

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 Kunsthistorie 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 Kunsthistorie und Kunsthandel*. Für seine Verdienste und sein wohltätiges 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 Huldschinsky-Collection in Berlin, 1928
Hugo Helbing versteigert die Sammlung Huldschinsky 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

Operating out of Florence, but active all around Europe and across the Atlantic, the art dealer Stefano Bardini (1836–1922) built a business that could claim almost a thousand clients and which transacted many thousands of objects over the course of his nearly sixty year long career. Bardini maintained an active relationship with Berlin based Wilhelm von Bode (1845–1929) who had an ambitious collecting agenda on behalf of the Berlin museums and several wealthy collectors. Bode's numerous publications gave currency and legitimacy to the many Bardini objects which populated his writings. On the basis of archival material in Florence and Berlin, the lecture identifies several examples of "contamination" – objects, provenance, literature – while laying out a roadmap for their propagation and codification. In doing so, questions are raised as to issues of authenticity that have repercussions still today.

Lynn Catterson (Columbia Univ., Ph.D., 2002) began her researches with an interest in Italian Renaissance sculpture with a focus on the marketplace and how 15C sculptors satisfied consumer demand for antiquities. Lately, she is working on the art market in 19C Florence from the point of view of production and social network via its preeminent dealer, Stefano Bardini, drawing upon material in the state archive of the Bardini family and business. The main goal of the Bardini project is to create a digital research platform to unite the material in Florence with corresponding archival material from individuals and institutions with whom Bardini transacted art.

Bisherige Helbing Lectures

- 2016 Thomas Gaehtgens, Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles
- 2017 Craig Clunas, University of Oxford
- 2018 Meike Hopp, Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte, München
- 2019 Michael Kauffmann, Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London

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The Hugo Helbing Lecture Exploring the Art Market

Begrüßung

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München

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Nathan Fine Art, Potsdam/Zürich

Lynn Catterson, New York, NY

Stefano Bardini and Wilhelm von Bode: A Case of Collaborative Contamination of the Canon and the Scholarly Literature?

(in englischer Sprache)

Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte

Vortragssaal 242

Katharina-von-Bora-Str. 10

80333 München

6. Mai 2020, 18.15 Uhr

Vor der Helbing Lecture findet ab 14 Uhr im Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte das Kolloquium „Provenienz- und Sammlungsforschung XII“ statt.