The Transfer of Cultural Objects in the Alpe Adria Region in the 20th Century (TransCultAA) research project is the first attempt to investigate the transfer of cultural assets in the Alpe Adria area in the 20th century, in an unprecedented transnational and collaborative way, it engages a multinational team of scholars to analyse "Uses of the Past", in particular historical and current conflicts of ownership, patrimony, and cultural heritage.

Despite its regional focus, TransCultAA examines the very concrete and material results of a genuinely European history of transfer, translation, displacement, confiscation, looting, and theft of cultural objects. More specifically, the project asks: Who transferred or translated which objects in the Alpe Adria region, when and why? Which explanations (if any) were – and are – given? Which narratives ensued, and why? How do archival documents (from the region and beyond, produced by victims, perpetrators, and the complicit actors in the grey zone in between) help to understand these regional and, above all, national uses of the past? These issues have all been heavily charged by propaganda for political purposes. Due to the specific characteristics of fundamental research, the collection, documentation, and analysis of archival sources play a critical role, as only factual data have the power to overcome myths, legends, and, in particular, competing nationalist narratives. The project addresses and illuminates the complexity of the phenomena at a transnational level through analytic studies of the objects present or in transition on the territory at key historical moments.

The International Conference Dispossessions of Cultural Objects between 1914 and 1989/1991 is organised by:
France Stele Institute of Art History ZRC SAZU
in association with Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte, München,
Università degli Studi di Udine and Strossmayer Gallery of Old Masters – Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts,
and co-organised by:
International Association of Research Institutes in the History of Art (RIHA).

Organising Committee:
Ljubka Dulibić (ldulibic@hazu.hr), Christian Fuhrmeister (c.fuhrmeister@zikg.eu),
Donata Levi (donata.levi@uniud.it), Barbara Murovec (BaMurovec@zrc-sazu.si).

https://www.transcultaa.eu/
http://uifs.zrc-sazu.si/en/

For further information please contact:
murovecuifs.sekretariat@zrc-sazu.si

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Tuesday, March 20th
Atrij ZRC, Novi trg 2
9.00 Podium: Dispossession and Art Market: Institutional Projects
(organized by the Research Committee of the International Association of Research Institutes in the History of Art [RIHA])
- France Stele Institute of Art History ZRC SAZU, Ljubljana, and its TransDAHA partners (Ljepa Šubic, Christian Fuhrmeister, Donata Levi, Barbara Murovec), Transfer of Cultural Objects in the Alpe Adria Region in the 20th Century
- Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles (Gail Feigenbaum): 1. Provenance Index 2. Project on Art Dealers and the American Art Market 3. The German Sales Project and its Relevance to the Dispossession Theme
- Institut national d’histoire de l’art (INHA), Paris (Ariane James-Sarazin and Célia Fleury): Objects Lost in Times of War in French Public Collections: Questions and Methods
- Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte, München, Project on Art Dealers and the American Art Market
Discussion moderated by Christian Fuhrmeister and France Nerlich
11.00 Coffee break
11.30 Gabriele Andrea: The Vienna Art Market between 1938 and 1945
11.50 Eva Tofalvi: “Trade” between Germany and Italy during Fascism. The Case of Alessandro Contini Bonacossi
12.10 Katharina Sophia Hüls: Flourishing Trade Relations between Venice and Vienna: The Activities of Art Dealer Dr. Benno Geiger (1922-1945) during the Second World War
12.30 Discussion
13.00 Lunch
Chairs: Gail Feigenbaum and Ljepa Šubic
14.30 Dejan Ristic: The Devastation of the Collections of the National Library of Serbia during the First World War
14.50 Karin Lettieri-Rueh: A Missing Collection? Graz – Froskgáta Stanica and Dobrna – Ljubljana
15.10 Renata Komić Marn and Tina Kosak: For the Nation’s Welfare: Dealing with Cultural Objects in Interwar Slovenia
15.30 Iva Pasin Tržec: Private Collections of Public Interest in Zagreb and Their Destiny under Socialism
15.50 Discussion
17.00 ‘Young Scholars’ Section
Christina Dudic: The Dissolution of a Jewish Collection: The Pincherle Family in Trieste
Anja Istra: Safeguarding Cultural Assets in Moore during the Second World War
Ivan Ferenčak: From German Art Market to the Strossmayer Gallery of Old Masters in Zagreb: Paintings from Anti-Topic Minard’s Donation
Maria Tischner: Erika Hanfstaengl’s Activities in Ulm and Trieste from 1943 to 1945
Doroteja Kotnik: The Ptuj Regional Museum under German Occupation
Margherita Colosso: Paintings from a Jewish Resistance: New Findings
Discussion moderated by Donata Levi and Barbara Murovec
Short break
19.00 Documentary film Memories from the Ashes (Serbia, Fémarske novosti, 2016, 28 minutes) Discussion moderated by Ljepa Šubic and Dejan Ristic

Wednesday, March 21st
Atrij ZRC, Novi trg 2
Chair: Michael Wedekind
9.00 Introductory lecture: Michael Wedekind: Translocations in a Contested Space
10.45 Ariane James-Sarazin and Felicitas Thurn-Valsassina: The Vienna Auction House Dorotheum and the ‘Masse Adria’: What We know and What We Don’t
11.25 Discussion moderated by Donata Levi and Barbara Murovec
11.45 Elena Franchi: Why should it be all on us Istrians to pay for a war that was lost by everyone? The Activities of the Italian Delegation for the Restitution of Cultural Assets to Yugoslavia after the Second World War
12.05 Anneliese Schallmeiner, Daria Brascia and Alena Zlatanove: Distribution of Shipments in a Transnational Perspective
12.30 Discussion
13.15 Coffee break
Chair: Francesco Lazzarin
14.45 Barbara Vodopivec: The Restitution of Cultural Objects from Austria to Yugoslavia after the Second World War: Rediscovered Archival Material
15.05 Elena Franchi: Why should it be all on us Istrians to pay for a war that was lost by everyone? The Activities of the Italian Delegation for the Restitution of Cultural Assets to Yugoslavia after the Second World War
15.25 Discussion
15.45 Final plenary discussion: Where do we go from here? The Future of Dispossession Research
Moderated by Ljepa Šubic, Christian Fuhrmeister, Donata Levi and Barbara Murovec
17.00 End of conference