

## MEDIA RELEASE

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**Swiss art data at a glance – SIK-ISEA’s research portal merges wide-ranging information about artistic activity past and present**

**The Swiss Institute for Art Research (SIK-ISEA) publishes a variety of online reference works about the visual arts in Switzerland from the Middle Ages until the present day. Launching on 28 March 2023, SIK-ISEA’s research portal will now bring together the quadrilingual SIKART Lexicon, the digital *catalogues raisonnés*, archived documents and details of exhibitions and literature. Previous URLs such as [sikart.ch](http://sikart.ch) will be redirected to the portal.**

Since 2006 SIK-ISEA has continually expanded the range of information about the Swiss art world that it makes freely available online. Apart from the extremely popular SIKART Lexicon about art in Switzerland, the Institute has uploaded digital *catalogues raisonnés* and grants access to a variety of resources, including records held by the Swiss Art Archives and a compendium listing Swiss contributions to the Venice Biennale. All in all, these combined formats contain data on more than 33,000 individuals and institutions, over 34,000 reproductions of artworks, 68,000 references to exhibitions and 150,000 to background literature, and 15,000 digitised documents.

The research portal designed together with the Zurich-based studio Astrom / Zimmer & Tereszkievicz is an intuitive tool that enables users to access these rich, versatile databases on art in Switzerland from a single platform. This creates new opportunities for exploring Swiss art from the Middle Ages to the present day. Enhanced search and display options make it easier to browse the various applications, such as the quadrilingual SIKART Lexicon, the digital *catalogues raisonnés* ([eva-aepli.ch](http://eva-aepli.ch), [cuno-amiet.ch](http://cuno-amiet.ch), [aloise-corbaz.ch](http://aloise-corbaz.ch), [martin-disler.ch](http://martin-disler.ch), [ferdinand-hodler.ch](http://ferdinand-hodler.ch), [niklaus-manuel.ch](http://niklaus-manuel.ch)) and the other online collections and projects managed by SIK-ISEA. News and sharing functions enrich the user experience.

Since SIKART first went live in 2006, the visibility of artists featured in the Lexicon has been represented in a five-level system – visualised by stars, squares or dots. This categorisation has prompted much debate and is often misunderstood. The editors have therefore decided to discontinue the graphic symbols. However, the continuous presence in the art world remains a pivotal factor in determining lexicon content. Detailed entries are already devoted to about 1,900 artists and collectives, with coverage constantly growing.

### Contact for more information

Sandra Ruff, Head of Communications, SIK-ISEA, Zollikerstrasse 32, P.O. Box, CH-8032 Zurich  
[www.sik-isea.ch](http://www.sik-isea.ch), [sandra.ruff@sik-isea.ch](mailto:sandra.ruff@sik-isea.ch), T +41 44 388 51 36

For the last seven decades, the Swiss Institute for Art Research (SIK-ISEA) has been Switzerland’s leading centre of competence in art history and art technology. Its core activities are research, documentation, the dissemination of knowledge and the provision of services for the world of fine arts. The focus lies with the production of art in Switzerland from the Middle Ages until the present day.

The Institute is an independent, not-for-profit research institution operating all over Switzerland with headquarters in Zurich, an Antenne romande at the University of Lausanne and an Ufficio di contatto at the Museo d’arte della Svizzera italiana (MASI) in Lugano.