

2009 – Setting Sail for New Horizons

ANNE KELLER DUBACH, President of the SIK-ISEA Foundation's Board of Trustees



On 1 February 2010, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously that Dr. Roger Fayet should become the new Managing Director of SIK-ISEA. Dr. Fayet will take over on 1 September 2010 from Dr. Hans-Jörg Heusser, our Managing Director for many years, who is standing down on grounds of age. Now that the transformation into an Institute for Advanced Study is complete, SIK-ISEA also looks ready to set sail for new academic horizons.

Roger Fayet, whose academic work embraces philosophy and art history, has been directing the *Museum zu Allerheiligen* in Schaffhausen since 2003, and he has been responsible for its thematic reorientation. The future Managing Director of SIK-ISEA can draw on years of experience with running a multidisciplinary institution, and he is well networked in the museum and higher education community.

The ground for choosing a new director was carefully prepared during the reporting year by an appointment committee, which I chaired. The seven members, masterfully coordinated by the Institute's Deputy Director, Marco Fazzino, included three external experts, two

more Trustees and a staff representative. The experts were Prof. Christine Göttler (Professor of Modern Art History at the University of Bern), Prof. Andreas Beyer (Director of the German Art History Forum in Paris) and Prof. Pascal Griener (Professor of Art History and Museology at the University of Neuchâtel). Vreni Müller-Hemmi and Dr. Franz von Däniken also contributed on behalf of the Board of Trustees. The staff chose to be represented by Dr. Franz Müller, a researcher at SIK-ISEA. I would like to express my cordial thanks to them all. They did a grand job and they performed it with extraordinary competence.

Roger Fayet will be taking over an institute in a very robust condition. Under Hans-Jörg Heusser's leadership, a tremendous development effort has been underway for years. It has culminated in the process of becoming an Institute for Advanced Study, which matured to the full in the reporting year. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I wish to thank the Managing Director, the management of the Institute, the two Professorial Fellows and the entire committed team at SIK-ISEA for their outstanding performance this year. A detailed tribute will be paid to Hans-Jörg Heusser's achievements when we say farewell to him in August 2010 and in the next annual report.

My warm thanks are extended to everyone whose contributions have enabled the Institute to continue its work with unswerving energy during the reporting year. That includes public agencies, and specifically the Swiss Confederation, the Canton of Zurich and the City of Zurich – the Institute would be unable to exist without their operational support. But in 2009 SIK-ISEA again covered over 50% of its financial needs from services provided, competitively acquired project funding and fundraising. I am grateful to the many private benefactors, institutions and companies and the Association for the Promotion of SIK-ISEA for their valuable assistance and I urge them to continue offering the Institute their sympathy and support.