

Women Art Dealers 1940-80

The session analyzes the central role played by women art dealers in the creation and development of art market between the 1940s and the 1980s. The panel examines the work of those women who promoted art between different countries and continents thus developing an international form of market that anticipated the current global model. Paula Cooper, Peggy Guggenheim, Beatrice Monti della Corte, Betty Parsons, Martha Jackson, Denise René, Lia Rumma, Ileana Sonnabend are just some of the protagonists of an intense period of artistic promotion characterised by renewed marketing strategies and new uses of gallery space.



**Chair: Caterina Toschi, Ph.D.,
Professor of Contemporary Art,
University of Cassino and
Southern Lazio**

Caterina Toschi coordinates the academic project *Researches from Margins | Ricerche dal margine* at the University of Cassino and Southern

Lazio, and she taught at the New York University Florence. She holds a Ph.D. in History of Contemporary Art from the International Ph.D. school *European Founding Myths in Literature and Arts* of the Universities of Paris IV-Sorbonne, Florence and Bonn. Junior Scholar at the Getty Research Institute of Los Angeles, she was *Répondante* at the *École de Printemps* (*Réseau International pour la Formation à la Recherche en Histoire de l'Art*). Since 2014 she is the scientific supervisor, at The Santa Maddalena Foundation, of Beatrice Monti della Corte's collection and photographic archive related to her activity with the *Galleria dell'Ariete* (Milan, 1955-1980). She is co-founder of *Senzacornice | Research and Education Lab for Contemporary Art* (*Laboratorio di ricerca e formazione per l'arte contemporanea*) and editor of *Senzacornice | Online Contemporary Art Journal* (*Rivista online di arte contemporanea e critica*). In 2017 she published the book *Dalla pagina alla parete. Tipografia futurista e fotomontaggio dada* and in 2016 she edited *Arte a Firenze 1970-2015. Una città in prospettiva*. Since 2013 she organizes the international Festival of Writers-Gregor von Rezzori Prize (*Festival degli Scrittori-Premio Gregor von Rezzori*).

THE SPEAKERS

Pietro Rigolo, Ph.D., Special Collections Archivist, The Getty Research Institute

Paper Title: City of Women: Mapping and Archiving the Role of Women Art Dealers in Los Angeles

Pietro Rigolo earned his Ph.D. from Università degli Studi di Siena / Istituto Italiano di Scienze Umane in 2011. His dissertation focused on Harald Szeemann's activities in Ticino, with a focus on the history of Monte Verità. In 2013 he joined the Getty Research Institute (GRI) as the subject expert in the team cataloging the Szeemann archive. He is one of the curators of *Harald Szeemann: Museum of Obsessions* (first showcased at the GRI and the Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; currently on view at Kunsthalle Bern, and travelling to Kunsthalle Düsseldorf; Castello di Rivoli; Swiss Institute New York), and one of the editors of *Selected Writings by Harald Szeemann*, the first English anthology of the curator's writings.

Isabella Seniuta, Ph.D., University Paris 1 Panthéon- Sorbonne

Paper Title: The Role of Women Art Dealers in the Construction of a Photography Market Between Paris, London and New York (1950s-1980s)

Isabella Seniuta is a French/Polish Ph.D. fellow currently conducting research as part of a Ph.D. program on the History of the Photography market in a post-war context (following a bachelor's program in History of Art and Law) in Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne under the direction of Professor Michel Poivert. In December 2015, Isabella Seniuta received a grant from the Getty Research Institute to study the archives of the collector Sam Wagstaff and the photographer Robert Mapplethorpe. She also received in 2016 a grant from the Alliance Program to study at Columbia University in NYC for six months. She is currently finishing her Ph.D. thesis that focuses on the construction of a photography market between Paris, London and NYC (1950s-1980s). Research areas of interest are twentieth century American and European art and photography, particularly the photography market.

Deirdre Robson, Ph.D., University of West London

Paper Title: 'The Girl with the Gallery': Agency, Orientation, and Women Dealers in the Mid-Twentieth Century New York Art Market

A. Deirdre Robson received her Ph.D. from University College London, with a thesis focussing upon the New York market for modern art in the 1940s and 1950s. This was subsequently published as *Prestige, Profit and Power* (Garland Publishing). Having lectured in art and design history at various institutions, she currently lectures in design history at the London School of Film, Media & Design at the University of West London, and has also been an Associate Lecturer for the Open University, and more. She has several recent articles to her name on the topic of the American art market and art collecting. Her article, "Industry: Art Angel? Pepsi-Cola's 'Portrait of America' Art Annual as an Early Instance of Corporate Art Sponsorship," in the *Journal of Popular Culture* was selected as the 2016 winner of the Carl Bode Award for Outstanding Article. Her current research interests include cultural geography and art institutions, corporate collecting, and the gendering of the art market in the USA.

Ilaria Schiaffini, Ph.D., Vice President of MLAC of Sapienza University

Paper Title: From Fashion Journalism to Art Dealing: Irene Brin, the Obelisco Gallery and the Promotion of Young Italian Art Abroad

Schiaffini graduated in Humanities (with a major in art history) at Sapienza University of Rome. She took her final diploma at the Specialization School in Archaeology and Art History at the University of Siena, and a Ph.D. in History and Criticism of Art and Music at the University of Padua. She worked as a researcher in the History of Contemporary Art at the University of Chieti-Pescara from 2002-2008, and at Sapienza University of Rome from 2008. In 2016 she qualified as Associate Professor in History of Contemporary Art. Since 2016 she has been Vice President of Museo Laboratorio di Arte Contemporanea of Sapienza University. Her areas of interest are theoretical and critical topics between Symbolism and Modernism; the relationship between art, literature, philosophy; history of photography and photo archives.