

Art and War: Looting, Provenance and Restitution



Sotheby's Belgium and Solvay Brussels School of Economics & Management of the Université libre de Bruxelles will associate to organize a series of meetings about the art market and its different sectors. These will be animated by Virginie Devillez (expert in Impressionist, Modern and Contemporary Art at Sotheby's) and Kim Oosterlinck (professor in Finance specialized in the art market), with the idea to associate the actors of the art market and researchers.

The question of provenance, the capacity to retrace the history of a work of art, plays a central role in the art market. A prestigious provenance can influence positively the price of a work of art, while a dubious provenance can limit the ability of selling this work. Studies about provenance have undergone a considerable development in Germany, particularly looted art under the Nazi regime. Meike Hopp, professor at the TU Berlin and expert of the art market under the Nazi regime, will draw up the advances of the researches from the past years about this subject. Aurélie Vandevoorde will present the auction houses' point of view regarding issues about provenance. Finally, the Secretary of State Thomas Dermine will talk about the restitution policy in Belgium.

The Speakers



Thomas Dermine is a Belgian economist and politician. After studying Management at the Solvay Brussels School, completed by a course in political sciences at the Université libre de Bruxelles, he continued his academic career at the University of Harvard. When the Government De Croo was formed in 2020, Thomas Dermine was appointed Secretary of State for Economic Recovery and Strategic Investments in charge of Science Policy, attached to the Minister of Economy and Labour.



Prof. Dr. **Meike Hopp** has studied history of art, at LMU Munich. In 2012 she defended a doctoral thesis on the art market during National Socialism. From 2012 to 2019, she worked at the Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte in Munich, her research focussing on looted works of art, the art market and the history of collections. In November 2019, she was appointed as Junior Professor for Digital Provenance at the TU Berlin. Since 2021, she is Chair of the Board of Trustees of Deutsches Zentrum Kulturgutverluste and of the Arbeitskreis Provenienzforschung e.V.



Aurélie Vandevoorde has joined Sotheby's Paris in the Impressionist and Modern Art department as a specialist in 2011 and is Head of department since 2013. She actively contributes to develop the Impressionist and Modern Art sales in Paris. Before joining Sotheby's, Aurélie Vandevoorde has worked as a lawyer before becoming auctioneer. She has studied at the l'Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po). She has a double Master in Tax law and History of Art.

Practical Details

Location : Université libre de Bruxelles (Local R42. 5.103, jonction Avenues Franklin Roosevelt & Jeanne, Ixelles)

Date : Wednesday 11th May from 18.30 to 20.00

Infos + registration (free but mandatory): Virginie.Devillez@sothebys.com