

**Challenges in provenance research and art
restitution today and tomorrow. Dealing
with Nazi-era loss and spoliation of
cultural assets in the second quarter
of the 21st century
Vienna, December 1–2 2026**

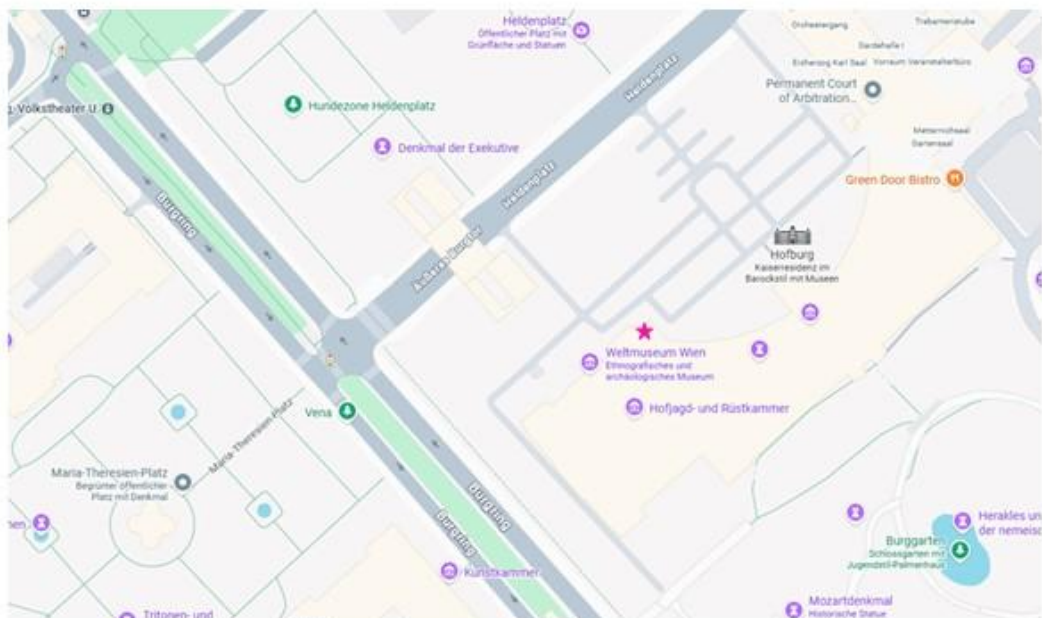
Forum I Weltmuseum / KHM-Museumsverband
Heldenplatz, 1010 Vienna

CHALLENGES IN PROVENANCE RESEARCH AND ART RESTITUTION TODAY AND TOMORROW

Registration for the conference is required and can only be completed via the following link:

[Conference Registration](#) (Open until 31 October 2026). For safety reasons, the number of participants is limited to 120.

contact: anmeldung.provenienzforschung@bda.gv.at



8.30–9.00 a.m. Arrival/Registration

9.00–9.15 a.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

PANEL I: Law, Norms, Ethics, and the Limits of Restitution

Chair: **Franz-Philipp Sutter** (Art Restitution Advisory Board / Austrian Supreme Administrative Court / WU Vienna)

- 9.15–10.45 a.m.
- Manon Zeidler** (Armenian General Benevolent Union, Paris)
Restitution as a Symptom: On the Limits of International Cultural Heritage Law
- Emma Waring** (University of York)
Beyond the Washington Principles: Time, Moral Force, and the Limits of English Spoliation Law
- Corinne HersHKovitch** (Cabinet Corinne HersHKovitch) / **Amnon Lehavi** (Reichman University, Herzliya)
France's Cour de Cassation Annuls the 1942 Dorville Auction: Implications for "Hard Law" Restitution of Nazi-Era Spoliated Art
- Sebastian Schlegel** (Berlin Museum)
Beyond Legal Remedies? Ethical Questions and Responsibilities for Public Collections Concerning Cultural Property Expropriations in the Soviet Occupation Zone and the GDR (1945–1990)
- Charlotte Woodhead** (University of Warwick)
Property, care and justice: restitution committees reflecting legal approaches

10.45–11.15 a.m. Morning Break

PANEL 2: From Expropriation to Restitution: Transnational Legacies of the Nazi Era

Chair: **Birgit Kirchmayr** (Art Restitution Advisory Board / Scientific Coordination, Commission for Provenance Research, Vienna / Johannes Kepler University Linz)

- 11.15 a.m.–12.30 p.m.
- Mary-Ann Middelkoop** (University of Cambridge)
Nazi-Era Provenance, Temporality and the Historian's Craft
- Katharina Hüls-Valenti** (Deutsches Historisches Institut, Rome)
Contextualizing Italy within Nazi-era Provenance Research: the dispersal of the Pollitzer art collection under German occupation in Trieste and its traces across borders
- Lucie Němečková** (Documentation Centre of Property Transfer of the Cultural Assets of WW2 Victims, Prague)
Richard Morawetz Collection. Double injustice finally repaired?
- Julia Unterweger** (Federal Ministry for Housing, Arts, Culture, Median and Sport / Commission for Provenance Research, Vienna)
The Austrian Republic's 50th Anniversary 1995 or: How the Mauerbach Benefit Sale came about 1996

12.30–2.00 p.m. Lunch Break

PANEL 3: Producing Value. Markets, Knowledge, and Canon Formation in Provenance Research

Chair: **Christian Huemer** (Belvedere Research Center, Vienna)

- 2.00–3.15 p.m. **Gabriella Corey-Moretti** (University of Maastricht)
Behind the block: provenance research, restitution practices, and the auction house
- Janine Kersten** (Deutsches Historisches Museum, Berlin)
Art Exports Without Borders: The Transnational Trading Network of Kunst und Antiquitäten GmbH
- Liza Weber** (Sotheby's Institute of Art, London)
The Price of Provenance: Ascertaining the Value of Nazi-Era Restitutions on the Art Market
- Tamara Loitfellner** (Commission for Provenance Research, Vienna)
Why have there been no great women artists in provenance research?
- 3.15–3.45 p.m. Afternoon Break

PANEL 4: Knowledge with Reservations: Uncertainty, Gaps, and Epistemic Challenges

Chair: **Johannes Feichtinger** (Institute of Culture Studies, Austrian Academy of Science, Vienna)

- 3.45–5.00 p.m. **Nicole-Melanie Goll** (Leopold-Museum Privatstiftung, Commission for Provenance Research, Vienna) / **Anneliese Schallmeiner** (Commission for Provenance Research, Vienna)
The "Habsburg Jewels" or the question: what can provenance research still achieve?
- Leticia Machado Haertel** (Geneva Graduate Institute, Geneva)
From Gaps to Accountability: Toward a Duty to Declare Provenance in Paleontology
- Katharina Garbers-von Boehm** (onto Partners, Berlin) / **Nikola Doll** (German Lost Art Foundation, Magdeburg)
The broader context: addressing gaps, uncertain knowledge and conflicting evidence requirements
- Jelena Todorovic** (University of Arts, Belgrade)
Saving from Oblivion – How provenance research can help historians and save collections from scholarly oblivion – the case of the State Art Collection Belgrade, Yugoslavia
- 5.00–5.15 p.m. Transition Break
- 5.15–6.45 p.m. **ROUND TABLE with members of the Network of European Restitution Committees on Nazi-looted Art**
- 6.45–9.00 p.m. Reception

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8.30–9.00 a.m. Arrival/Registration

PANEL 5: *Entangled Histories – De-/Colonial Perspectives and Collections*

Chair: **Bernadette Biedermann** (KFU, Graz)

9.00–10.15 a.m.

Reilly Clark (University of California, Santa Barbara)
Imperial Boomerang: African and Oceanic Art in Occupied Paris, 1940–1944

Daniel Hendrikse (Institute for War, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies, Amsterdam) / **Wiebe Reints** (Boerhaave Museum, Leiden)
Provenance research at crossroads. Cultural objects as nodes of multiple contexts of injustice

Elisabeth Pereira / **Alexandra Marques** / **Maria Figueira** (Nova University of Lisbon/University of Évora)
Exhibitions as Living Documents: Participatory Decolonisation of Colonial Collections

Oliwia Pordzik (University of Vienna)
From “Objects” to “Belongings”: Rethinking Collections Stewardship and Restitution as a Relational Process in Alaskan Museums

10.15–10.45 a.m. Morning Break

PANEL 6: *Institutional Responsibilities and Practices – Historical Continuities*

Chair: **Jochen Böhler** (Museum of Military History, Vienna)

10.45 a.m.–12.15 p.m.

Bartłomiej Sierzputowski / **Agata Modzolewska** (Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Poland):
A “New” Chapter in Polish Restitution Policy: Procedure for the Return of Cultural Objects Moved from the Territory of a Foreign Country from the Territory of the Republic of Poland

Borbála Klacsmann (Eötvös-Loránd-Universität, Budapest) / **Katalin Andreides** (Andreides Law, Budapest/Rome)
Provenance and restitution in Hungary – Challenges and Developments

Zuzana Löbbling (Charles University, Prague)
From Post-Socialist Restitution to Holocaust Restitution: Legal Continuities and Institutional Ruptures in Czech Museum Collections

Karlo Ruzicic-Kessler (Université de Fribourg)
Switzerland's Compensation Policy for Victims of Nazi Persecution

Eléonore Thole (Open Universiteit / RKD, Amsterdam)
Compensatory Restitution versus “Just and Fair Solutions”: Russian Trophy Art and the Fragmentation of Post-Holocaust Restitution Norms

12.15–1.45 p.m. Lunch Break

PANEL 7: Methods, Data and Infrastructures

Chair: **Hanna Schneck** (KHM-Museumsverband, Vienna)

- 1.45–2.45 p.m. **Mirna Mederal** (Mimara Museum, Zagreb)
O, knowledge, where art thou? Data Retrieval Issues in Art Research Digital Repositories
- Meike Hopp** (German Lost Art Foundation / University of Cologne)
Measuring Provenance Research? On Evaluation, Criteria, and the Limits of Metrics
- Alexander Nagel** (State University, New York)
Archives as Archaeological Sites: South Arabian Objects, Archival Networks, and Institutional Histories between Yemen, Lyon, Berlin, New York City and Washington, D.C.
- 2.45–3.15 p.m. Afternoon Break

PANEL 8: From Provenance Research to Public Accountability: Restitution, Transparency, and Museum Practice

Chair: **Claudia Banz** (Weltmuseum Vienna / KHM-Museumsverband)

- 3.15–4.30 p.m. **Paula Chmielowska / Kamil Zeidler** (University of Gdańsk)
Arguing Restitution: Hard Cases, Justifications, and the Limits of Consensus
- Tamar Barbakadze** (Independent Researcher)
From Archive to Audience: Provenance Research, Narrative Power, and the Politics of Visibility
- Ute Strimmer / Sonia Buchroithner** (Tiroler Landesmuseum, Innsbruck)
From Archival Research to Public Dialogue: The First Provenance Exhibition of the Tiroler Landesmuseen as a Catalyst for Research, Education, and Sustainability
- Emilia Krellmann** (Technical University Dresden)
Showing What Was Returned: Nazi-Era Provenance Research and Collection Gaps in »Inventarnummer 1938« at the Technisches Museum Wien

Closing Remarks and Outlook

- 4.30–5.00 p.m. **Birgit Kirchmayr** (Art Restitution Advisory Board / Scientific Coordination, Commission for Provenance Research, Vienna / Johannes Kepler University Linz)