

# **Art Crime: The myth vs the reality**

**RA Courses and Classes Academic Programmes**

**6 - 7 April 2019**

**Course Leaders:** James Ratcliffe & Amelie Ebbinghaus

**Guest speakers:** Richard Aronowitz, Antonia Bartoli, Laura Chesters, Costas Paraskevaides, Abigail Price, Fionnuala Rogers and Till Vere-Hodge

## **About the Course**

This weekend-long course explores this gripping world of art crime including looting and theft, forgeries and vandalism, drawing on real cases and exploring the difference between myth and reality.

From *The Adventures of Indiana Jones* to *The Monuments Men*, art crime captures the public imagination and is never far from the news or the movies. However, how close does this come to reality? Through the wide-ranging practical experience of invited speakers, this course will introduce participants to the different forms of crime against art and will provide an understanding of the reality behind the stories covered in the news and media. Areas of particular focus will include the theft of art and antiques from museums and private individuals; the looting and theft of antiquities across the world; and the recovery of Nazi looted art.

Questions that will be answered in the course cover: How does art crime affect artists, collectors, institutions, and the market today? How do you track down stolen and looted art? What happens when stolen works resurface? Other areas of art crime will be touched upon, including fakes and forgeries, iconoclasm and vandalism, as well as more financial crimes such as consignment fraud or money laundering.

The practical experience of the course directors and guest speakers will be used to illustrate these various forms of art crime and the diverse way in which they are tackled and resolved. The context for this fight against art crime will also be recognised, and the crucial role that the art market has to play.

Throughout the weekend the speakers will encourage those attending to recognise the difference between crime as presented by the press or within popular culture, and the reality of every day work for those who fight art crime. Attendees will also be introduced to research tools that aid the detecting of works with a problematic past. The course will conclude with a practical exercise, allowing participants to put to use their understanding of the issues raised over the weekend.

## **Course Leaders**

**James Ratcliffe**

*Director of Recoveries & General Counsel, Art Loss Register*

**Amelie Ebbinghaus**

*Client Manager DACH, Provenance Researcher, Art Loss Register*

## **Guest Speakers**

**Richard Aronowitz**

*European Head of Restitution, Senior Director, Sotheby's London*

**Antonia Bartoli**

*Spoliation Curator, Printed Heritage Collections, British Library*

**Laura Chesters**

*Deputy Editor, Antique Trade Gazette*

**Costas Paraskevaides**

*Founder, ArtAncient*

**Abigail Price**

*Fine Art and Specie Underwriter, Navigators Group Inc.*

**Fionnuala Rogers**

*Art and Cultural Property Law, UK Committee for the Blue Shield*

**Till Vere-Hodge**

*Senior Associate, Art and Cultural Property Law Group, Constantine Cannon LLP.*

## **Selected Bibliography**

### Primary Reading:

- Charney, Noah, *The Art of Forgery: The Minds, Motives and Methods of Master Forgers* (London, 2015).
- Goodman, Simon, *The Orpheus Clock: The Search for My Family's Art Treasures Stolen by the Nazis* (London, 2015).
- Nicholas, Lynn, *Rape of Europa: The Fate of Europe's Treasures in the Third Reich and the Second World War* (New York, 1994).
- Nairne, Sandy, *Art Theft and the Case of the Stolen Turners*. (London, 2012).
- Watson, Peter, *The Medici Conspiracy: The Illicit Journey of Looted Antiquities – From Italy's Tomb Raiders to the World's Greatest Museums* (New York, 2006).

### Secondary Reading:

- Feliciano, Hector, *The Lost Museum* (New York, 1997).
- Petropoulos, Jonathan, *Art As Politics in the Third Reich* (Chapel Hill & London, 1999).
- Tompkins, Arthur, *Art Crime and its Prevention: A Handbook for Collectors and Art Professionals*. (London, 2016).
- Watson, Peter & Watson, Rosie, *Sotheby's: The Inside Story* (London, 1998).
- Webb, Jonathan & Radcliffe, Julian, *Stolen: The Gallery of Missing Masterpieces* (Toronto, 2009).

