

AXA ART
PASSIONATE ABOUT ART
PROFESSIONAL ABOUT INSURANCE

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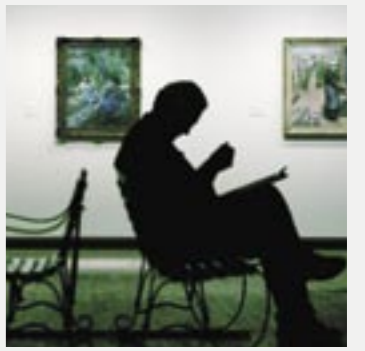
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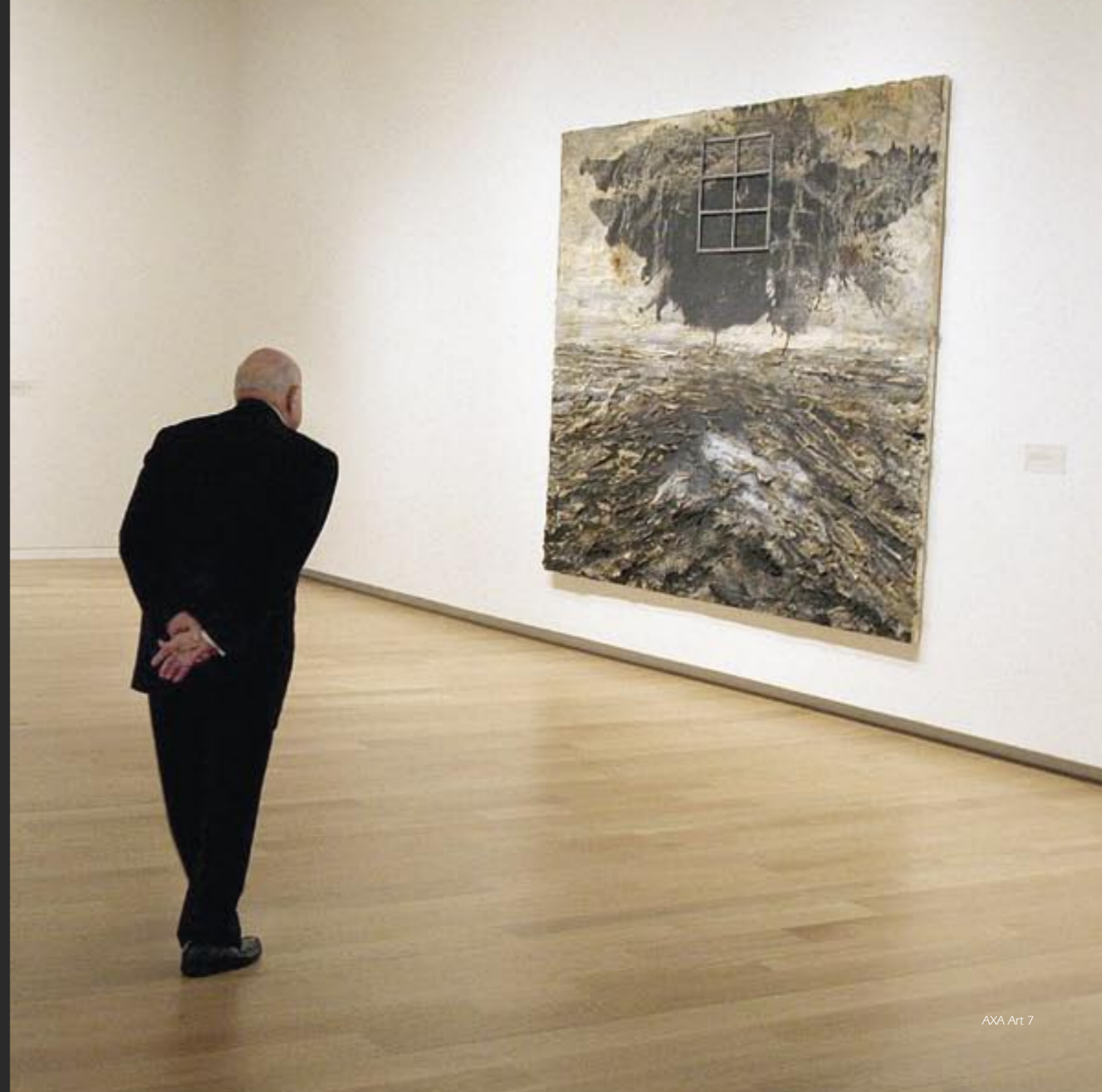


AROUND THE WORLD

Specialising in art, antiques and collectables, AXA Art insures everything from the Cycladic to the Contemporary, from manuscripts to memorabilia, indeed objects in every active area of serious collecting. We serve a wide range of individuals, from the modest enthusiast and first-time buyer to the world's most respected collectors. We provide specialist insurance and risk management advice to museums, commercial galleries, major blockbuster exhibitions and corporate collections.



We became the world's first specialist art insurer over forty years ago, when we started in Paris under the banner of Nordstern. As AXA Art, we now have offices in most European countries, in the USA and in the Far East. We are a member of the AXA Group, a worldwide leader in financial protection and wealth management. The AXA ordinary share trades on the Paris Stock Exchange, and the AXA American Depository Share on the New York Stock Exchange. Both are listed under the ticker symbol AXA.





SPECIALIST INSURANCE FOR PRIVATE COLLECTORS

We insure private collections both small and large – from the dedicated collector of rare apostle spoons, to the international investor in major modern pictures. We understand that our clients love their collections and we share their passion. We provide assistance on display, restoration, loss prevention, security and fire protection to ensure the safety and longevity of the items. We agree values with the client based on the current art market, to ensure claims can be settled swiftly without further time-consuming research. Our staff are long-standing professionals who have a discreet and confidential approach.



“I am one of those people who is never more engaged than when collecting something, providing it is beautiful and speaks to me. A lifetime working at the Redfern Gallery has enabled me to indulge my collecting instincts in the field of fine art but the passion spills over into many other areas; from Coronation mugs and Swedish creamware to Le Corbusier, from pressed glass to big cats, the categories have grown and changed over the years and always included the most satisfying of all collectables, my friends. The Redfern Gallery has been dealing with AXA Art for as long as I can remember and our relationship has been one of complete trust and confidence. We have always enjoyed working with the AXA Art team who succeed in making a serious subject fun.”

Maggie Thornton,
a leading London dealer and collector has been insured by AXA Art
for over 20 years

CARING FOR COLLECTIONS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

AXA Art is sympathetic to the diverse needs of collectors from every private, public and commercial field – individual clients who are looking for more than simple financial compensation. Our personal approach is distinctive and backed by a thorough knowledge of the art and antiques market. On our staff are over 50 art historians who appreciate the finer qualities of each collection, while providing valuable advice on conservation, restoration, security and changing market values. Our strong relationships with curators, restorers, art consultants, framers, tax advisors, packers and shippers places us in an ideal position to assist all our clients in the special aspects of care that their individual collections require.





Fire and smoke, water, theft and accidental damage – works of art are potentially vulnerable to all of these, but sensible precautions can often prevent or minimise damage and preserve the objects for the owner and future generations. We are also committed supporters of conservation research across the globe, with the AXA Art Conservation Programme actively encouraging the discovery of new and better ways to preserve collections. Projects and initiatives supported by AXA Art include: a two-year project with the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation and the Museum of Modern Art, New York into the conservation of 'Black Painting', one of the series of black square paintings created between 1960 and 1966 by Ad Reinhardt; an investigation into preserving and researching modern plastic furniture at the Vitra Design Museum, Germany; the restoration of four 18th-century clocks at the Musée Jacquemart-André, Paris; a non-invasive diagnostic test programme on paintings by Raphael, Dosso Dossi and other important 16th-century artists conducted by Galleria Borghese in Rome; a seminar entitled 'Before Art Falls Apart' at the Royal Society of Arts, London on the gradual deterioration of works of art.

The institution to benefit most recently from the AXA Art Research Grant is Tate in London which, from 2006 to 2009, is conducting the Tate AXA Art Modern Paints Project (TAAMPP). AXA Art is providing a grant for some groundbreaking conservation research to be done at Tate. The project aims to find ways in which artworks containing acrylic paints, can be conserved in the future, in many cases before the signs of ageing become apparent.



INSURANCE FOR INSTITUTIONS

Insuring public and commercial collections is a complete contrast to insuring art and antiques in private homes. Values are viewed very differently – the museum aims to preserve items for future generations, whilst the dealer needs to sell. AXA Art fully appreciates and accommodates both objectives. In response to the trend towards larger and more ambitious events, we have now become a major provider of insurance to prestigious international exhibitions, including the Van Gogh shows in Bremen and Chicago, 'MatissePicasso' in New York, Paris and London and 'Rubens and his Age' in London.



“What impressed me about AXA Art is the keenness that they’ve brought to the project. It’s refreshing to deal with people who you feel are committed to what you do for its own sake as much as from a professional angle. Both they and the brokers who recommended them are genuinely interested in the objects and in what we’re doing. Maybe that’s because it’s all a little unusual.”

Jacqueline Riding,
Director of the Handel House Museum



INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

AXA Art has helped to pioneer effective collaboration in the recovery of stolen art. With a global network of offices working in close co-operation with police forces internationally, we are well placed to offer advice on art fraud and to investigate provenances. In the event of a loss, our priority is to provide advice and professional assistance at the earliest opportunity. We use a number of stolen art indexes set up to log stolen works of art and compare their description against auction catalogues worldwide. Any stolen items insured with us are automatically logged on these systems free of charge – a considerable saving for clients.



A UNIQUE BLEND OF KNOWLEDGE

We offer our clients a unique blend of art expertise and insurance know-how. A comprehensive service incorporating knowledge of the art and insurance markets, which is applied to a wide variety of specialist policies, including additional covers and benefits. We look at each risk on its individual underwriting merits and are always happy to construct individual solutions, however unusual or complex the requirements. Reflecting the breadth of our expertise, AXA Art websites and publications in each country provide valuable news, advice and insights from renowned experts in fine art, antique furniture, ceramics, silver, antiquarian books, collectables and many other specialist areas.



MANAGING YOUR CLAIM

Our approach to claims-handling mirrors our specialist pre-risk service and offers an understanding of the complex results of loss and damage. By far the largest number of claims we deal with are those for accidental damage. Because of this, knowledge of specialist restorers and conservators, combined with an appreciation of the consequences of even quite minor damage, is an essential element of our service. The value of any work of art may be seriously undermined if the item is in anything but a perfect state. Depreciation is therefore a vital part of any insurance policy.





Depreciation is assessed as a percentage of an item's agreed value and is agreed with the client based on a professional assessment of its saleability and market value. For more catastrophic losses, we have a wide network of contacts that can provide emergency support and help with the all-important task of recovery.



RECOGNISED THROUGHOUT THE ART COMMUNITY

AXA Art runs an extensive international sponsorship programme, complementing each country's links with collectors and art professionals and providing support to public institutions. In addition to providing funds, we also aim to add value by generating awareness and debate, by promoting research into restoration and by heightening public appreciation of art wherever we can. As well as enjoying a high-profile partnership with the leading international art and antiques fair TEFAF Maastricht, we also support other fairs such as Art Basel, help to mount and publicise exhibitions, award prizes for excellence and actively participate in art community events. All are initiatives that benefit the wider art world and underline the central role we play.

Acknowledgements

Inside cover France, Paris, woman climbing stairs beneath Pyramide du Louvre. Photographer Thierry Dosogne

Page 3 The Interior of a Picture Gallery by David Teniers II, ca. 1639-1650.

© Christie's Images/Corbis

Page 4 c.2000 year-old Han dynasty segmented bronze horse undergoing repair at conservators and restorers Plowden & Smith, with whom AXA Art has enjoyed a close relationship over many years © AXA Art - Photographer Peter Williams

Page 5 Camille Pissarro Exhibition Opening

Sydney, NSW - November 18: A visitor to the Art Gallery of New South Wales looks at paintings by Camille Pissarro November 18, 2005 in Sydney, Australia. The gallery is about to open an exhibition of Pissarro's work, drawn from collections all over the world, in the largest comprehensive exhibition of the Impressionists works ever to be held in Australia. (Photo by Ian Waldie/Getty Images)

Page 6 Chairs awaiting repair at Plowden & Smith © AXA Art -

Photographer Peter Williams

Page 7 Anselm Kiefer Exhibition in the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, USA © David Woo/Corbis

Page 8 Contemporary interior with skylight and plywood furniture

© J. Scott Smith/Beateworks/Corbis

Page 10 Maggie Thornton with a picture by Paul Feiler and sculptures

by Paul Wunderlich © AXA Art -

Photographer Peter Williams

Page 13 Art Restoration by Student in Class © Atlantide Phototravel/Corbis

Page 14 Maryam Collins undertaking delicate repair work to one of two

Chinese painted horn lantern shades

at Plowden & Smith © AXA Art -

Photographer Peter Williams

Page 17 Head of a Buddha with a picture by Paul Feiler behind © AXA

Art - Photographer Peter Williams

Page 19 Bench and art pieces in

gallery. Photographer Ray Kachatorian

Page 21 Jacqueline Riding at the Handel

House Museum © AXA Art -

Photographer Peter Williams

Page 23 Turn-of-the-century terracotta cast from Viennese sculptor Ernest

Willis, undergoing repair at Plowden &

Smith © AXA Art - Photographer Peter

Williams

Page 25 Ceramics restorer Laura Goody examining repair-work at Plowden &

Smith © AXA Art - Photographer Peter

Williams

Page 27 Moving silk-screensat

Advanced Graphics © AXA Art -

Photographer Peter Williams

Page 28 Alabaster sculpture at Plowden & Smith © AXA Art - Photographer Peter

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Page 30 Suit of armour at Plowden &

Smith © AXA Art - Photographer Peter

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