

# From Spoliated Art Restitution to Colonial Loot Repatriation: Lessons Learnt and Ways Forward

Tuesday 21 May 2024

## Speaker Bios

### Chair:



**Pierre Valentin** has spent the last 30 years advising art collectors and art businesses on the law, first as in-house counsel to Sotheby's, then as a partner of Withers LLP and more recently as a partner of Constantine Cannon LLP. He recently joined the art law team at Fieldfisher. Pierre's clients include art collectors, art galleries, art dealers, auction houses, artists, museums, private banks, family offices, insurance companies and art investment funds. In 2023, Pierre launched Restitution Partners with Isabel von Klitzing and Till Vere Hodge. Restitution Partners support private and public collections in identifying art wrongly dispossessed by the Nazis, during the colonial era and at other times of persecution and conflict, and facilitate confidential, just and fair solutions.

### Speakers:



**Dr. Evelien Campfens** is a cultural heritage law expert who [published](#) widely on issues concerning protection of cultural heritage, with a focus on looted art and restitution. After being the (first) general secretary to the Dutch Restitutions Committee for Nazi looted art (2002-2015) she switched to academia and currently is based at the University of Amsterdam.



**Dr. Njabulo Chipangura** is an anthropologist and Curator of Living Cultures at Manchester Museum which is part of the University of Manchester. Njabu has interest in empirical ways by which the museum practice can be decolonised through epistemic and aesthetic disobedience benchmarked by undoing earlier ways of knowledge production particularly looking at African collections and their representations. Njabu has published several research papers that looks at ongoing debates around the coloniality of museums and associated knowledge production and representation practices, to imagine a decolonised museum in Africa. His first co-written book entitled *Museums as Agents for Social Change: Collaborative Programmes at the Mutare Museum* was published by Routledge in April 2021. Njabu sits on the editorial board of *Museum International* a widely read journal on museum practices and theory which is published Routledge in collaboration with the International Council of Museums (ICOM).



**Isabel von Klitzing** established her own business Provenance Research & Art Consulting in 2012 in Frankfurt, with a stint in Dakar/ Senegal. With her team she provides detailed research on the provenance of works of art in both private and public collections world-wide thereby helping to provide tailor-made solutions on provenance related issues to the art world. Before setting up her own firm, she worked for 10 years as a Senior Restitution Specialist for Sotheby's in London, Belgrade, and Frankfurt. She served as a member of the Board of the Working Group Provenance Research and since 2011 lectures on the topic "Provenance Research in the Art Trade" at the Free University of Berlin. Isabel von Klitzing studied law in Göttingen, Berlin, Brussels, and Paris. She is a member of the Bar Association Frankfurt/Main and was appointed Provenance Expert by the Court of Arbitration of Art. In 2023, Isabel co-launched "Restitution Partners" together with Pierre Valentin and Till Vere-Hodge



**Dr. Robert Peters** is Member of the Legal Affairs Committee (LEAC) of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) since 2023. From 2017-2023 he was a Member of ICOM's Ethics Committee (ETHCOM). He works for the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media in Germany. In 2018-2022 he worked at the German Federal Foreign Office in Berlin. In 2008, he worked as Assistant Legal Officer in the Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. He has studied International and European Law and obtained his Ph.D. at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy, in the field of International Cultural Heritage Law.



**Till Vere-Hodge** is a Partner at Payne Hicks Beach where he heads up the Art and Cultural Property Law practice. He assists clients in relation to legal issues pertaining to artworks and collectibles, including dispute resolution, transactional work and advisory services. Prior to his career in the law, Till worked in international diplomacy and for a Member of Parliament at Westminster. Together with Isabel von Klitzing and Pierre Valentin, Till co-launched Restitution Partners to support private and public collections in identifying "red-flag" artworks and facilitating confidential resolutions.



**Anne Webber CBE** is Co-Chair of the Commission for Looted Art in Europe, a non-profit representative body which negotiates restitution policies and procedures, conducts research, and acts for families and institutions to identify, locate and recover their Nazi-looted cultural property. She is also Director of the Central Registry of Looted Cultural Property 1933-1945 at [www.lootedart.com](http://www.lootedart.com), an online repository of news, information, publications and research from 49 countries and database of 25,000 objects.