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Press Release

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Art meets Science in the *Minimal Landscapes* Exhibition

[April 7th, 2009 – Shanghai, China] Further exploring the relationship between art and science, swissnex Shanghai kicked off the exhibition, “Minimal Landscapes”, on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 with a lecture by the scientist and featured artist, Ariel Ruiz i Altaba entitled “Boundaries and Meaning in Landscapes: From Science to Art and Back”. The black and white works explore the essence of form using the iconography of biological research as a starting point, reflecting Ruiz i Altaba’s work as a scientist at the University of Geneva, Switzerland where he studies embryonic development, stem cells and cancer. Swissnex Shanghai connects Switzerland and China by sharing knowledge in science, technology, innovation, higher education and culture.

“Swissnex Shanghai is thrilled to be hosting Ariel Ruiz i Altaba’s first solo art exhibition in China,” said Dr. Flavia Schlegel, Director of swissnex Shanghai. “His fascinating imagery perfectly marries art and science, and swissnex Shanghai is proud to share this important and visionary Switzerland based artist and scientist with China. In the future, swissnex Shanghai will keep enhancing the potential of cooperation between Switzerland and China in the fields of science, technology, innovation and culture.”

“Minimal Landscapes” has been shown in Korea, Japan, Singapore, and the United States. “The international exhibition represents an exploration of the essence of form, devoid of distracting elements. The photographic images show black islands forming archipelagoes of explicit and implicit meanings that become imaginary landscapes in the viewer’s mind,” said Mr. Ariel Ruiz i Altaba. The titles, such as “Loneliness in Your Dreams” or “Cloning You”, refer to the scientific influence in contemporary society that permeates Ruiz i Altaba’s artwork.

“Minimal Landscapes” will be open to the public and free of charge until April 17, 2009, Monday to Friday, 9am to 12pm and 2pm to 5pm at swissnex Shanghai which is located at 319 Xianxia Road, Far East International Plaza, Building A, Floor 22, Room 2210, Shanghai.

Ariel Ruiz i Altaba will hold an additional lecture organized in collaboration with the Shanghai Institute for Biological Sciences, Stem Cell Lab that will take place on Thursday, April 9, 10am to 11am at Room 312 of the SIBCB Building, Shanghai Institute of Biochemistry and Cell Biology which is located at 320 Yueyang Road. The subject matter will include the essential role of



Switzerland.

Hedgehog-GLI1 signaling in cancer stem cells: implications for therapy.

“Minimal Landscapes” is being organized by swissnex Shanghai and supported by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, the Swiss companies Holcim, Nestlé, Swatch Group, Swiss International Air Lines and Switzerland Tourism. Special thanks from the organizer go to the Swiss companies for their support of Switzerland's activities in China.

About swissnex Shanghai

Swissnex Shanghai connects Switzerland and China by bridging the knowledge in science, technology, innovation, higher education and culture. Initiated by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education and Research (SER) and managed in cooperation with the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs, swissnex Shanghai is an annex of the Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai.

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For more information about swissnex Shanghai, please refer to: www.swissnexshanghai.org.
For more information about Switzerland, please refer to: www.swissworld.org.

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