

Media release

Basel, 16 June 2025

Helvetia Art Prize winner Virginie Sisteck at the Liste Art Fair Basel 2025

The 2024 Helvetia Art Prize went to Virginie Sisteck. This means the artist and graduate of the *Art Nature Gender* master's programme at Basel's University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland has the opportunity to exhibit her works at this year's Liste Art Fair Basel. In her interdisciplinary practice, Virginie Sisteck addresses social power relations, forms of consensus and contradictions, and the mechanisms of social role models. With a subtle sense of humour and staging, she negotiates complex themes in precisely composed settings, opening up spaces for reflection and irritation.

Virginie Sisteck's works often arise from concrete social situations, which she translates with a precise artistic idiom. Her performances, installations and videos explore the ways in which social dynamics, power relations and cultural codes shape the body, relationships and collective experiences. They are particularly interested in mechanisms of subjugation, their transmission and legitimisation over time, and strategies of resistance. In her works, she approaches these themes with a subversive lightness that makes complexity understandable rather than reducing it. Sisteck's productions are as humorous as they are profound.

At the intersection of art and entertainment

For the Liste Art Fair Basel 2025, Virginie Sisteck is presenting a new group of works that consciously operate at the interface between contemporary art and entertainment. These works straddle the border between stage and backdrop, between public performance and places of retreat. Bat-like sculptures and an illusionistic triptych create an in-between moment in which art and entertainment overlap and challenge each other. With a keen feel for ambivalence, Sisteck creates a space in which meanings are not fixed, but kept in motion – a place where the uncertain becomes visible.

A leg-up as part of its commitment to art

With the Art Prize, Helvetia Insurance supports young artists at the beginning of their career. The Helvetia Art Prize is therefore aimed at graduates of Swiss universities of applied sciences in fine art

and media art. The prize provides a double leg-up: the winners receive prize money of CHF 15,000 as well as the opportunity to introduce themselves to a wider public in the ensuing year with a curated solo exhibition.

Committed to art

The Helvetia Art Prize is a key aspect of the international insurance group's commitment to art. The prize has been awarded annually since 2004. Initially known as the Nationale Suisse Art Prize, since the merger of Helvetia and Nationale Suisse it is now in its 11th iteration as the Helvetia Art Prize. Helvetia, which also insures art, has one of the most important collections of contemporary Swiss art, stretching back more than 80 years. The collection focuses on paintings, drawings and photography. Since 2015, Helvetia has also had its own public exhibition space, the Helvetia Art Foyer at its headquarters in Basel. This space hosts thematic exhibitions, which include works from the group's own collection, as well as solo shows from individual artists.

You can find out more about Virginie Sistek's work in the video portrait on arttv.ch – just click on the image below (French audio track with German subtitles):



This media release is also available on our website www.helvetia.ch/media.

For further information please contact:

Eric Zeller
Senior Communication Manager / Press Spokesperson

Phone: +41 58 280 50 33
media.relations@helvetia.ch

Helvetia Holding Ltd
Helvetia Swiss Life Insurance Company Ltd
Helvetia Swiss Insurance Company Ltd

About the Helvetia Group

Helvetia Insurance Group, with its headquarters in St. Gallen, has grown since 1858 to become a successful international insurance group with strong Swiss roots, over 14,000 employees (FTE) and more than 6.7 million customers. It has always been there for its customers when it matters.

In the Swiss, Spain and GIAM (German, Italian and Austrian Markets) segments, Helvetia positions itself as a Local Customer Champion and supports its customers throughout their lives as their preferred provider. It also focuses on the rapidly growing segment of customers over 50. In all of its segments, and in the Specialty Markets segment in particular, Helvetia strives to generate growth as a global specialist in the international specialty lines business and in reinsurance. Thanks to its lean and flexible structures, Helvetia is able to focus on profitability in a cyclical business. At the same time, Helvetia uses its expertise in its European retail markets to offer specialty solutions to SME customers.

With a business volume of CHF 11.6 billion, Helvetia generated underlying earnings of CHF 528.5 million and an IFRS period result of CHF 502.4 million in the 2024 financial year. The shares of Helvetia Holding AG are traded on SIX Swiss Exchange.

Cautionary note

This document was prepared by Helvetia Group and may not be copied, altered, offered, sold or otherwise distributed to any other person by any recipient without the consent of Helvetia Group. The German version of this document is decisive and binding. Versions of the document in other languages are made available purely for information purposes. Although all reasonable effort has been made to ensure that the facts stated herein are correct and the opinions contained herein are fair and reasonable, where any information and statistics are quoted from any external source such information or statistics should not be interpreted as having been adopted or endorsed as accurate by Helvetia Group. Neither Helvetia Group nor any of its directors, officers, employees and advisors nor any other person shall have any liability whatsoever for loss howsoever arising, directly or indirectly, from any use of this information. The facts and information contained in this document are as up to date as is reasonably possible but may be subject to revision in the future. Neither Helvetia Group nor any of its directors, officers, employees or advisors nor any other person makes any representation or warranty, express or implied, as to the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in this document.

This document may contain projections or other forward-looking statements related to Helvetia Group which by their very nature involve inherent risks and uncertainties, both general and specific, and there is a risk that predictions, forecasts, projections and other outcomes described or implied in forward-looking statements will not be achieved. We caution you that a number of important factors could cause results to differ materially from the plans, objectives, expectations, estimates and intentions expressed in such forward-looking statements. These factors include: (1) changes in general economic conditions, in particular in the markets in which we operate; (2) the performance of financial markets; (3) changes in interest rates; (4) changes in currency exchange rates; (5) changes in laws and regulations, including accounting policies or practices; (6) risks associated with implementing our business strategies; (7) the frequency, magnitude and general development of insured events; (8) mortality and morbidity rates; (9) policy renewal and lapse rates as well as (10), the realisation of economies of scale as well as synergies. We caution you that the foregoing list of important factors is not exhaustive; when evaluating forward-looking statements, you should carefully consider the foregoing factors and other uncertainties. All forward-looking statements are based on information available to Helvetia Group on the date of its publication and Helvetia Group assumes no obligation to update such statements unless otherwise required by applicable law.