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PRESS RELEASE

***L'Objet vivant* (living objects) at the Villa Reuge**

A new exhibition venue, the Villa Reuge, will be opening to the public for the first time on 1 February 2002 in Sainte-Croix, in the Vaud canton. At the initiative of Jacqueline Reuge, widow of industrialist and inventor Guido Reuge, manufacturer of world-renowned music boxes, the Villa will host scientific and cultural exhibitions and events.

The building itself, located in a beautiful park adorned by Etienne Delessert's latest sculptures, was the Reuges' private residence for forty-five years. Renovated by Florentine architects and designers Ugo Scaletti, Paola Tilli and Manuel Codiglione of *Studio 72* it now contains 280 m² of exhibition space. It will be managed by its curator, Vincent Krenz from Lausanne.

The inaugural exhibition, entitled *L'Objet vivant* (living objects), will have two main strands. On the one hand, it will pay tribute to the passion displayed throughout their lives by Jacqueline and Guido Reuge, who built up one of the world's most prestigious robot collections; on the other, it will feature the "Biowall", an intelligent electronic tissue capable of self-repairing and self-replicating, a hugely significant scientific invention developed by the EPFL which will be exhibited for the very first time in Sainte-Croix.

This first exhibition, focusing on the themes of synthesis and wonder, will illustrate man's age-old desire to bring objects to life. It will combine the very latest robotics and bioelectronics techniques with displays of objects created by various animist cultures and, finally, of figures which move by mechanical means, such as puppets, toy robots and automata.

The second exhibition, on the theme of the circus in the plastic and applied arts of the last two centuries, will open in June 2002. The centre-piece will be the sumptuous collection of Pascal Jacob, author of numerous books on circus history. Items from other public and private collections will also be displayed.

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.

Further information:

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