

MEDIA RELEASE

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A new home for the «Ufficio di contatto» at the Museo d'arte della Svizzera italiana in Lugano

The Swiss Institute for Art Research (SIK-ISEA) has a new «Ufficio di contatto» in Lugano

From 2020 the Swiss Institute for Art Research (SIK-ISEA) will have a new base in Lugano. After ten years as a guest of the Museo Vincenzo Vela in Ligornetto, SIK-ISEA has moved its «Ufficio di contatto per la Svizzera italiana» to the premises of the Museo d'arte della Svizzera italiana. Partnership between the «Ufficio di contatto», MASI and the contact point for the Society for the History of Art in Switzerland (GSK/SHAS) at the same address will unleash major synergies in the documentation of Swiss art.

As a documentation centre for art in Southern Switzerland and a partner to the research community, SIK-ISEA's «Ufficio di contatto per la Svizzera italiana» acts as a pivot to the Institute's activities in other parts of the country. The Contact Office managed by Patricia Cavadini-Bielander fosters links with the regional art scene and promotes exchange and collaboration with museums, collections, galleries and academics.

The «Ufficio di contatto» is responsible for systematically documenting and cataloguing artistic activity in the Italian-speaking areas of the country and collates information about artists, exhibitions and institutions. The posthumous papers of internationally renowned artists from Southern Switzerland such as Giovanni Segantini, Alberto and Augusto Giacometti are kept in the Swiss Art Archives in Zurich and presented in [«Virtual Showcases»](#) on the SIK-ISEA website.

A major area of work for the «Ufficio di contatto» consists in compiling and regularly updating the entries on about 1,200 artists related to Southn Switzerland and requesting new articles for the *Lexicon on Art in Switzerland* [SIKART](#), a resource made available free of charge. In this way, the Contact Office makes an important contribution to perceptions of art and art history in Italian-speaking Switzerland across Switzerland and abroad. There are over 200 detailed biographical entries on historical and contemporary names in the artistic life of Ticino and Italian Grisons, penned by reputable experts, most of whom are based in the region. The work of the Contact Office includes participating in SIK-ISEA's [Schweizerische Beratungsstelle für Künstlernachlässe](#), the Swiss centre which provides information and advice about succession law and estate management for artists and their heirs.

The Museo Vincenzo Vela in Ligornetto had housed and supported the «Ufficio di contatto» ever since it opened in 2010, and SIK-ISEA is extremely grateful to the museum and its director Gianna A. Mina for all they have done. Now that the Contact Office has moved into rooms at the Palazzo Reali in Lugano, cooperation with MASI and the GSK/SHAS will generate fresh synergies in the combined effort to document, study and spread knowledge about Swiss art.

For further details please contact:

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