

A guide to our services

We have put together a team of lawyers who advise on legal issues in the art world. Our "art lawyers" are distinguished by the range of their legal skills, but united by their enthusiasm for art.

The Art Law Group

The Art Law Group was established in 1995 in response to client demand for advice on:

- cultural property issues – including export regulations and the recovery of stolen or looted cultural objects
- title and provenance
- authenticity and attribution
- art-related aspects of estates, wills, trusts and tax planning
- transactional and contractual advice for artists, collectors, dealers, insurers and auction houses
- exploitation and protection of copyright and other intellectual property rights.

We work as teams in both contentious and non-contentious areas. Our familiarity with the art market (some of our lawyers have degrees in Fine Art) enables us to keep track of legal trends in Europe and worldwide.

The International Aspect

Art is not confined by national boundaries; neither are the legal issues involved.

Our international contacts are extensive. We have close links with a worldwide network of art-specialist law firms.

Examples of the range of our work:

- advising foreign governments on the return of stolen or illegally exported cultural property
- assisting parties in looted art cases (Holocaust and others)
- assisting a British citizen pursued abroad following the innocent acquisition of artefacts
- negotiating sale & purchase agreements for dealers and collectors
- advising individual collectors on their rights in relation to misattributed or damaged artworks sold at auction or privately.

The Art Law Group

Artists, collectors, dealers, museums, galleries, auction houses, valuers, restorers and others...

We appreciate the importance of discretion in a market where reputation, integrity and trust are fundamental. We are therefore consulted by:

- parties in disputes over authenticity or title of artworks sold as genuine and unencumbered
- collectors, museums and galleries on the most tax efficient way of buying or disposing of artworks, the moving and housing of collections, the rules relating to the safeguarding of national heritage items and the export regulations restricting the free movement of art (even within the European Union)
- dealers and auction houses (and their customers) on standard terms of sale and purchase
- auction houses on their anti-trust/competition law policies
- banks (and their customers) on the securitisation of artworks
- publishers in reproduction rights disputes with copyright holders (or parties claiming copyright)
- the administrators of an R.A.'s intestate estate, negotiating with the Treasury, the Inland Revenue and museums in order to implement the wishes of the artist's family
- internet service providers on copyright issues in the creation and display of artworks.

For further information please contact:

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