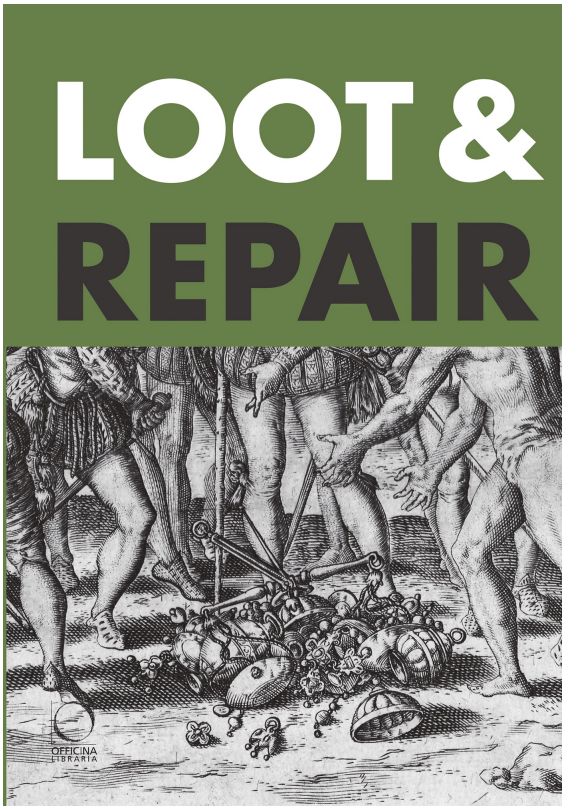
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Loot & Repair

Plunder and Restitution between the Early Modern Battlefield and the Modern-Day Museum

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- Explores a theme of great relevance in today's museum studies
- Innovative and interdisciplinary approach to themes, now at the forefront of the discourse about museums and their role

The term ‘loot’, indicating a category of objects that exists mainly as a function of conquest, describes a relationship of possession, if not more specifically of expropriation. Loot is not a classification of art history, but a primarily legal category, with which the discipline must nevertheless grapple, given its repercussions on what is accessible, where, and under what conditions.

This volume investigates how conflict and its resolution historically moved, modified, and reclassified art objects in the long period of early modernity. Often obscured by narratives of Napoleonic plunder, the early modern period witnessed for the first time the constant transfer of artistic goods to the European continent, across the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. These exports sparked moral, theological, and legal debates on property rights and led to codified rules for the conduct of war, introducing the issue of the return of seized objects as a diplomatic tool, as well as bringing to light laws to protect art from damage or illicit expropriation.

The volume’s contributions examine the diverse implications of claiming and recovering such assets in both wartime and peacetime, and also reflect on the relevance of these issues, particularly for the institutions that serve as today’s custodians of these controversial stories, museums.

Francesca Borgo is a professor at the University of St Andrews (Scotland) and principal investigator of the five-year Lise Meitner Decay, Loss, and Conservation in Art History group at the Bibliotheca Hertziana – Max-Planck-Institut für Künstgeschichte in Rome. **Julia Vázquez** is an Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow for Marcel Duchamp's monographic exhibition at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Between 2022 and 2024 she was a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Lise Meitner Group at the Bibliotheca Hertziana - Max Planck Institute for Art History.


The Stuff of War: Toward a Material History of Loot and Repair for Early Modern Art





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