

MEDIA RELEASE

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Walter Dräyer, Adolf Herbst's studio, Zurich (1983)

Art: a difficult legacy?

The Swiss Institute for Art Research (SIK-ISEA) sets up the Swiss Advice Centre for Artists' Estates

Many artists and their heirs are confronted with the same problems: What do you do with a – usually voluminous – legacy, especially if the works have not already been stored long-term in a museum. What options are there for documenting and preserving the posthumous papers and what are the challenges? Are there private organisations or institutions which can help?

It is to answer questions like this, and others too, that the Swiss Institute for Art Research (SIK-ISEA) has begun work on setting up a Swiss Advice Centre for Artists' Estates. Supported by four cultural foundations in Switzerland, the project will be implemented in stages up until 2018, and will provide information and advice for artists and their heirs about how to deal with an artistic estate.

Seeking to provide as much broad, detailed information on the theme as possible, SIK-ISEA will design practical guides to managing artist's estates in both printed and digital formats. This will include material on how to approach documentation, inventories and a catalogue raisonné and how to archive correctly, but also useful advice about legal aspects, financial considerations and tax matters. In addition to this, regular workshops will be held in every linguistic region of Switzerland, working with various stakeholder groups, such as professional associations and arts foundations at regional and national level. Moreover, we hope to raise the awareness of institutions such as archives and museums, and political bodies. SIK-ISEA's role is explicitly not to evaluate, but to explain and advise.

The creation of the Swiss Advice Centre for Artists' Estates at [SIK-ISEA](#) follows an initiative by the Culture Working Group at SwissFoundations. It is being funded by the [Christoph Merian Stiftung](#), the [Ernst Göhner Stiftung](#), the [Sophie und Karl Binding Stiftung](#) and the [UBS Cultural Foundation](#). Financial support has also been sought from the City of Zurich.

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