

2011 – A Fruitful Year

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

2011 was the sixtieth anniversary in the history of SIK-ISEA, but also the first year for our new Managing Director, Dr. Roger Fayet.

Under his leadership, great progress was made in advancing our ambitious academic projects and in obtaining the third-party funding that is so crucial to this Institute. Closer links were also forged with universities and colleges of higher education.



SIK-ISEA was extremely productive in 2011. The contents for the second volume of the *catalogue raisonné* devoted to Ferdinand Hodler were finalised, while new findings from the *catalogue raisonné* project on Cuno Amiet have already provided input for recent exhibitions and a documentary film. SIK-ISEA has invested considerable work in developing the content and technology for the online lexicon SIKART and the associated databases. Meanwhile, the art technology department continued to build its international reputation by means of some major research projects and its cooperation with such prestigious partners as the Paul Scherrer Institute – even resulting in contracts from abroad to investigate material of relevance to recent scandals surrounding fakes.

Financial development at the Institute has likewise provided grounds for satisfaction. Under the new management, it has been able to continue its third-party funding policy with success. Thanks to generous support from benefactors, patrons and foundations, and due to a prudent use of resources, SIK-ISEA managed to balance the books in spite of the difficult economic environment.

SIK-ISEA also owes a great deal to the public purse. The support received from Federal sources, the Canton and the City of Zurich, as well as other cantons and municipalities, secures the very existence of the Institute. Without it, basic services such as the databases, the archives and the library, which serve both academic researchers and the general public, could not be maintained.

Of course, this collaboration with the “public purse” is all about working with individual people, and sometimes we are obliged to take leave of colleagues who have grown close to our hearts: Dr. Paul Baumann, the Trustee for the City of Zurich on the SIK-ISEA Foundation Board, took his retirement at the end of 2011. He had been representing the City of Zurich on the Institute’s Finance Committee since 1987 and on the Foundation’s Board of Trustees since 1991, and he did so with impressive expertise, considerable curiosity as to the detail of operations, and the congenial, humorous understatement that is his hallmark. We heartily thank Paul Baumann and wish him all the best in the years to come. We also look forward to continuing our excellent cooperation with his successor, Claire Schnyder.

Let me conclude by expressing my deep, heartfelt gratitude to everyone supporting our work for the interest, good will and indispensable assistance they have displayed. It is this support that enables SIK-ISEA to make such an outstanding commitment to art and art research.