Late evening buffet reception at the Swiss residence in New Delhi on the occasion of the 6th Indian Art Fair, 30 January 2015
Greeting address by Ambassador Linus von Castelmur

Good evening to all of you and a warm welcome to the Swiss residence, on a cool Delhi winter night!

Françoise and I are very pleased to have you at our traditional late evening reception during the India Art Fair – artists, art critics, art lovers, gallerists and art collectors, the whole contemporary art fraternity present in Delhi these days!

We are very much thrilled to organize this event with Pro Helvetia – Swiss Arts Council. I should also like to thank our partner Aditya Dispomed, particularly our friends Nisha and Rajiv Kehr, for their generous support.

I am particularly pleased that Swiss contemporary art magazine Parkett is celebrating with us its 30iest birthday in Delhi and I am happy to welcome amongst us its co-founder Dieter von Graffenried.

Unfortunately, the former director of Kunsthalle Basel and artistic director of Documenta 14, Adam Szymczyk, couldn’t make it, because of a health issue – nothing too serious, I am told! I wish him a quick recovery!

While one never needs a compelling reason to throw a party, you might wonder why Switzerland is hosting this IAF party. The reasons are simple and obvious:

- Because Switzerland is an art Eldorado! Switzerland has many fabulous artists, doing well in contemporary fora all over the world. Switzerland hosts the internationally most important art
fair, Art Basel, which in turn organizes art fairs in Miami and Hong Kong.

- Because Switzerland has many contemporary art museums, Kunsthallen and art galleries.
- Because Switzerland has brilliant art critics and a wealth of art magazines, just like Parkett present tonight.
- Because Switzerland has several thousands of enlightened art aficionados who really do cherish this particular form of exploring our societies and expressing views of our world.
- And finally, let me reveal a well-kept secret to you: Because – in short – Switzerland is fun!

Let me thank the embassy staff, Sarah Bernasconi, Jürg Roth and their teams, and especially Aaron Egolf, the project manager of this event, for their commitment, creativity and always good spirits in organizing the party!

You are not here tonight to listen to long speeches; you want to talk to friends, to meet other people, to enjoy the Swiss winter buffet, to dance and to have fun! So please: have fun! With this I open the buffet and I raise my glass to all of you: cheers and enjoy!