

AUTHENTICATION IN ART

2014 has been a turbulent year in the art industry. Not only for AiA, organizing its first interdisciplinary Authentication in Art Congress and announcing the establishment of the Mediation Board (MB), but also in the public debate on authenticity. While nearing this year's ending, we will provide you with an update on our activities and an end of the year roundup with exciting news.

The change between the Old and New is also the perfect time to thank our main sponsor ARIS, the sponsors Bonhams, Christies and Sotheby's Institute of Art, private collectors, congress participants, all partners and especially the workgroup members of the AiA Congress 2014. Thanks to you. The Congress did not only bring new insights, but as an outcome professional guidelines from the core of our field. It was the first time an interdisciplinary group of international professionals came together to accomplish this in our field. Something that makes us all very proud. Lastly, we are very grateful to the Municipality of The Hague and the Louwman Museum for facilitating the Congress of 2014. The Municipality of The Hague will also fully facilitate and financially support the upcoming Mediation Board in 2015.

AiA is very pleased to announce that the MB is developing steadily. We established our Rules of Procedure in collaboration with the WIPO in Geneva, formulating the flexible Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) procedures the MB will offer during the course of next year. Our preferred ADR methods are Mediation, Arbitration and Expert Determination, forming the basis of all our dispute resolution processes that will be derived from one or more of these model procedures.

The AiA Mediation Board website is currently under construction. We will keep you informed about its launching. The website will show the possibilities of finding dispute resolutions through our ADR services and provide you with easy steps to file a case. We are developing an online filing system facilitating a safe and smooth exchange of confidential information, increasing speed and efficiency of submission.

Although users will be able to choose their own preferred ADR procedure directly through the online Request form, an AiA advisor will examine each filed case to direct every unique dispute towards the most suitable dispute resolution procedure. After filing, users receive their ADR agreement containing all necessary rights and obligations of the Board, the neutral, the experts (if necessary) and the parties. It will also confirm the submission of the case to the AiA Mediation Board.

We will keep you informed on all developments surrounding a possible exciting test case until we launch our new website and start receiving Request forms.

Please keep following our social media and website for the latest news on all our activities.

Art news-service overview

To end a year full of tantalizing authentication in art news, we selected the most interesting articles from our news service, starting with the announcement of a booming art market and ending with the astonishing discovery of museums' staff selling original artworks while replacing them with copies. Also, in 2014, the general public met Mark Landis, a fascinating character being called one of the most prolific art forgers in US history. Sam Cullman and Jennifer Grausman made a documentary film about his life's work; while playing art institutions by donating his own forgeries, Landis disguised himself for example as a priest to visit art museums under the pseudonym Father Arthur Scott. You can read all about Landis and the film here: <http://artandcraftfilm.com/>

January

Knoedler Case is still going full throttle as 2014 starts with new lawsuits:

<http://www.authenticationinart.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/20140102-Fakes-still-on-the-market-as-Knoedler-victims-sue-Art-Newspaper.pdf>

The amount of fakes in the Russian Avant-Garde is catastrophic. We have seen the German police seize over 3500 forged art works in 2013. Russian experts decide they have had enough and criticize the Catalogue Raisonné on Goncharova, presumably containing a large quantity of fakes:

<http://www.authenticationinart.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/20140108-Russia-reclaims-Goncharova-as-her-own-Art-Newspaper.pdf>

February

Fakes are uncovered everywhere and forgery is on the rise. This, however, will not stop the Art Market from booming:

<http://www.authenticationinart.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/20140219-Ain%E2%80%99t-Nothing-Like-the-Real-Thing-Despite-Forgery-Scandals-the-Fine-Art-Market-is-Booming-National-Law-Review.pdf>

The amount of fraudulent experts reaches a new high, which prompts Kemp to raise the alarms:

<http://www.authenticationinart.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/20140223-Revealed-the-art-experts-who-pass-fakes-as-authentic-the-Guardian.pdf>

A look into the forger's soul, an interview with Beltracchi.

<http://www.authenticationinart.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/20140223-The-Con-Artist-A-multimillion-dollar-art-scam-CBSNews.pdf>

The Knoedler Fraude just keeps expending and expending.

<http://www.authenticationinart.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/2014026-US-Attorney-reveals-more-Abstract-Expressionist-fakes-found-in-Queens-Art-Newspaper.pdf>

March

There is also good news, New York State proposes a Bill which ensures more protection for Art Historians when expressing their opinion.

<http://www.authenticationinart.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/20140314-No-more-silence-of-the-scholars-Art-Newspaper.pdf>

April

This collector has tried to prove his Rothko is real. Now he's got the evidence, so he claims.

<http://www.authenticationinart.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Is-this-Rothko-Real.docx.pdf>

May

Martin Kemp writes a lengthy article in the Art Newspaper, explaining the so called 'eye' of the connoisseur

<http://www.authenticationinart.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/049-050-Comment-.pdf>

From the 7th till the 9th of May the first Authentication in Art Congress is held in the Hague. It's deemed a great success with participants from all around the globe and from every field. The Congress resulted in raised awareness and two sets of Guidelines.

<http://www.authenticationinart.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Guidelines.pdf>

<http://www.authenticationinart.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Authentication-In-Art-Congress-May-2014-Recommendations-of-Art-and-Law-Work-Group-Official-Release.pdf>

June

Through scientific analysis the Self-Portrait of Rembrandt is proved authentic.

<http://www.authenticationinart.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Self-portrait-is-authentic-Rembrandt-National-Trust-confirm-The-Telegraph.pdf>

Chrisites uses lead-isotope research to prove the Saint-Praxides to indeed be a Vermeer!

http://www.authenticationinart.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/CATALOUGE_NOTE_Johannes_Vermeer_Delft_1632_1675_Saint_Praxedis_lot_39.pdf

August

The impact of forgeries is taking its toll on the art market.

<http://www.authenticationinart.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Infamous-Piracy-How-the-Lucrative-Market-for-Forgeries-is-Transforming-the-World-of-Fine-Art-Its-Art-Law.pdf>

September

Milko den Leeuw on behalf of the Authentication in Art Foundation, announces the work on the establishment of an international mediation board for art authenticity!

<http://www.authenticationinart.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Milko-den-Leeuw-his-speech-at-The-Art-Market-Business-Congress-04-09-20141.pdf>

October

After Ms. Rosales pleads guilty, again new details have risen on the Knoedler case.

<http://www.authenticationinart.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/%E2%80%98Document-dump%E2%80%99-reveals-new-details-in-Knoedler-case-Art-Newspaper.pdf>

A thorough inquiry into the Art Market, the demand for expert opinions is on the rise but the expert is afraid. The Market and its problems.

<http://www.authenticationinart.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Inquiry-art-law-and-attribution-Apollo-Magazine.pdf>

The Rembrandt Research Project reattributes 70 works to the great master.

<http://www.authenticationinart.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/70-New-Rembrandt-Paintings-Discovered-Artnet.pdf>

Not only the sellers are responsible for fakes, but the buyer should also be more aware. Caveat emptor, the responsibility of the buyer.

<http://www.authenticationinart.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Attention-all-Art-Buyers-%E2%80%93-Caveat-Emptor-and-then-Emptor-some-more-Its-Art-Law.pdf>

La Bella Principessa, A Leonardo or not?

<http://www.authenticationinart.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/The-princess-with-the-Mona-Lisa-smile-Lost-150m-da-Vinci-masterpiece-or-fake.pdf>

November

Even Duchamps Urinal seems inauthentic, a forged Urinal?

<http://www.authenticationinart.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Did-Marcel-Duchamp-steal-Elsa%E2%80%99s-urinal-The-Artnewspaper.docx.pdf>

New major German fraud case, this time not Russian Avant-Garde, but medieval art.

<http://www.authenticationinart.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Tatort-Untergriesbach-Der-Spiegel1.pdf>

Not everything this year was heavy or rotten. Children's movies turn out to be a valuable tool for rediscovering lost artworks.

<http://www.authenticationinart.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Stuart-Little-helps-lost-Hungarian-painting-come-home-AFP.pdf>

December

The enormous amount of forgery cases prompts Artemundi to release a document to assist the untrained eye with due diligence.

<http://www.authenticationinart.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Due-diligence-for-the-untrained-eye-ArteMundi.pdf>

And last, but maybe most shocking of all: Uzbek Museum staff sells collection and replaces it with copies.

<http://www.authenticationinart.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Uzbek-museum-sold-off-artworks-over-15-years-and-replaced-them-with-copies-The-Guardian.pdf>

We welcome 2015!

A new year and another chance to make the art industry an increasingly better place for establishing human-, cultural- and financial value.

AiA Foundation board; Prof dr Nico Schrijver – Willem O. Russell –
drs Ingeborg de Jongh

AiA organizers; Milko den Leeuw – drs Neeltje Romke de Vries – Oliver Spapens