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(4-villa-reuge.cmp)

**PRESS RELEASE
OVERVIEW**

New exhibition center opens in Sainte-Croix

World première for EPFL breakthrough, “Biowall”

A new venue for cultural and scientific exhibitions and events, the Villa Reuge, will open to the public on 2 February in Sainte-Croix, in the Vaud canton. For forty-five years, the building was the home of Guido Reuge, renowned music box maker who died in late 1994, and his wife Jacqueline.

The first exhibition to be held at the Villa Reuge, entitled *L'Objet vivant* (Living objects), will include the world première of “Biowall”, an intelligent electronic tissue capable of self-repairing and self-replicating. The Logical Systems Laboratory of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL) developed this important invention.

The second part of the exhibition will be devoted to the broader subject of man-made objects brought to life by artificial means. To this end, a sumptuous collection of puppets, robots, robotic toys and traditional ritual figures from various animist cultures has been gathered from Europe and the United States.

The Villa Reuge is located in a park adorned by the recent sculptures of Etienne Delessert. It has been renovated by Florentine architect and stage designer Hugo Scaletti. Its curator, Vincent Krenz from Lausanne, will manage the Villa.

The Villa Reuge will be open all year round, except on Mondays when exhibitions are being set up and 25 December, from 2 to 6 pm.

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