

Symposium «The Future of Collection Histories. Research, Cooperation and Exhibition»

Saturday, March 2, 2024, 9:45 am – 5:45 pm

as part of the temporary exhibition

«Pathways of Art – How Objects Get to the Museum» (June 17, 2022 – March 24, 2024)

After almost two years, the exhibition «Pathways of Art» ends on March 24. It is an exhibition that raises questions about the history of the museum and its collections, about our institutional self-image, and in a more general way about researching and presenting objects from non-Western contexts in the Global North. The exhibition is a further step in our ongoing work with object biographies and diverse approaches to collection histories.

We would like to take the opportunity given by the forthcoming end of the exhibition to look back: What was the impact of the exhibition, what worked well, where would we want to do things differently in the future when dealing with the collection histories? In addition to this critical review, we would also like to open up a dialogue and discuss what other approaches to the provenances of objects from non-Western cultures might look like.

In this context, we cordially invite you to a one-day symposium that will bring together international curators, scholars and provenance researchers to share their experiences, ongoing projects and new methods from different perspectives, including history, art history, anthropology and law.

The panels with each three speakers will focus on four main topics: different approaches towards collection histories, new perspectives and narratives, collaborative projects, and legal aspects of the collections. The discussions will center around questions like: Where do museums go today with their collections? How can institutions be more inclusive, democratic, and participative? Which challenges present collaborative projects and how could we overcome them? What are the next steps to share and reconstitute knowledge and heritage? What resources, structures and skills are required to respond to current challenges?

Location: Lecture Hall, Park-Villa Rieter, Museum Rietberg
Costs: 40 CHF incl. lunch bag and apéro
25 CHF for students and for members of the Rietberg Gesellschaft
Registration: [Online](#) until February 26, 2024

Event contact

Museum Rietberg, Zurich
events.rietberg@zuerich.ch
Tel. +41 44 415 31 11

Programme

9:00 am Registration & Coffee

9:45 am

Welcome

Annette Bhagwati

Introduction to «Pathways of Art – How Objects Get to the Museum»

Esther Tisa Francini and Sarah Csernay

10:00 am

Panel 1 – Exhibiting Collection Histories

Key Facts: Unlocking the Museum through Provenance

Lynn Rother, Lüneburg

The Courage of Humbleness:

On Curating Colonial Provenance in European Museums

Hanna Rudyk, Berlin/Kyiv

Affective Assemblages: Strategies of Implication in Four Exhibitions

Ferdinand de Jong, Bucarest

Q & A, moderated by *Axel Langer*

11:30 am

Panel 2 – Decentering Museum Narratives

100 Histories of 100 Worlds in 1 Object

Mirjam Brusius, London/Paris

Multiplying Narratives: Yuanmingyuan Objects at the V&A

Ricarda Brosch, London

Displaying (Provenance) Research: The Exhibition as Method

Friedrich von Bose, Zurich

Q & A, moderated by *Alexandra von Przychowski*

1:00 pm

Lunch break

2:30 pm

Panel 3 – Collaborative Research Projects

Reverse Collection History: Cameroonian Cultural Heritage in German Museums

Sebastian-Manès Sprute, Berlin

Art Worlds as Knowledge Graphs –

Working towards Large-Scale Digital-Driven Provenance Research

Martin Berger, Leiden

Community, Solidarity and Epistemological Justice:

Museum Collections as Agents

Katya García-Antón, Tromsø

Q & A, moderated by Mareile Flitsch

4:00 pm

Panel 4 – Questions of Ownership

Between Conquest and Restitution: The Ambiguity of Colonial Law

Matthias Goldmann, Heidelberg

Looted Art: Property or Heritage?

Evelien Campfens, Amsterdam

Provenance, Restitution and Beyond?

What the Plural and Global Dimensions of Law Can Offer

María Julia Ochoa Jiménez, Sevilla

Q & A, moderated by Karolina Kuprecht

5:30 pm

Closing remarks

Esther Tisa Francini

5:45 pm

Apéro

The programme may be subject to change (last updated on 15.2.2024).

Symposium Participants

Prof. Dr. Martin Berger, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Archaeology, Universiteit Leiden

Dr. Annette Bhagwati, Director, Museum Rietberg, Zurich

Dr. Friedrich von Bose, Research Associate, ISEK – Institut für Sozialanthropologie und Empirische Kulturwissenschaft, University of Zurich

Ricarda Brosch, Assistant Curator, Asia Department, East Asia section, Victoria & Albert Museum, London

Dr. Mirjam Brusius, Research Fellow in Colonial and Global History, German Historical Institute, London; Visiting Professor, École Normale Supérieure, Paris

Prof. Dr. Evelien Campfens, Lawyer and Researcher, Faculty of Humanities, Universiteit Leiden

Sarah Csernay, Associate for Provenance Research, Museum Rietberg, Zurich

Prof. Dr. Mareile Flitsch, Director, Ethnographic Museum University of Zurich

Katya Garcia-Antón, Director and Chief Curator, Nordnorsk Kunstmuseum, Tromsø

Prof. Dr. Matthias Goldmann, Lecturer for International Law, EBS Universität Wiesbaden; Research Fellow Max-Planck-Institut für ausländisches öffentliches Recht und Völkerrecht, Heidelberg

Prof. Dr. Ferdinand de Jong, International Fellow, New Europe College, Bucarest

Dr. Karolina Kuprecht, LL.M., Attorney-at-law, Lecturer at Zurich University of Applied Science (ZHAW), Winterthur

Dr. Axel Langer, Curator of Islamic Near Eastern Art, Museum Rietberg, Zurich

Prof. Dr. María Julia Ochoa Jiménez, Professor for Private International Law, Faculty of Law and Political Sciences, Universidad Loyola

Alexandra von Przychowski, Curator of the Arts of China and the Himalayan Regions, Zurich

Prof. Dr. Lynn Rother, Professor for Provenance Studies; Project Leader Provenance Lab, Leuphana Universität Lüneburg

Dr. Hanna Rudyk, Visiting Researcher, Institut für Kunstgeschichte und Historische Urbanistik, TU Berlin; Deputy Director General, Education and Communication, Curator of Islamic Arts Collection, The Khanenko Museum, Kyiv

Dr. Sebastian-Manès Sprute, Research Associate, Institut für Kunstgeschichte und Historische Urbanistik, TU Berlin

Esther Tisa Francini, Head of Provenance Research and Archives, Museum Rietberg, Zurich