

Hugo Helbing (1863–1938) was the founder and director of one of Germany's foremost auction houses, the market leader in the German speaking countries between c. 1900 and 1935. At his headquarters in Munich, his branches in Frankfurt am Main and Berlin, as well as abroad, Helbing held more than 800 auctions, many of outstanding importance. His exquisite catalogues defined new standards in their exemplary assessment of objects and contributed significantly to Germany's competitive position in the international art trade at the time. Helbing, who was honoured with many awards for his achievements and magnanimity, also published scholarly periodicals, among them the *Monatsberichte über Kunstwissenschaft und Kunsthandel*. Due to his Jewish origin Helbing was murdered in the wake of the 'Reichspogromnacht' in 1938. The *Hugo Helbing Lecture - Exploring the Art Market* commemorates his achievements every year. It was first held in 2016 on the occasion of the donation of annotated auction catalogues from his firm to the Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte, Munich.

Hugo Helbing (1863–1938) gründete und leitete das zwischen ca. 1900 und ca. 1935 führende Kunstauktionshaus im deutschsprachigen Raum. Am Hauptsitz in München, an den Niederlassungen in Frankfurt a.M. und Berlin sowie im Ausland veranstaltete Helbing über 800 z.T. herausragende Auktionen. Ihre Kataloge setzten neue Maßstäbe in der wissenschaftlichen Bearbeitung und Druckqualität und trugen wesentlich dazu bei, dass Deutschland in diesen Jahren eine führende Stellung im internationalen Kunsthandel einnahm. Helbing veröffentlichte auch wissenschaftliche Periodika, u. a. die *Monatsberichte über Kunstwissenschaft und Kunsthandel*. Für seine Verdienste und sein wohlwütiges Engagement wurde er mit zahlreichen Ehrungen ausgezeichnet. Helbing wurde im Zuge der Reichspogromnacht 1938 als Jude ermordet. Die *Hugo Helbing Lecture* zur Erforschung des Kunstmarkts erinnert einmal im Jahr an sein Wirken. Sie fand erstmals 2016 anlässlich der Schenkung von annotierten Auktionskatalogen aus seiner Firma an das Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte, München statt.

Max Slevogt (1868–1932)

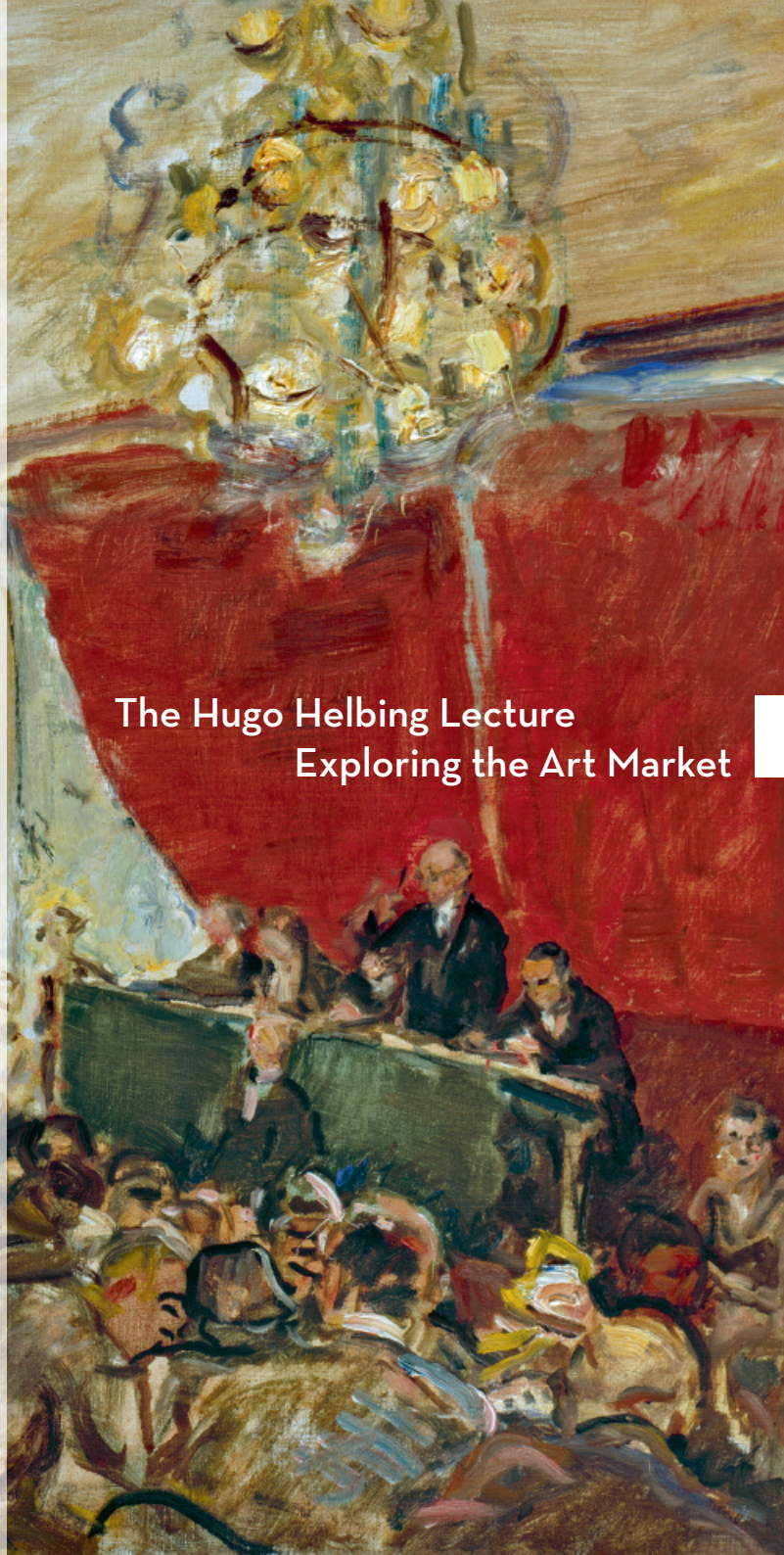
Hugo Helbing Directs the Sale of the Huldshinsky-Collection in Berlin, 1928

Hugo Helbing versteigert die Sammlung Huldshinsky in Berlin, 1928

Oil on canvas/Öl auf Leinwand, 51,5 x 62,5 cm (Detail)

Landesmuseum Hannover © Landesmuseum Hannover – ARTOTHEK

The Hugo Helbing Lecture Exploring the Art Market



The Lecture

This lecture will centre on about ten individuals who were friends and colleagues of the speaker's father, Arthur Kauffmann. Formerly director of the Frankfurt branch of the auction house Hugo Helbing, Kauffmann emigrated with his family to London in 1938.

England was also the chosen destination of Kauffmann's colleagues such as Grete Ring, Alfred Scharf, Franz Drey, Herbert Bier and Robert Frank. In discussing the effects of emigration on their biographies, the talk will draw upon personal memory as well as knowledge of these individuals' careers.

At the same time, the lecture will also reflect on the impact of refugee dealers on the art market in England. The London dealers were indeed very welcoming to the new arrivals at the time, a fact which greatly helped the latter – who considered themselves as refugees rather than exiles – to take root.

Prof. Dr. C. Michael Kauffmann, born in Frankfurt in 1931, emigrated with his family to England in 1938. He began his career as a Junior Research Fellow at the Warburg Institute where he obtained his PhD in 1957. He was Assistant Keeper at the Manchester City Art Gallery (1958–60), then Assistant Keeper and later Keeper of the Victoria and Albert Museum's Department of Prints & Drawings and Paintings (1960–1985). From 1985 until 1995 he was Professor of History of Art and Director of the Courtauld Institute of Art (University of London). Michael Kauffmann is the author of many museum catalogues and publications on medieval manuscript illumination. Among his books are the Catalogue of Foreign Paintings, Victoria & Albert Museum, (1973), Romanesque Manuscripts 1066–1190 (1975), and Biblical Imagery in Medieval England, 700–1550, (2003). Michael Kauffmann was made a Fellow of the British Academy in 1987.

Bisherige Helbing Lectures

2016 Thomas Gaehtgens, Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles
2017 Craig Clunas, University of Oxford
2018 Meike Hopp, Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte, München

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The Hugo Helbing Lecture Exploring the Art Market

Begrüßung

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Hugo Helbing in London Refugee Art Dealers in England in the 1930s–40s

(in englischer Sprache)

NS-Dokumentationszentrum München

Max-Mannheimer-Platz 1
(ehemals Brienner Straße 34)
80333 München

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