

How to know what skills are involved in transporting works of arts and exhibitions ?

Are you a museum curator, a gallery owner, or an exhibition organizer ?

Are you in charge of transport at a museum or cultural institution ?

Do you courier works of art on behalf of a museum ?

Are you a collector or an artist's representative ?

Are you a restorer ?

Are you one of our foreign correspondents ?

All of the above, in different ways, are involved in transporting works of art. Whether you are a client or partner, a borrower or lender, whether you make decisions or implement them, you are faced by technical problems and urgent situations that we are used to dealing with. Our advice may be useful.

We hope that this LP ART Guide will be a practical information tool for you.

Why LP ART has produced a practical guide

TRANSPORTING WORKS OF ART IS A COMPLEX ACTIVITY

Every work of art is unique and irreplaceable. Most journeys create specific and even totally new situations in terms of the volume carried, the formalities to be completed, security, costs and deadlines. These are customized operations that require the involvement and coordination of several different skills.

PACKING : can range from a simple protective covering to packing in an insulated crate.

TRANSPORT : includes routing all over the world (by truck, aircraft, boat or train) and progress monitoring.

HANDLING AND MOVING : describes all forms of mechanical and manual handling needed to move and install a work.

WAREHOUSING : storage on demand of works or crates in a high-security warehouse.

FINE ARTS AND CUSTOMS FORMALITIES : the procedures enabling the circulation of works of art.

SECURITY FOR AIR FREIGHT : security procedures that LP ART applies as holder of an authorized agent certification (formerly known dispatcher).

AIRPORT ASSISTANCE : all the guarantees that our permanent office at Roissy Airport provides in terms of air freight and accompanying escorts.

TRANSPORTING EXHIBITIONS DEMANDS COMPLETE COORDINATION

Works are often moved for exhibitions, sometimes travelling all over the world. Moving exhibitions involves a series of customized operations : transport coordination requires organizational skills and teamwork that can only be provided by a genuine specialist. This coordination represents a unique and specialized service.



« Gauguin - Tahiti », Grand Palais, 2004.



Sculpture by Dubuffet.
« Champs de la sculpture », Paris, 1996.

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BECAUSE CUSTOMER SERVICE IS OUR PRIORITY

We always have to deal with the work and its owner, accompanying the work physically during its actual trip, and the owner psychologically, as he follows the work in his mind. From the order to delivery, including all the documentation, we have to keep contact with our clients and partners.

The quality of our service is judged by the attention we pay to the smallest detail, beginning with our accessibility.

As a modern, highly structured, medium-sized company, we at LP ART firmly believe in customer service.

BECAUSE WE HAVE A LEGAL OBLIGATION

We have to meet two requirements : the works must be in good condition on arrival and we must comply with the deadlines (i.e. the insurance expiration date as set by the principal).

However, we also have a role to play as advisers : for the transportation of works of art as in other businesses, this means offering all our clients the highest standard of quality at the best possible value, whether the client is a museum curator, a gallery owner or a private collector.



BECAUSE WE ALL HAVE TO CONTROL COSTS

Unforeseen costs are often due to additional demands by the lender (for example a double crate instead of a single crate) or the borrower (for example changing the date for the work to be moved) not to mention cases of force majeure (storms, snow-covered roads, etc). Whatever the reason, the client is always kept fully informed.

However, client expectations keep increasing and competition is a constant factor.

It is important to be able to anticipate costs : to do so, a transport firm must be thoroughly familiar with the museum's or gallery's works, with transportation and handling techniques and with all the parties involved.

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BECAUSE DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR BUSINESS CONCERN ALL THOSE INVOLVED

Our business has gone through at least four major changes in the recent past. The first is the museums' involvement in preventive conservation. The second is technical development : crates, trucks and handling operations are becoming increasingly sophisticated. The third is the urgent nature of our work : the people we work with constantly ask us to shorten intervention times. The fourth is the increasingly complex level of public regulations, especially in the field of security.

The people we work with (organizers and transport managers in galleries, museums and major institutions) are subject to the same technical constraints and short deadlines as us.



« St. Francis of Assisi », Giotto.
Louvre, Painting Department.

BECAUSE TOGETHER WE CAN BE MORE EFFECTIVE

Our clients tend to overestimate the savings that they can make. We are here to advise them about the requirements imposed by the lenders we have experience working with. However, we must go further : we have to explain clearly the constraints of our business and the role of each party involved. With our focus on customer service, we are innovating in terms of reciprocal information, as shown by this art guide to transporting works of art and exhibitions.

BECAUSE YOU ALL NEED PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Your knowledge, needs and interests obviously vary according to your situation and your transport operations. This guide is designed to be practical and useful. You will easily find concrete answers to your questions about transporting works of art and exhibitions, and the methods used by our company LP ART. You will also find definitions of the technical terms commonly used in our business, influenced as they are by arts and crafts, museums, administrative concerns and logistics.



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THE LP ART COMPANY

Our company, which was set up in 1992, now occupies a dominant position on the market for transportation of works of art. The quality of our services is widely recognized, with the greatest museums in the world working with us.

As a carrier, packer, customs broker, air freight agent, and authorized agent for freight security, we offer the best guarantee of discretion, security and efficiency for any transport request from a museum, gallery or private owner.

Our services are flexible : we can offer an exhibition service or a gallery and private owner service depending on the type of demand. In all cases, our staff are driven by two corporate values : customer service and cost-effectiveness.

THE LOCAL LP ART AGENCIES

Lyon	1 manager 3 coordinators
Nice	1 manager 2 coordinators
Toulouse	1 manager 1 coordinator

Each local LP ART agency has a general warehouse covering 400 sq. m, protected by an alarm system, with an air conditioned strongroom covering at least 150 sq. m, a fine art truck and two drivers/installers.

We also have an office in Cairo, **Egypt** : 1 manager, 1 coordinator, 1 customs declaration clerk, 2 packers.

THE LP ART TEAMS IN PARIS IN 2005

Exhibitions department	1 department manager 3 sales managers 12 coordinators
Galleries department	1 department manager 5 coordinators
Logistics and routing	1 logistics director 1 resources manager 1 scheduling manager 1 warehouse manager 1 storage manager 8 team managers 50 drivers/installers
Packing workshop	2 packing managers 9 packers
Airport supervision	3 supervisors
Customs Department	1 manager 2 declaration clerks