

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Art and Science: A History of the Swiss Institute for Art Research 1951–2010

Late August will see the publication of a comprehensive and richly illustrated history of the Swiss Institute for Art Research (SIK-ISEA), beginning with its foundation in 1951 and reaching down to the immediate present. The appearance of this splendid volume marks the retirement of Dr. Hans-Jörg Heusser, Managing Director since 1993, who worked diligently and indefatigably throughout his years in office to consolidate and build the Institute. The contributions have all been written by members of staff.

Founded in 1951 as private initiative, the Swiss Institute for Art Research (SIK-ISEA) has evolved from modest beginnings to become an internationally acknowledged centre of competence in art technology and in the documentation and investigation of art in Switzerland. The headquarters of the Institute, which became an autonomous not-for-profit foundation in 1992, are in Zurich. Since 1988, together with the University of Lausanne, it has maintained an office in French-speaking Switzerland, the Antenne romande, housed in university premises on the Dorigny campus, while in 2010 SIK-ISEA opened its Ufficio di contatto per la Svizzera italiana at the Museo Vincenzo Vela in Ligornetto.

The Institute has always confronted new challenges thrown up by shifts in education policy. In 1981 it was recognised by the Bundesrat, the Federal Council governing Switzerland, as a research institute within the meaning of the University Development Act, and since 1992 it has fallen within the scope of the Research Act. More recently, SIK-ISEA's response to a rapidly changing higher education landscape has been to become an Institute for Advanced Study. This provides a framework for guest academics to take up an invitation to work at the Institute, designing and implementing research programmes along with the staff of SIK-ISEA.

The transformation and renewal witnessed under the leadership of Dr. Hans-Jörg Heusser have prompted the Institute to look back and review its own history. This has given rise to a comprehensive and richly illustrated account of SIK-ISEA's development, broken down into thematic fields. However, the contributions do not simply trace the continuous thread that binds all those changes together, but consider where the Institute stands today and reflect on the prospects for SIK-ISEA within the future education and research landscape in Switzerland.

### Publication

*Kunst und Wissenschaft, Das Schweizerische Institut für Kunstwissenschaft 1951–2010*, published by the Swiss Institute for Art Research (SIK-ISEA), Zurich: SIK-ISEA / Scheidegger & Spiess, 2010. With contributions by Toni Schönenberger: *Dank*, Anne Keller Dubach: *Zum Geleit*, Hans-Jörg Heusser: *Rückblick und Standortbestimmung. Die Entwicklung des Instituts seit 1993*, Manuela Rohrbach: *Drei Direktoren. Marcel Fischer (1906–1962). Spiritus rector und erster Leiter des Instituts*, Urs Hobi: *Drei Direktoren. Hans A. Lüthy (1932–2009). Netzwerker mit Leidenschaft*, Regula Krähenbühl: *Drei Direktoren. Hans-Jörg Heusser. Konsolidierung und Erneuerung*, Oskar Bättschmann: *Visionen. Planung der Zukunft*, Regula Krähenbühl: *Domizile. ... an bester Adresse: bürgerlicher Wohnbau, kosmopolitisches Geschäftshaus, herrschaftliche Villa*, Paul-André Jaccard: *Antenne romande. Nationaler Anspruch als Verpflichtung*, Marco Fazzone: *Finanzierung. Jahresrechnungen im Blickpunkt*, Matthias Oberli: *Kunstdokumentation. Vom Fangblatt zum File*, Karoline Beltinger: *Kunsttechnologie. Restaurierbetrieb, Ausbildungsstelle und interdisziplinäres Forschungszentrum*, Juerg Albrecht: *Forschung und Öffentlichkeit. Kunstwissenschaft auf dem Buchmarkt*, Karl Jost: *Lexika. Vom Buch zur Datenbank*, Regula Krähenbühl assisted by Tapan Bhattacharya: *Chronik*, Juerg Albrecht / Urs Hobi / Regula Krähenbühl: *SIK-ISEA Lexikon*. 19 x 25.3 cm, 350 pp., [17 unnumbered pages of Lexikon and 19 coloured division markers], 187 duplex illustrations, 88 colour illustrations, 1 folded colour chart, bound, CHF 99.–, ISBN 978-3-908196-75-4 (SIK-ISEA edition), ISBN 978-3-85881-322-0 (trade edition)

### Order publication

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