

UKRG Winter Event: Reflections on Repatriation and Restitution



Wednesday 31st January 2023, 13:00 – 17:00

Starr Cinema, Tate Modern, London

Reception: Swan, 21 New Globe Walk, Bankside, London, SE1 9DT

Registration

Tea and coffee will be served

Welcome

Alyson Rolington, Head of Collection Management, Tate

Chair's Address

Jen Kaines, UKRG Chair

Restitution, The Parthenon Marbles and Dispute Resolution

Alexander Herman, Director of Institute of Art & Law

In time with all the controversy and a diplomatic fallout, Alexander Herman's new book, *The Parthenon Marbles Dispute: Heritage, Law, Politics*, could not have come at a better time. A fair and balanced account, the book offers a new way ahead for museums dealing with contentious collections and countries or communities of origin. The presentation will cover the main themes in the book, with a view to offering museum practitioners a better way of understanding - and resolving - restitution and repatriation disputes.

Rematriation of the Ni'isjoohl Memorial Pole

Yvonne Brownlee, Senior Registrar, National Museums Scotland

A case study on the rematriation of the Ni'isjoohl Memorial Pole from National Museums Scotland to the Nisga'a Nation indigenous community in Canada.

Restitution and Repatriation

Jacques Schuhmacher, Senior Provenance Research Curator, V&A
Ana Muñoz, Head Registrar, V&A

While there is a clear framework in place in the UK to enable the restitution of Nazi-looted art, for other cultural objects subject to repatriation claims, the situation is very different. This presentation explores how the V&A has worked within the restrictions of the 1983 National Heritage Act to return items to their countries of origin.

Break

Tea, coffee, and biscuits will be served

We encourage you to explore the galleries and visit the Philip Guston exhibition!

Give & Take**Unconditional Repatriation at Manchester Museum, Part Two**

Gillian Smithson, Registrar, Manchester Museum, The University of Manchester

Gillian Smithson updates on the continuing work of Manchester Museum with the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and recent repatriation to the Anindilyakwa Peoples, reflecting upon the impacts and consequences of the process.

Packing for repatriation**Considerations in packing six Benin objects for physical repatriation to Nigeria from the Horniman Museum & Gardens**

Phil Sofer, Art Handling & Technical Manager, Zaha Hadid Foundation
Peronel Craddock, Head of Content, Horniman Museums & Gardens

In late 2022, The Horniman Museum and Gardens formally transferred to Nigeria the ownership of 72 items taken by force from Benin City in 1897. At a ceremony marking the transfer, six objects, including two 'Benin Bronze' plaques, would be handed to Nigerian officials. This presentation looks at the removal of these objects from display and the packing considerations to facilitate the return of these objects.

KINSHIP - the return of a 2000 year old Egyptian body from Cork to Cairo

Dorothy Cross, Artist, Frith Street Gallery, Kerlin Gallery

Dorothy will discuss her work, *Kinship*, the essence of which is the return of a mummified body of an Egyptian man from the University College Cork, Ireland to Cairo, mirroring the tragic displacement and migration of thousands of people from their homelands today - linking one man through time. Kinship will memorialise his journey through film, writing and visual art.

Chair's Close

Jen Kaines, UKRG Chair

Please join us for drinks!

Swan
21 New Globe Walk
Bankside
London
SE1 9DT

With special thanks to Sean Crawford, Clare Rankin, Tony Ghirado and the events staff at Tate Modern.



Alexander Herman, Director of The Institute of Art & Law

Alexander Herman is the Director of The Institute of Art and Law, which has a longstanding relationship with the UKRG and its members. The Institute was founded in 1995 by Norman Palmer and Ruth Redmond-Cooper and has, since then, been a centre of learning and training on all areas of art and cultural heritage law, especially in relation to museums and their collections. Alexander runs the Diploma programmes for museum professionals, such as the Diploma in Law and Collections Management (next intake October 2024) and the Diploma in IP and Collections (next intake July 2024). Prior to working at the Institute, Alexander was a lawyer in Canada.

Yvonne Brownlee, Senior Registrar, National Museums Scotland

Yvonne leads the Registrar team at National Museums Scotland, and is responsible for the strategic development, planning, management and delivery of collection loans, acquisitions, collections review and disposals programmes.

Jacques Schuhmacher, Senior Provenance Research Curator, V&A

Jacques is the Senior Provenance Research Curator, supported by The Polonsky Foundation, at the Victoria & Albert Museum. He is a member of the NMDC Spoliation Working Group, which co-ordinates provenance research efforts at UK museums with respect to the Nazi period. Jacques co-curated the first special provenance display of its kind by a UK museum, and advised on the development of new guidance for the UK museum sector with respect to Colonial-era artefacts, published in 2022.

Ana Muñoz, Head Registrar, V&A

Ana is an arts and heritage professional with solid international experience in National museums and public cultural institutions. Ana currently works at the V&A as Head Registrar, and is responsible for the Museum's extensive loans programme, both in and out.

Together, Ana and Jacques have worked together on a variety of repatriation cases.

Gillian Smithson, Registrar, Manchester Museum, The University of Manchester

Gillian brings over 20 years experience of working for museum and gallery collections; currently as Registrar at Manchester Museum, The University of Manchester and as lecturer MA Curating (Apprenticeship) at Teesside University. Committed to developing ethical, sustainable ways to improve and broaden access to collections.

Phil Sofer, Art Handling & Technical Manager, Zaha Hadid Foundation

Phil has over 24 years of experience working in the cultural heritage sector. Past roles have focused on the specialist packing, transport, and installation of international touring exhibitions at the V&A, and mountmaking and installation of exhibitions and galleries at the Horniman Museum and Gardens. Phil's current role is as Art Handling and Technical Manager at the Zaha Hadid Foundation.

Peronel Craddock, Head of Content, Horniman Museums & Gardens

Peronel leads the curatorial, learning, community engagement and volunteering teams at the Horniman, and is responsible for content collaboration and expertise sharing within the team and with the wider organisation.

Dorothy Cross, Artist, Frith Street Gallery, Kerlin Gallery

Working in sculpture, film and photography, Dorothy Cross examines the relationship between living beings and the natural world. Her most recent work, *Kinship*, follows in a line of large-scale projects created by Dorothy Cross over the past three decades, which centred on the return of an Egyptian sarcophagus containing the mummified body of a man, which arrived in Ireland in 1914. It was given to University College Cork where it has been stored for over a century. Cross worked alongside UCC for nearly three years, to secure the return of the mummy and sarcophagus to the Museum of Egyptology in Cairo.

