

# The Market for Latin American Antiquities

## Canon, Trade and Conventions



Chancay Textile Doll, 1000-1400, Late Horizon, Inca

## PUBLIC EVENT

Colloquium within the joint Research project of the  
*European Corpus Antiquitatum Americanensium Commissions (CAA)*

### Organizers:

Alexander Brust, Museum der Kulturen Basel

Matias Dewey, University of St. Gallen

Sara Sánchez del Olmo, Musée d'ethnographie Neuchâtel



**P U B L I C   E V E N T**

# **The Market for Latin American Antiquities: Canon, Trade and Conventions**

Thursday, November 2, 2023  
09:30 – 17:30  
Main building, Room 01-U123

Friday, November 3, 2023  
09:00 – 12:30  
SQUARE, Vadian-room (11-0111)

or via [\*\*Zoom\*\*](#)

# **THE MARKET FOR LATIN AMERICAN ANTIQUITIES: CANON, TRADE AND CONVENTIONS**

The conference brings together comparative provenance research that examines the role of the (art) market for pre-Hispanic and ethnographic cultural objects in the formation of museum collections. Presentations will focus on the formation of a canon as well as the marketing strategies of the trade and international interventions to curb illegal activities.

Since 2014, members of the European CAA Commissions have been conducting transnational research on the emergence of collections of American origin in European museums. The networks and modes of acquisition that contributed to the emergence of the collections have been a focus of the research, as have the views of and knowledge productions about the Americas that result from the use of the collections in scholarship and exhibitions.

The development of a larger market for archaeological and ethnographic objects from the Americas can be traced to the second half of the 19th century (Gänger 2014, Yates 2019). Economic development, but also the emergence of museums and university disciplines such as archaeology and ethnology, encouraged the collecting and trading of objects. After World War II, a so-called second wave of collecting began, in which museums were actively involved alongside dealers and private collectors. Since 1970, UNESCO conventions on the protection of cultural property have attempted to limit illegal trade (Mckenzie et al. 2020, Yates 2019).

The creation of the CAA commissions was intended to publicize the holdings of national cultural property outside of Latin America. Since then, the activity and direct acquisition by museums through the art market has declined. Nevertheless, objects acquired specifically on the market are proportionally more frequently exhibited in many museums or have a proportionally higher share of exhibits in collections. To this day, private collections reach museums through donations or bequests, i.e., through third parties. Dealing with their provenance is currently a major challenge for museums.

In addition to the acquisition practices and activities of museums on the (art) market, the conference will address the following questions: Is it possible to determine which objects from which cultures were traded on the market in which period? Which objects were traded under which category (antiquities, ethnography, art, etc.)? How did this canon shape the image of indigenous cultures that was drawn and transmitted? Who were and are the actors in the (art) market? To what extent are forgeries, a response to market demands (Bruhns and Kelker 2010, Kelker and Bruhns 2010)? What role do indigenous interests play in the (art) market? How do we deal with insufficient provenance, restitution claims, postcolonial approaches in museums today?

## PROGRAM THURSDAY, 02.11.2023

09:30 – 10:00: <b>Welcome note</b>	<b>Alexander Brust</b> , Museum der Kulturen Basel & Commission Corpus Americanensium Antiquitatum/UAI <b>Matias Dewey</b> , University of St.Gallen (CLS-HSG)
10:00 – 11:00	<b>Dona Yates</b> <i>Crime in Collections: Patterns, Priorities, and Hidden Knowledge</i>
11:00 – 12:30: <b>Itineraries</b>	<b>János Gyarmati</b> , Néprajzi Múzeum, Budapest <i>Objetos precolombinos vs. una colección Oceánica. Anatomía de un intercambio</i> <b>Christian Stenz</b> , University of Heidelberg <i>Glyphs, Coffee Beans and Wooden Reliefs. The Trajectory of the Tikal Lintels from Tikal to Basel</i> <b>Pascal Riviale</b> , Archives nationales, Pierrefitte-sur-Seine <i>From field to Museum: the circulation of archaeological objects between Peru and France in the 19th century</i>
12:30 – 13:30	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
13:30 – 15:00: <b>Origins</b>	<b>Adriana Muñoz</b> , Statens museer för världskultur, Göteborg <i>Objects and origins. One example from a restitution case in Göteborg</i> <b>Laura Felicitas Sabel</b> , Leuphana Universität Lüneburg <b>Alexander Brust</b> , Museum der Kulturen Basel <i>The project “Jacaré”. Borys Malkin's Marketing Strategy of a Tairona Collection from Colombia</i> <b>Maïke Powroznik</b> , Völkerkundemuseum der Universität Zürich <i>Who were the indigenous business partners of collectors? The business relationship between Noanamá and Borys Malkin from today's perspective</i>
15:00 – 15:30	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
15:30 – 17:00: <b>Marketplaces</b>	<b>Martin E. Berger</b> , Universiteit Leiden <i>Knowledge Graphs as Art Worlds: working towards digital-driven large-scale provenance research</i> <b>Manuela Fischer</b> , Berlin <i>Consequences of II World War on the pre-Columbian art market</i> <b>Carolina Orsini, Anna Antonini &amp; Federica Villa</b> , Museo delle Culture, Milano <i>The Pre-Hispanic Art Market in Italy in the 20th Century: New Data and Study Perspectives</i>
17:00 – 17:30	<b>DISCUSSION</b>
17:30 – 18:30	<b>APÉRO RICHE</b>

## PROGRAM FRIDAY, 03.11.2023

09:00 – 10:00	<b>Prof. em. Dr. Yvette Sánchez</b> , University of St. Gallen <i>The experience of sublime art at a public university: How is the HSG collection selected, coordinated, and conserved?</i>
10:00 – 11:30: <b>Round table</b>	Round table with museum curators and diplomatic representatives <i>Private collections, museums, and the legacy of cultural heritage between Europe and Latin America: New possibilities for international coordination?</i>
11:30 – 12:30	<b>DISCUSSION AND CLOSING REMARKS</b>

## MAP OF THE CAMPUS



- 01** Main building, Room 01-UI23
- 11** SQUARE, Room 11-0111

This event is **open to public**.

If you wish to participate at the workshop (virtually or in-person), please register by sending until October 31, 2023 an email to: [cls-hsg@unisg.ch](mailto:cls-hsg@unisg.ch)

**Please let us know if you wish to participate at the Apéro.**

If you wish to attend the event online, please use this [Zoom](#) link.

All the information about this event is available at [www.cls.unisg.ch](http://www.cls.unisg.ch)

