

Ullr Award for Skiing in Arts and Design

Dr. Karin Rase

The latest illustrated book commissioned by FIS, entitled *Skiport in Kunst und Design - Skiing in Arts and Design*, was selected by the International Skiing History Association (ISHA) on 26th March 2010 as winner of the coveted Ullr Award. This recognition demonstrates that FIS stands both for the passion and culture of skiing. Under the presidency of Gian Franco Kasper FIS has advocated the need for due regard to be given to the relationship between sport and art which provides a connection between the people of this world and their cultures. As an art historian focusing on the relationship between art and sport, and as the author of this book, I naturally welcome this. The Ullr Award has been conferred annually by the ISHA since 1994 for books which highlight the sport and history of skiing, and which thereby render a great service to its cultural heritage. The distinction of the Ullr Award means a great deal to me as an author. I am very happy about this commendation, and feel honoured by it.

The book contains examples of great value that merit conserving and developing. In a kind of time-lapse the reader travels through more than a century of skiing history. Selected artistic statements ranging from prints to memorabilia such as badges, commemorative medals and trophies, as well as to contemporary art and architecture allow the publication to demonstrate that skiing as a competitive sport has always entered into fascinating relationships and eye-catching forms of co-operation with the arts and artists. A variety of works of art related to the FIS Championships and World Cups has been documented for the first time. The book helps make it apparent that, through their compositions, artists and designers make a significant contribution to the public's awareness of ski sports. Alex Walter Diggelmann's 'Snow Star', originally designed for the FIS Championship medals, became a memorable symbol in its time, just as the prize-winning architectural structures of

the new ski jumps of Innsbruck and Garmisch-Partenkirchen have become today. With this book a first significant review of this topic area has been achieved – and a basis for further research. The female skier is, as the book indicates, a favourite subject for sports periodicals and other lifestyle magazines of the 1920s and 1930s. My current research focuses on how the media depict the female skier - the type of woman portrayed and the body images communicated. I will present the initial results of my research in the context of the international conference 'Winter Sports and Outdoor Life', to be held in Telemark, Norway, from 23rd to 26th February 2011 within the framework of the 150th anniversary of the Norwegian Confederation of Sports (NIF). The conference will, I believe, provide a fitting prelude for the start of the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships which will be taking place until 6th March in Oslo, the Mecca for Nordic Skiing.

The first copy of *Skiing in Arts and Design* was officially presented to FIS President Kasper and Secretary General Lewis by Dr. Karin Rase at the FIS Autumn Meetings 2009 in Zurich at a reception hosted by Swiss-Ski led by President Urs Lehmann

