

EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

Philipp A. Nuernberger*

International Art Market Studies Association (TIAMSA): Events by TIAMSA Legal

Berlin, London, and New York, June-September 2019

The International Art Market Studies Association (TIAMSA) is an interdisciplinary organization bringing together art market scholars and practitioners for the study of art markets of all periods and geographies. TIAMSA provides a platform for networking and information exchange open to scholars, students, and art market professionals alike and maintains a website (www.artmarketstudies.org) that provides a wealth of information on relevant topics.

TIAMSA Legal, a group within TIAMSA, is a forum for members with a particular interest in the intersection of law and the art market. TIAMSA Legal aims at identifying and analysing the most pressing legal issues evolving around and relevant to the art market and its participants. TIAMSA Legal contributes its unique perspective to the interdisciplinary exchange both within TIAMSA and beyond. Members of TIAMSA Legal are legal practitioners and scholars from different countries, which enables a comparative law approach and fruitful international cooperation. TIAMSA Legal is co-chaired by Philipp A. Nuernberger and Alicja Jagielska-Burduk.

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Since its inception in early 2018, TIAMSA Legal has initiated a number of activities. This report covers three recent events organized by TIAMSA Legal in Berlin, London, and New York.

Berlin: Know your Customer – Compliance in the Art Market

In June 2019, TIAMSA Legal, together with the Association of German Galleries and Art Dealers (BVDG e.V.), hosted a practice-related panel discussion on recent legal developments relating to compliance in the art market. The interdisciplinary panel consisted of a specialized lawyer, an art finance expert, a compliance expert, and an art dealer and discussed the expected effects of the European Union’s 5th Anti-Money Laundering Directive on the German art market. The lively discussion in front of a packed audience showed that the legal reforms, although presenting a new bureaucratic challenge for the art market and especially smaller galleries and art dealers, can be approached in a constructive spirit, following the example of the financial sector. The event was attended by a high profile audience, including exponents of the Berlin art market, politicians, and journalists. The questions raised during the discussion with the audience helped to clarify numerous issues related to the new legislation, which will take effect from 2020 onwards. The event was reported and discussed in articles in two major German newspapers (“Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung”, 30 June 2019, article by Julia Voss; “Handelsblatt”, 5/6/7 July 2019, article by Christiane Fricke).

London: Nazi-Looted Art and Restitution Claims

In early September 2019, TIAMSA Legal co-organized a panel discussion at the National Gallery in London on the topic of Nazi-looted art and restitution claims. In front of a distinguished audience of nearly 100 art market participants, provenance researchers, journalists, and other guests, two panels, consisting of internationally renowned experts on the restitution of Nazi-looted art, discussed the current state of the field. The panellists included a member of the British Spoliation Advisory Panel, the former General Secretary of the Dutch Restitutions Committee, the General Counsel of the J. Paul Getty Trust in Los Angeles, provenance researchers from the Victoria & Albert Museum and the British Library, the Founder and Co-Chair of the Commission for Looted Art in Europe, a highly renowned U.S. litigator who has argued high-stakes restitution cases in the U.S. Supreme Court, and the Director of Recoveries & General Counsel of The Art Loss Register. The event was chronicled in an article on the website of the Institute for Art Law.

New York: International Art Law Conference

In late September 2019, TIAMSA Legal, together with Libralex, Christie's Education, and the Center for Art Law, organized a half-day International Art Law Conference at Christie's New York in Rockefeller Center. In front of over 100 participants, the conference brought together three panels of experts on the topics of "Artists' and Collectors' Estates – Legacy or Issue?"; "Due Diligence – Do Provenances Matter More Than Ever?"; and "Art & Tech – Does the Art World Finally Go Digital?". The Panellists included, amongst others, the International Director of Restitution of Christie's, the former Director of the David Hockney Foundation, the President and CEO of the Dedalus Foundation, the COO of Artory, a Senior Provenance Specialist of The Museum of Modern Art, the Project Director of the Aspen Institute's Artist-Endowed Foundation Initiative, a digital artist, art lawyers, compliance experts, provenance researchers, and a scientist specialized in the authentication of art. The audience consisted of a wide variety of participants such as art law and art market experts, collectors, auction house professionals, art dealers, museum professionals, business lawyers, and other interested guests who were provided with first-hand behind-the-scenes insights into issues currently being discussed among art market and art law experts.