

PROGRAMME (STATE: 04.02.2025)

BERLIN, 31 MARCH – 01 APRIL 2025

# 1945 – The struggle over art. Cultural property between loss, relocation and restitution

Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin | Haus Unter den Linden  
Humboldt-Saal

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## MONDAY, 31 MARCH 2025

09.00 – 9.45 **Registration**

9.45 – 10.30 **Greetings**

Reinhard Altenhöner | Deputy General Director,  
Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin

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Gilbert Lupfer | Executive Chairman,  
German Lost Art Foundation

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10.30 - 12:00

### **Panel 1: Handling cultural property formerly in Jewish ownership after 1945**

*Moderation: Uwe Hartmann*

Borbála Klacsmann | University College Dublin:

“Justice or compromise? Early restitution in Hungary“

Anna Holzer-Kawałko | Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Dubnow-Institute:

“Territorial changes, population transfers, and cultural restitution:  
German-Jewish libraries in postwar Lower Silesia“

Jana Jirásková | Documentation Centre for Property Transfers of the Cultural Assets of WW II Victims:

“Restitution of Jewish cultural property in the Czech Republic. Its challenges and limits“

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12.00 – 13.30 **Lunch Break**

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13.30 - 15:00

## **Panel 2: Evacuation facilities and central collection depots**

*Moderation: Fine Kugler*

Claire Bonnotte Khelil | Musée national des châteaux de Versailles et de Trianon:

“The return from deposits of French museum collections: the story of a national victory“

Iris Schmeisser | Städel Museum, Frankfurt (Main):

“Off site: The Städel Museum’s collection during the war and the American occupation“

Sebastian Finsterwalder | Berlin Central and Regional Library:

“Enemy library and Salvage Office - An unprecedented dispersal of Nazi-looted property in Berlin before and after 1945“

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15.00 – 15.30 **Break**

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15.30 - 17:30

## **Panel 3: Returns and compensation after 1945**

*Moderation: Stéphanie Baumewerd*

Shlomit Steinberg | The Israel Museum

“From the looters’ depots to the Israel Museum’s walls: 1942-1950“

Gitta Ho | Ministère de la Culture, Paris:

“A question of point of view? On the post-1945 handling of Wolfgang Krüger’s art acquisitions in occupied France“

Darleen Pappelau | University Library Johann Christian Senckenberg, Frankfurt (Main):

“Restitutions of the Offenbach Archival Depot and its remainders“

Bettina Farack | Leo Baeck Institute Jerusalem:

“Participatory provenance research: Lessons from the *Library of Lost Books*“

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17:30 **Networking opportunities – individual exchange**

**TUESDAY, 01 APRIL 2025**

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10.00 – 10.30 **Registration**

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10.30 - 12:00

**Panel 4: Losses of private cultural property before and after the end of the war**

*Moderation: Susanne Meyer-Abich*

Anastasia Yurchenko | Independent provenance researcher:

“Concept of equivalents for cultural war losses of the USSR: historical and theoretical foundations“

Ralph Jaeckel, Anne Kuhlmann-Smirnov | Stiftung Preußische Schlösser und Gärten Berlin-Brandenburg, Potsdam:

“...to be kept in the museum for the duration of the war. Private collections from Berlin and the surrounding Province of Brandenburg during and after World War II“

Frank Grelka | Viadrina Center of Polish and Ukrainian Studies, Frankfurt (Oder):

“Overcompensation? Looted art as manifestation of Soviet occupation policies after World War II“

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12.00 – 13.30 **Lunch Break**

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13.30 - 15:00

**Panel 5: Documenting and reconstructing losses**

*Moderation: Susanne Meyer-Abich*

Uwe Hartmann | German Lost Art Foundation, Magdeburg:

“Caesuras and new hopes: The repatriation of cultural property displaced as a result of the war in the context of the political upheavals after 1989/90“

Marlen Katz | Friedrich Schiller University Jena:

“The critical potential of provenance research. An exemplary analysis of current exhibitions with references to wartime losses“

Clara Blomeyer, Jacob Franke, Martin Zavesky | Hamburger Kunsthalle and Dresden State Art Collections:

“Cloud Computing. AI-generated skies in lost works by Caspar David Friedrich“

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15.00 – 15.30 **Break**

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15.30 – 16.30 **Afternoon Lecture**

Wolfgang Eichwede | University of Bremen:

“German seizure of cultural property in the Soviet Union 1941-1944 -  
Soviet seizure of cultural property in Germany after 1945.  
Research and diplomacy after the end of the Cold War“

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16:30 – 18:00 **Reception**

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18.00 – 20.00 **Discussion: 80 years after the end of the war - unresolved  
problems in the repatriation of cultural property**

*Moderation: Christian Fuhrmeister | Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte, München*

Adam Ganz | Royal Holloway University of London

Konstantin Akinsha | Independent researcher

Wolfgang Eichwede | University of Bremen

Olaf Hamann | Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin

Ulrike Schmiegelt-Rietig | Stiftung Preußische Schlösser und Gärten Berlin-  
Brandenburg

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