that are awarded at regular intervals (federal, cantonal and communal grants) are entered. Grants and subsidies for specific works from recognized private foundations are also included. Proofs of receipt and contact data are helpful here. Prizes awarded by important public or private institutions outside Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein and other special cases are entered at the editorial board's discretion.

Themes:

This is the heading under which articles on art-historical themes connected with Switzerland are published.

Performances and video screenings:

If a performance or video screening takes place as part of a group exhibition (with catalogue), the artist(s) is/are listed among the other participants. Regularly held festivals are treated like group exhibitions, except that an accompanying publication is not a precondition for entry. Some affiliation with a professional art institution is nevertheless mandatory.

Art in the public space / Art in architecture:

Works in the public space are either mentioned in the articles or are illustrated under the heading "Works".

Contact for postal delivery:

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