

Sotheby's INSTITUTE OF ART

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE REPORT 2025



Oscar Bony, *The Working-Class Family*, 1968, MOMA

FOREWORD

Welcome to the inaugural joint London – New York report! The past year has been a busy one and the richness and breadth of this report reflects our ongoing commitment to deepening our expertise and fostering meaningful dialogues with our students, the academic community and the public at large.

Highlights include Pierre Saurisse's *Performance in the Museum* published as part of Lund Humphries 'New Directions in Contemporary Art' series edited by Marcus Verhagen, and our collaboration with the Colnaghi Foundation for the organising of a conference on 'Curating and the Art Market'. Under the editorship of Juliet Hacking and Jeffrey Boloten, the *Hot Topics* series continues to grow, producing volumes of high relevance to current debates, such as Annabel Keenan's *Climate Action in the Art World*.

This year it was particularly exciting to see our Institute be a centre of convergence. An ongoing series of brilliant contemporary art talks, now in its second year, is bringing thought-provoking and inspiring voices to the Institute for the benefit of our student community and the broader public. We participated in the UK-wide Art History Festival organised by the Association for Art History, and we also hosted our first Art and Luxury conference that gathered an international panel of scholars and industry professionals into productive and inspiring conversations on the topic of Sustainability. In 2026, I am looking forward to seeing our Institute continue being a generous and inspiring gathering place and extend its reach through the cultivation of research and industry connections and collaborations.

Dr Barbara Lasic, Research and Knowledge Lead

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Lauren Bursey. PhD, LSE: "Non-State Actors in the Illicit Trade of Antiquities from Armed Conflict to the Western Market: A Transnational Law Approach". Supervised by Tatiana Flessas and Luke McDonagh. Viva passed November 2025.

Morgan Falconer. "The New York art world in the 1980s".

Melanie Fasche. "Young galleries in London: business strategies and value creation".

Barbara Lasic. "Diplomacy by design: Carlhian and Cie and the decoration and furnishing of embassies and legations, 1900-1970", supported by a Getty Research Grant.

Barbara Lasic. "New Discoveries on Iconographic Sources for Boulle Furniture", to be submitted to either Furniture History or the Burlington Magazine.

Marcus Verhagen. "The Past in the Art of the Present".



Detail of a coffer by A.C. Boulle, c. 1684, Getty Museum

PUBLICATIONS

David Bellingham. "OPINION: Arts Education Must Move Beyond Traditional Models and Embrace Practical Skills and Hands-On Learning." The Hechinger Report, 29 April 2025.

<https://hechingerreport.org/opinion-arts-education-must-move-beyond-traditional-models-and-embrace-practical-skills-and-hands-on-learning/>.

David Bellingham. The Evolution of Street Art: How Graffiti Shaped Urban Culture. London: Sotheby's Institute of Art, 2025.

<https://www.sothebysinstitute.com/info-series/graffiti-art>.

David Bellingham. "Provenance Research for the Study of Nazi-Looted Art". *Bloomsbury Art Markets*, 2025.

David Bellingham (ed.). *A Cultural History of Collecting: Antiquity*. Bloomsbury Academic, forthcoming 2026.

David Bellingham. "Value." In *A Cultural History of Collecting in the Age of Enlightenment*, edited by Barbara Lasic and Jeremy Howard. Bloomsbury Academic, forthcoming 2026.

David Bellingham. "'The Best of The Best': MASTERPIECE London and the Art Fair as a Lifestyle Event." In *The Art Fair: Making and Shaping the Trade Hubs of the 20th and 21st Centuries* edited by J. Nathan. Brill, forthcoming 2026.

Federica Carlotto. "Integrating NFTs In Luxury Brand And Art Collaborations: Production, Marketing, And Organisational Implications". In *Handbook of Fashion Marketing and Digital Advances*, edited by O. Mitterfelner. De Gruyter Brill, 2026.

Ivy Yi Yan Chan. "The Art of Chinese Bamboo Carving: The Collection of Brian McElney at the Museum of East Asian Art". In *Transactions of the Oriental Ceramic Society*, edited by Rosemary E. Scott. Forthcoming.

Natasha Degen and Blair Asbury Brooks. *Hand and Glove: Art Market Studies and the History of Collecting*. Forthcoming.

Morgan Falconer. *How to Be Avant-Garde: Modern Artists and the Quest to End Art*. W.W. Norton, 2025.

Morgan Falconer. "Michael Heizer, General Contractor", under peer review.

Morgan Falconer. "How Donald Judd Found His Way to Minimalism", *Apollo*, September 2025.

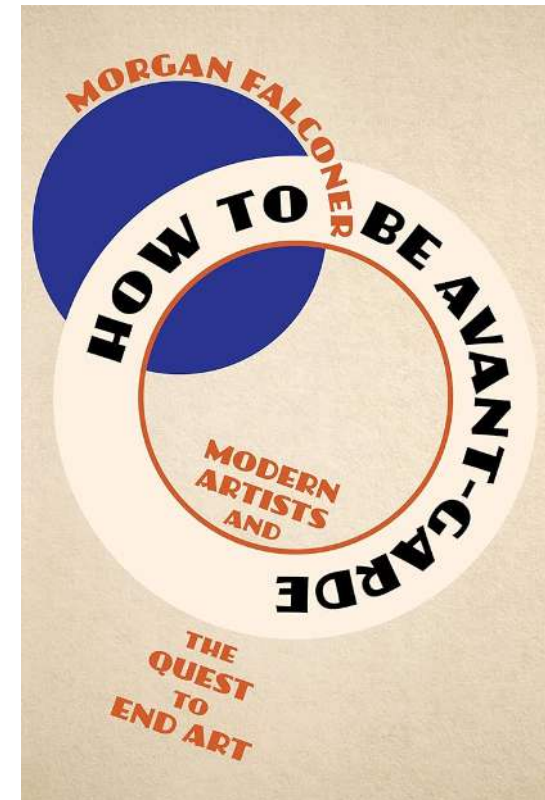
Morgan Falconer. "Art in Decline", *Art Monthly*, August 2025.

Morgan Falconer. "In Praise of New York's Most Egalitarian Art School", *Apollo*, August 2025.

Morgan Falconer. "Isles be back", *Apollo*, June 2025.

Morgan Falconer. "Should We Abolish Art?", *The Guardian*, March 10, 2025.

Morgan Falconer. "The avant-garde painters who went around in circles", *Apollo*, February 2025.



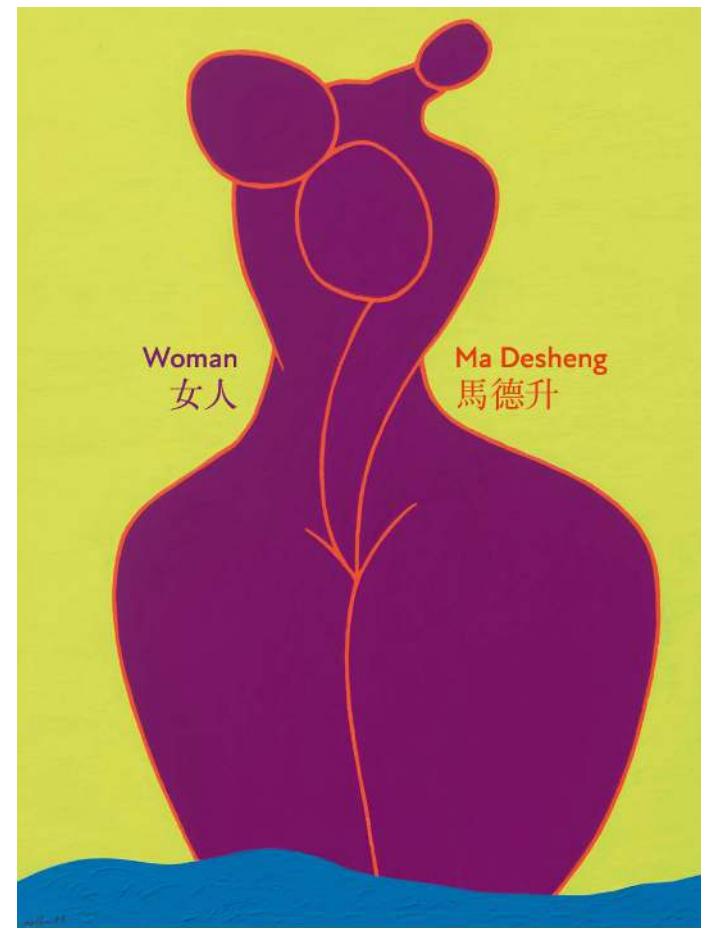
Beverley M. Hayward. "Conversations that change the decolonising world: exploring class, disability, and race perspectives in decolonising arts-based feminist research". In *Feminist Scholars' Experiences in Decolonising the Academy: Race, Class and Identity in Narrative*, edited by J. Ettienne. Lived Places Publishing, 2025.

Beverley M. Hayward. "Blowing up the Canon: Messages from the Marginalised in Conversation with the National Gallery". In *Exploring Academia – From Practice to Publishing*. AMPS Proceedings Series, in press 2026.

Beverley M. Hayward. "Care, compassion and catharsis: Emotional literacies considered in an autobiography and memoir-engaging imagination of a lifelong learner". In *Emerald Handbook for Teaching Global Competencies: Theoretical Perspectives and Practical Applications Inside and Outside the Classroom*. Emerald Publishing, in press June 2026.

Katie Hill. "Odyssey. Ma Desheng". *Ma Desheng, Woman* exhibition catalogue, 3812 Gallery, 2025.
https://www.3812gallery.com/usr/library/documents/main/exhibitions/128/catalogue_woman-ma-desheng-solo-exhibition_3812-gallery_250911.pdf.

Katie Hill. "Dialogue with artist Stanley Wong". In *Soul and Social: another mountain man* exhibition catalogue, 3812 Gallery, 2025.
https://website-gallery3812.artlogic.net/usr/library/documents/main/a4-copy_soul-social_v3_20251123.pdf



Barbara Lasic (ed.), *Curating and the Art Market*. Book proposal under peer-review by Bloomsbury Academic.

Barbara Lasic. "An Expedient Collaboration: the Synergetic Relationship between Joseph Duveen and the Palais des Beaux-Arts de la Ville de Paris, 1910-1930". In *Backstage Sociability in the Book and Art Market*, edited by Benedicte Miyamoto and Camille Murgia. Brill, 2027.

Barbara Lasic and Jeremy Howard (eds.). *A Cultural History of Collecting in the Age of Enlightenment*. Bloomsbury Academic, 2026.

Barbara Lasic. "Un Décor Authentique et Harmonieux': Framing the Cognacq-Jay Collection". *Furniture History*, Vol. LXII, 2026.

Barbara Lasic. "Elegant living: François-Joseph Bélanger's projected *petite maison* for Sophie Arnould". *The Burlington Magazine*, May 2026.

Barbara Lasic. "Crafting Diplomacy: extraordinary embassies and the programmatic display of French luxury goods, 1662-1789". In *Objects in Conflict: The Material Culture of Diplomacy*, edited by V. Depkat. Routledge, in press, 2026.

Oliver Peterson Gilbert. *The History and Theory of Art Logistics and Value Creation* (provisional title). Routledge, 2027.

Oliver Peterson Gilbert and Victoria D. Alexander. "Ontological Security and Online Cultural Participation: Towards an 'Ontological' Value Register during Covid-19 and Beyond". Submitted to *The British Journal of Sociology*, under peer review.

Oliver Peterson Gilbert, Arturo Rodríguez Morató, Matías I. Zarlenga, and Victoria D. Alexander. "Critical factors in shaping the parameters of cultural valuation in Europe". In *The Plural Values of Culture in Europe*, edited by Arturo Rodríguez Morató et al. Routledge 2025.

Pierre Saurisse. *Performance in the Museum*. Lund Humphries, 2025.

Céline Stiris, Paurav Shukla, and Jayway Singh. "Can Luxury Be Vegan? The Perceived Authenticity Challenge of Plant-Based Materials in Luxury Brands". Article to be submitted to *The Journal of Consumer Psychology* in Spring 2026

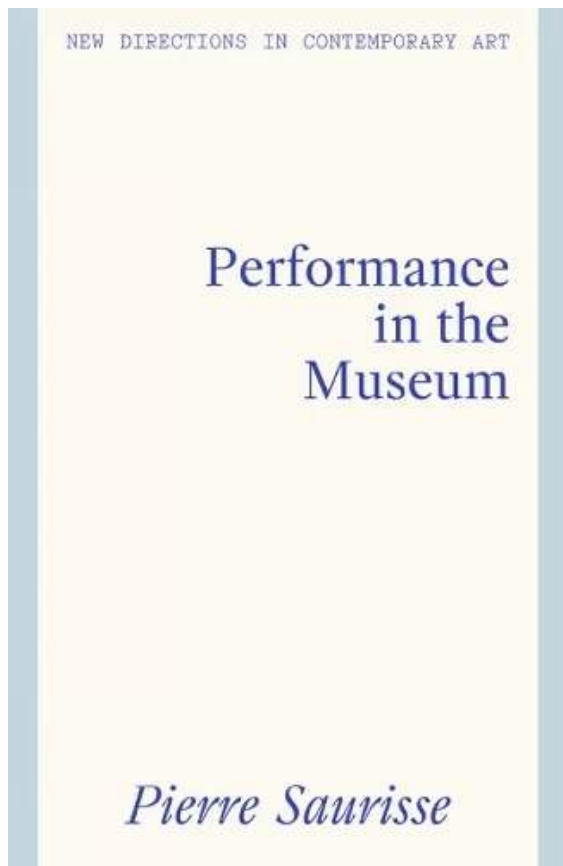
Céline Stiris and Caroline Massieu. "Is anti-aesthetic meaningful? Understanding the appeal for ugliness in fashion advertising." Submitted to *The Journal of Advertising Research*, under peer review.

Céline Stiris and Caroline Massieu. "Du 'uglycore' au minimalisme : comment les esthétiques publicitaires orientent vers une consommation plus raisonnée de la mode". Submitted to the *Association Française du Marketing*, under peer review.

Céline Stiris, Francesca Dall' Olmo Riley, and Jaywant Singh. "Customization as Innovation: Measuring Consumer Perceptions of Complexity and Value in Gifting". Submitted to *The International Journal of Market Research*, under peer review.

Marcus Verhagen. "Insubmissive Remembrance". *New Left Review*, forthcoming.

Marcus Verhagen. General editor "New Directions in Contemporary Art", Lund Humphries.



CONFERENCES/SEMINARS

David Bellingham. "From Signature to Brand: Ancient Greek Artists and the Origins of Authorship", Association for Art History Annual Conference, April 2026, University of Cambridge.

David Bellingham. "Logos in Stone: Guild Mosaics and the Visual Culture of Incorporation in Ostia." Art, Inc.: The Corporation in Art History Conference, 5 December 2025, The Courtauld Institute of Art.

David Bellingham. "Venus, Mars, and the Garden of Meaning: Nature and Myth in Botticelli". 21 September 2025, Art History Festival - Association for Art History.

Federica Carlotto. Panel chair "Frameworks for Social and Environmental Sustainability in Art and Luxury", Art, Luxury and Sustainability: Markets in Transition Conference, 8 November 2025, Sotheby's Institute of Art.

Federica Carlotto. "A Janus-Faced Matter: Managerial Perspectives On The Integration Of Technology In High-End Venues", Global Alliance of Marketing and Management Association Conference, 26 July 2025, Hong Kong.

Federica Carlotto. Guest presenter: "A Janus-Faced Matter: Managerial Perspectives On The Integration Of Technology In High-End Venues", Global Research Alliance in Luxury research seminar, 30 June 2025, ESCP Business School, London.

Ivy Yi Yan Chan. "The Art of Chinese Bamboo Carving: The Collection of Brian McElney at the Museum of East Asian Art", 9 December 2025, the Oriental Ceramic Society, London.

Natasha Degen. Convenor, Tiamsa Conference 'Art and Luxury Markets', October 2026, Sotheby's Institute, New York.

Natasha Degen. "Who Really Owns Culture? Blockchain and the Future of Creative Industries", 13 January 2026, Princeton DeCenter, Princeton University.

Morgan Falconer. "Michael Heizer, General Contractor", 25 November 2025, SIA Research Seminar.

Morgan Falconer. "Futurism!", April 2025, The Remarque Institute, New York University.

Melanie Fasche. Leader "PhD Methodology Workshop". IRS Spring Academy 2025: Space of Valuation and Authenticity, 17 June 2025, Erkner.

Melanie Fasche. "Dark Matter, Strategic Awareness, and Value Creation: Studying Creative Worlds". 7th Global Conference on Economic Geography, 8 June 2025, Clark University, Worcester, MA.

Melanie Fasche. Panel chair "Global Networks", Curating and the Art Market Conference, 14-15 February 2025, Sotheby's Institute of Art.

Steven Gambardella. "Georges de la Tour: Light, Devotion, and the Allegory of Being", SIA Research Seminar, 7 October 2025.

Juliet Hacking. "Julia Margaret Cameron: From Freshwater to Ceylon, a Convening", 4-8 June 2026, Dimbola Museum, Freshwater, Isle of Wight.

Beverley Hayward. "Washed up on the shore of sameness: Contesting the monoculture of a nation", The European Conference on Arts & Humanities, 9-13 July 2026, IAFOR, SOAS & University College London.

Katie Hill. In conversation with Govinda Sah 'Azad', accompanying his solo exhibition Journey to the Heart of Light (4 December 2025 – 24 January 2026), 17 January 2026, October Gallery.

Katie Hill. Panel chair and discussant, "Everyday Ecologies: Exploring the Visual Language of another mountainman," with Maurizio Marinelli, Professor of China and Global Prosperity at University College London with artist Stanley Wong, 20 November 2025, 3812 Gallery.

Katie Hill. Panel discussant, "Beyond the stars. Ma Desheng's nudes: migration and cross-cultural modernity in the global Chinese diaspora", chaired by Jeffrey Boloten with speaker Dr. Joshua Gong, 15 October 2025, 3812 Gallery.

Katie Hill. "Negotiating artistic activism in the 21st century. Artist-led activism and mediation in the Chinese diaspora since 1999", Association for Art History Annual Conference, 9 April 2025, University of York.

Katie Hill. "Negotiating artistic activism in the 21st century. Artist-led activism and mediation in the Chinese diaspora since 1999. SIA Research Seminar, 11 March 2025

Katie Hill. “Strange Wonders. Curating contemporary Chinese ink in the 21st Century”, Curating and the Art Market Conference, 14-15 February 2025, Sotheby’s Institute of Art / The Colnaghi Foundation, London.

Barbara Lasic. “Crafting Diplomacy: Extraordinary Embassies’ Visits to the Gobelins Manufacture and the Garde-Meuble de la Couronne”, Diplomatic Gifts in the Modern and Contemporary Era Conference, 2-3 March 2026, The French Academy in Rome – Villa Medici.

Barbara Lasic. “Crafting and Staging Magnificence: the Politics of Production and Display at French Royal Manufactures”, A Material World Seminar Series, 12 January 2026, Warburg Institute.

Barbara Lasic. “Collecting Ambitions, Diplomatic Intentions: Charles Le Brun as a Collector”, Artists and Collections: Histories, Practices and Interactions Conference, 2-3 December 2025, IULM University, Milan.

Barbara Lasic. Co-Convenor: Art, Luxury and Sustainability: Markets in Transition Conference, 8 November 2025, Sotheby’s Institute of Art.

Barbara Lasic and Alexander Collins, Curator, Wallace Collection, “Playful Fantasies: Visions of Nature in 18th-Century French Art”, 16 September 2025, Art History Festival - Association for Art History.

Barbara Lasic. “Visualising Museal Trajectories at the Garde-Meuble de la Couronne, 1774-1789”, Publics of the First Museums Conference, 5-6 June 2025, Prado Museum.

Barbara Lasic. Convenor: Curating and the Art Market conference, 14-15 February 2025, Sotheby’s Institute of Art / The Colnaghi Foundation.

Barbara Lasic. “‘Splendours and Treasures of a Courtesan’: Interrogating and Contextualising Sophie Arnould’s Collections”, British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Conference, 8-10 January 2025, Pembroke College, Oxford.

Oliver Peterson Gilbert. “Regional British Art Practices and Art Education in the 1960s”, Association for Art History Annual Conference, April 2026, University of Cambridge.

Judith Prowda. Co-Chair and Co-Moderator, “Photography and Fine Art Now”, An Exploration of the Evolving Landscape of Photography and the Fine Art Market, 23 October 2025, Sotheby’s Institute of Art, New York.

Judith Prowda. Co-Chair and Co-Moderator, “Intertropical Convergence: Gallerists Bridging the Americas”, 29 April 2025, Sotheby’s Institute of Art, New York.

Judith Prowda. Panelist, “Visual Artists Rights Act – A Spectrum of Chaos”, 11 December 2025, Copyright Society of the USA, New York.

Judith Prowda. “Stage Left – When Mediation Hits a Dead End”, The Teatime Series: The Art of Breaking an Impasse in Mediation, 19 November 2025, EASL ADR Committee, New York.

Judith Prowda. “The Challenges of Settling International Cultural Heritage Disputes”, 31 October 2025, Union Internationale des Avocats (UIA) Guadalajara, Mexico.

Judith Prowda. Panelist. “ADR and Art Law Disputes: A Case Study on the Battle of the Experts”, 10 October 2025, Mediator Roundtable Series, California Lawyers for the Arts, Los Angeles.

Judith Prowda. Panelist, “State of the Arts – Copyrightability and AI in 2025: Recent Cases, Legal Trends, and the Future of Creative Ownership”, 30 September 2025, Bar Association of San Francisco, San Francisco.

Judith Prowda. Moderator, New York State Bar Association EASL Spring Meeting Committee on ADR Program, 14 May 2025, EASL ADR Committee, New York.

Judith Prowda. “How to adjudicate art disputes and how to use ADR in art law disputes”, 11 April 2025, Harvard Art Law Organization, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA.

Judith Prowda. Panelist, “Art 5.0 – How technology has changed the way art is created, sold and exhibited”, 31 January 2025, Union Internationale des Avocats (UIA), Venice, Italy.

Pierre Saurisse in conversation with Catherine Wood, Director of Curatorial & Chief Curator, Tate Modern. *Performance in the Museum* book launch, 8 October 2025, Sotheby’s Institute of Art, London.

Pierre Saurisse. Convenor of the Contemporary Art Talks Series, Sotheby’s Institute of Art, 2025-26

Céline Stiris and Caroline Massieu: "Is anti-aesthetics meaningful? Complementing the social distinction framework in ugly fashion", OMNES Education 6th Symposium on Luxury, 4 April 2025, International University of Monaco.

Bernard Vere. “Picasso’s Balancing Act: Classicism, Modernism, and the Tour de France”, SIA Research Seminar, 7 October 2025.

Marcus Verhagen. “Avatars of Modernist Hope”, SIA Research Seminar, 25 November 2025.

Dan Vo. “Queer Eyewitness: Testimony and Representation in UK Museums”, SIA Research Seminar, 11 March 2025.

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Federica Carlotto. Peer-reviewer for *French Cultural Studies*.

Barbara Lasic. Member, Art Market Steering Group - Association for Art History, appointed July 2025.

Céline Stiris. Board Member, PhD Advisory Committee ESCP Business School.

Bernard Vere. Peer-reviewer for *The Burlington Magazine* and Texas University Press.

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

David Bellingham. Host: The Art Business Podcast. Ongoing biweekly audio and video series featuring alumnae/-i and art world professionals. <https://linktr.ee/davibellingham>.

Federica Carlotto. Interview: “The Art of Luxury”, Signature Magazine, June 2025: <https://signature.at/magazin/jetzt-am-kiosk-die-neue-signature-grand-edition-art-architecture>

Ivy Yi Yan Chan. Online lecture, “Chinese Bamboo Carving Part 1”, 7 February 2025, staff training session, Museum of East Asian Art, Bath.

Ivy Yi Yan Chan. Online lecture, “Chinese Bamboo Carving Part 2”, 12 February 2025, staff training session, Museum of East Asian Art, Bath.

Ivy Yi Yan Chan. Lecture, “Later Chinese Jade Carvings: the Qianlong Period and Republican Collecting: Part 1”, 7 July 2025, staff training session, Museum of East Asian Art, Bath.

Ivy Yi Yan Chan. Lecture, “Later Chinese Jade Carvings: the Qianlong Period and Republican Collecting: Part 2”, 24 November 2025, staff training session, Museum of East Asian Art, Bath.

Melanie Fasche. Talk, “The Art of Collecting: Inspiration, Passion, Investment”. 10 November 2025, private membership club Building Connections, The Other House, London.

Judith Prowda. Moderator and Arbitrator in Mock Arbitration,

“Mock Trials and AI Tribunals: Arbitrating in the Digital Age”, 15 May 2025, New York County Lawyers Association, New York

Judith Prowda. “Fundamentals of Copyright and Visual Art”, “Legal Representation of Visual Artists: Tips for Lawyers and Artists”, Art Lawyering Bootcamp: Copyright Law Training Program for Attorneys, 23 April 2025, Center for Art Law, New York.

Judith Prowda. Moderator and Co-Chair, “Protecting Artists & Dealers from Money Laundering in the Art Industry”, 23 April 2025, Fine Arts Committee New York State Bar Association EASL Section, New York.



Jade carving of a boy holding a cat, early Ming dynasty (1368-1550).
Image © Museum of East Asian Art

PUBLIC PROGRAMME

15 April 2026: Magnus Renfrew in Conversation

25 February 2026: Sean Baker in Conversation

3 December 2025: Rene Matić in conversation with Mark Sealy

7 November 2025: Art, Luxury and Sustainability Conference

22 October 2025: Curating the Arthur Gilbert Collection at the V&A, Alice Minter, Senior Curator, Gilbert Collection/Victoria & Albert Museum

8 October 2025: *Performance in the Museum* book launch: Pierre Saurisse in conversation with Catherine Wood, Director of Curatorial & Chief Curator, Tate Modern.

16 September 2025: 'Playful Fantasies: Visions of Nature in 18th-Century French Art', Alexander Collins, Curator, The Wallace Collection, and Barbara Lasic, Art History Festival - Association for Art History.

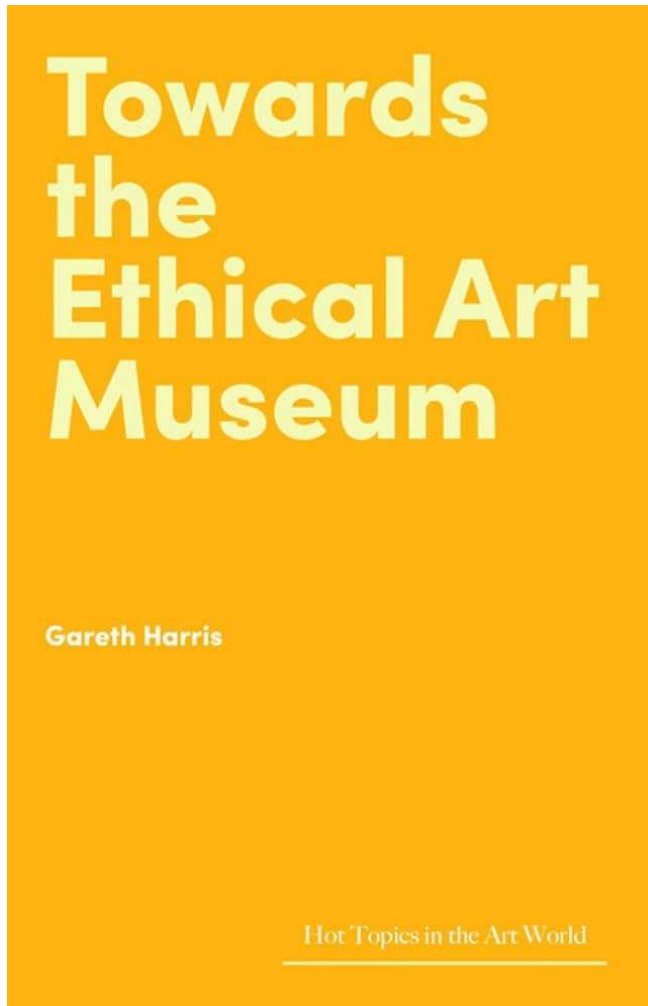
12 March 2025: Sonia Boyce in conversation with Gilane Tawadros

14-15 February 2025: Curating and the Art Market Conference, co-hosted with the Colnaghi Foundation

22 January 2025: Citra Sasmita in conversation with Lotte Johnson



Pierre Saurisse in conversation with Catherine Wood,
Director of Curatorial & Chief Curator, Tate Modern, 8 October 2025



HOT TOPICS

The year saw the publication of three volumes: Gareth Harris's *Towards the Ethical Museum*, Enid Tsui's *Art in Hong Kong*, and Annabel Keenan's *Climate Action in the Art World*.

Two books are scheduled for publication in Spring 2026:

Next Gen Collectors and the Art Market by Georgina Adam.

Drawing on new interviews with collectors and art-market specialists internationally, Adam examines how changes in collecting trends are being driven by generational shifts in the sources of wealth, as well as the changing tastes, different motivations and new modes of acquiring art of Millennial and Gen Z collectors compared to older generations. What does all this mean for the future of art collecting and of the art market?

Art on the Blockchain by Valérie C. Whitacre

The development of blockchain technology over the last decade has had a far-reaching impact on the creation, ownership and trading of artwork, especially digital art. Valérie C. Whitacre demonstrates how the blockchain continues to revolutionise our understanding of what can be considered a work of art as well as how art can be traded and consumed. Tracing the heritage of so-called 'Crypto Art' to earlier fine-art movements such as Fluxus, Conceptual art, photography and performance, the book shows that different collecting and ownership tools (such as the Certificate of Authenticity) were already established prior to the invention of the blockchain.