Art Law & Transactions

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SECOND EDITION

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Above all, my husband, David.

Introduction

Welcome to *Art Law & Transactions*, a book written for law students and others interested in understanding how the law impacts art transactions.

This second edition continues to follow a transactional timeline, that is, the acquisition, ownership, and disposition of an artwork. The major doctrinal and policy issues confronting an art collector are discussed within this transactional arc. Sometimes those issues will nicely loop around, with the double dipping allowing us to revisit an issue from another angle. Like artistic perspective, what emerges and what recedes can be illuminating.

The book's primary perspective remains that of an individual collector. Collectors are one of the primary players in the art world and art market. The art world is a large one, primarily composed of artists, dealers, auction houses, museums, and collectors. It is supported by an even wider base, including curators, critics, conservators, art historians, art academics, fabricators, framers, installers and handlers, customs brokers, appraisers, authenticators, insurers, consultants, editors and writers, foundations, philanthropists, provenance researchers, governmental arts commissions, investment advisors, and yes, lawyers. This array of people parallels another reality for art law. There is no discrete area of law known as art law, rather it is law through the lens of art. Property, contracts, criminal law, civil procedure, torts, trusts and estates, intellectual property, tax, and other areas all play a role. Because art is the subject matter, sometimes the normal legal rules will apply and sometimes not. Art exceptionalism can allow or require a different, more tailored, rule to apply.

Being aware of art exceptionalism is one goal of this book. Another goal is for you to see and experience what it is that lawyers do. A necessary reminder for lawyers dealing with art is to keep your focus on the law. Do not be seduced by the art. To help develop that focus, there are drafting exercises sprinkled throughout the book. Try some of them.

Cases are edited down and generally presented without footnotes, citations, and concurring and dissenting opinions. Use of footnotes is equally restrained, with the hope of making the text easier on the eyes. Art law is dynamic, with noteworthy events and decisions happening seemingly every week. The materials are generally current through fall 2020.

Anne-Marie Rhodes Chicago, Illinois January 2021