

Press release

**Launching of the *Fondation Jan Michalski*
*pour l'Écriture et la Littérature***

Montricher, 9 November 2007 – The *Fondation Jan Michalski pour l'Écriture et la Littérature*, created at the initiative of Vera Michalski-Hoffmann in memory of her husband Jan, is intended to keep alive Jan Michalski's work in support of literary creation. The Foundation's mission is to promote writing through three activities: the creation and award of a literary prize, the allocation of grants and the establishment of the *Maison de l'Écriture* to host young writers from all walks of life, without any exclusion on the basis of language or genre.

The Jan Michalski Prize for Literature is open to everyone and to all literary genres (novels, narratives, novellas, plays, biographies and autobiographies, art books, calligraphy). Each year, it recompenses a literary work. The Jury will be composed of nine persons from various fields of writing, literary criticism and publishing. It is planned to award the Prize for the first time in 2010.

Grants and financial support

Grants will be awarded by the Foundation on the basis of the applications submitted and in accordance with an annual budget shared between the beneficiaries. They will enable writers to free themselves from certain material constraints to devote themselves to writing. Financial support will also be granted to associations or events in the literary field.

The *Maison de l'Écriture*, developed on the site of the former holiday camp in Montricher, in the locality of *Bois Désert*, at the foot of the Jura Vaudois, should during the course of 2010 begin to receive young writers in an environment designed to encourage and promote writing. To become residents, each applicant will have to submit a work project to an independent jury, which will determine the duration of the residence based on the nature of the project. Each resident will have private accommodation. The public section of the *Maison de l'Écriture* will include a library, an exhibition space, a dining room and an auditorium.

The design of the *Maison de l'Écriture* has been entrusted to the architects' studio Mangeat & Wahlen in Nyon. The application for the construction permit will be filed on 3 November 2007.