

2010 – The Baton Changes Hands

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



On 1 September 2010 the management of SIK-ISEA changed hands. After a successful era lasting almost 20 years, Dr. Hans-Jörg Heusser handed over the baton to his successor, Dr. Roger Fayet. Dr. Fayet has taken over an institute which has witnessed dynamic development in recent years and today enjoys an international reputation as a leading research and documentation centre in the field of Swiss art.

A gala event at the Kunsthaus Zürich and in Villa Bleuler provided a worthy framework for taking leave of the man who served with such merit at our helm, Dr. Hans-Jörg Heusser. In the sixty-year history of SIK-ISEA, he was only our third managing director after Dr. Marcel Fischer and Dr. Hans A. Lüthy. His era was marked by the move from Waldmannstrasse into Villa Bleuler, built on Zollikerstrasse for a wealthy 19th-century client, by the Institute's financial consolidation and by burgeoning links with the academic network nationally and internationally. SIK-ISEA's recent advancement, becoming an Institute for Advanced Study with its own Fellowship Programme for PhD students and professors, is one of the outstanding achievements of our departing head.

Paying tribute to Hans-Jörg Heusser's accomplishments would strain the limits of this welcoming preface. I am delighted, therefore, that this task has been undertaken in a eulogy from the pen of Prof. Andreas Beyer, Director of the German Forum for Art History in Paris, who has recently taken the chair of SIK-ISEA's Academic Committee. On behalf of the Board of Trustees and all the staff at the Institute, I would like to thank Hans-Jörg Heusser warmly for his great services to SIK-ISEA and wish him much joy and fulfilment in his future plans.

In Dr. Roger Fayet, formerly Director of the Museum zu Allerheiligen in Schaffhausen, the Board of Trustees have – on the advice of the seven-strong appointments committee – chosen one of the most widely networked figures in the world of art to succeed him. In his exhibitions and publications he has demonstrated extraordinary scientific curiosity. And in his sixteen-year museum career he has shown that he has an equal command of both scholarship and management skills. I wish Roger Fayet every success in his new post and look forward to an inspiring collaboration.

However, the new Managing Director and his staff will not be alone in deciding whether SIK-ISEA's success to date will now enter a further chapter. This calls for the interest and engagement of our many academic and political partners. And it will require the indispensable support of public agencies and private benefactors, of institutions and companies, and last but not least of the Association for the Promotion of SIK-ISEA. To all of you I extend my cordial thanks, and I ask you to uphold your friendship with this Institute in the future.