

Ernst von Siemens Art Foundation

(Status as of 2024)

Ernst von Siemens Kunststiftung · Nonnendammallee 101 · 13629 Berlin



The Ernst von Siemens Art Foundation, established in 1983 by Ernst von Siemens (1903-1990), the youngest grandson of Siemens company founder Werner von Siemens, is successfully committed to promoting art and culture in Germany. The foundation acts as an active partner for museums, providing unbureaucratic, fast and generous support for the purchase of important exhibits.

When it was established, Ernst von Siemens pursued the goal of providing museums with a reliable funding partner. The Art Foundation not only makes acquisitions possible through its funding, but also through interim financing, which makes purchases possible in particular under time pressure or at auctions.

The activities of the art foundation cover a wide range of areas of art promotion. In addition to financial support for the purchase of important exhibits, the foundation also promotes restoration projects as well as nationally significant exhibitions and accompanying catalogues. A central role is played by the support of basic work in museums through extensive catalogues of holdings and catalogues raisonnés. To date, the Ernst von Siemens Art Foundation has facilitated the acquisition of over 500 works of art or extensive collections. More than 300 restoration projects have been supported, over 1,000 exhibitions and exhibition catalogues have been made possible and around 250 catalogues of holdings have been compiled. The preparation of almost 350 scientific catalogues was also made possible. These also include "digital inventory catalogues" such as [DIGITAL Benin](#) or [The Royal Dresden Porcelain Collection](#).

In direct response to the challenges posed by the coronavirus crisis in 2020 and the abrupt end of commissions for independent researchers and conservators working in museums and cultural institutions, the Art Foundation launched a funding line. In total, the CORONA funding line provided an impressive 2.75 million euros to support 217 projects.

In 2022, the Ernst von Siemens Art Foundation responded directly to the Russian war of aggression. As emergency aid, the Art Foundation initiated the UKRAINE funding line in cooperation with the HERMANN REEMTSMA FOUNDATION. With a total funding amount of 2.5 million euros, the funding line offers German museums financial support if they employ refugee scientists and conservators from Ukraine to work on art history projects. This measure has the clear aim of bringing security and stability to the recipients quickly and unbureaucratically, as well as promoting international

connections between the Ukrainian and German art and culture scenes. The Art Foundation now also supports transnational research and restoration projects.

Up-to-date information on the Ernst von Siemens Art Foundation's funding activities and its digital projects can be found on the foundation's official website at www.ernst-von-siemens-kunststiftung.de. The 18 published annual reports and the magazine *Arsprototo*, published by the Kulturstiftung der Länder, also provide comprehensive insights into the foundation's activities.