

ROUNDTABLE EUROPEAN HISTORIC HOUSES ASSOCIATION – DOROTHEUM

*FACING THE CHALLENGES OF PRESERVING AND MANAGING WORKS OF ART: TRADITIONAL AND EMERGING METHODS*

SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

On September 18, 2017, the European Historic Houses Association organised a Round table in partnership with [Dorotheum Brussels](#), in their offices Rue aux Laines, on the preview of the fall auction week, which took place at Dorotheum Vienna on October 16-20, 2017.

The round table *'Facing the challenges of preserving and managing works of art: Traditional and emerging methods'* was open by Honorine d'Ursel, Director of Dorotheum Brussels, who has been instrumental in the partnership with the European Historic Houses Association, to provide relevant information to private owners of heritage houses and collections in Belgium.



*Rodolphe de Looz-Corswarem, Executive President of EHHA, opening the round table*

Rodolphe de Looz-Corswarem, Executive President of the European Historic Houses Association, followed by stressing the importance for private owners to seize the opportunities provided by the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage.

Gérald Watelet, the renowned Belgian journalist, moderated the round table.

Mireille Desguin, painting restorer, emphasized on the notion of preventive conservation to be able to transmit artworks to future generations. She presented both the methodologies and deontology applied by restorers and gave some insights as to how participants could sustainably maintain their collections.

Yadira Castellanos, artworks analyst, addressed the issue of fighting the illicit traffic of cultural goods, as well as the detection of fakes and forgeries by combining scientific expertise and historic context. She highlighted the use of digital imagery as a non-invasive processes.

Gautier Gendebien, expert for XIXth century painting, and Damian Brenninkmeyer, expert for Old Master paintings, both experts within Dorotheum explained how valuation was

made, depending on the following criteria: authentication, subject, year of execution, state of

conservation, exposition, publications and provenance. Both recommended maintaining an up-to-date inventory of one's collection.

IRPA Director, Hilde Clercq, presented the work of IRPA, the Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage (KIK-IRPA), which is a federal scientific institute responsible for the documentation, study and conservation-restoration of the cultural and artistic heritage.

Finally, Joris Visser expert in Tribal Art closed the Conference on the existing links between Tribal and European art, and the challenge of successive its interpretations.

Gérald Watelet, moderator, closed the round table by thanking all the speakers and participants. The round table was followed by a cocktail, during which participants had the opportunity to exchange further on artwork preservation, and were treated to a guided tour of Dorotheum's collection.