

TEFAF &  Maastricht University present

The TEFAF Curator Course

March 9–13, 2027

A Parity Project



TEFAF & MAASTRICHT UNIVERSITY PRESENT

The TEFAF Curator Course

INTRODUCTION

Uniting the academic world and art market, *The TEFAF Curator Course* offers an exceptional gateway to a realm of expertise, market insights, and networking.

This unique program offers a rare chance to tap into the experiences and expertise of international seasoned colleagues, members of the TEFAF Vetting community, and renowned art dealers, each a luminary in their specialized field. Additionally, the course brings together leading academics who illuminate specific art world subjects with their expertise.

The collaborative mission between Maastricht University (MU) and The European Fine Art Foundation (TEFAF), supported by AXA XL and A Parity Project, is clear: to provide museum curators with a unique platform to immerse themselves in the art market, unlock valuable insights, and establish robust international networks.

This program is meticulously crafted to equip curators with the tools, profound insight, and invaluable contacts necessary to navigate the art market skillfully. It covers a range of considerations for gifts, and acquisitions, such as due diligence and market research, practical aspects of art law, and broader collecting implications, including social impact and the ethics of external funding.



“The TEFAF Curator Course takes you on a kaleidoscopic journey into the art market; it initiates the professional dialog between museum curators, art dealers and private collectors in a very personal way. I will benefit from this inspiring exchange for a long time to come.”

—Katharina Weiler, Curator at Museum Angewandte Kunst and course participant in 2024.

GAIN ART MARKET INSIGHTS

Participants will have the unique opportunity to learn from senior Vetting members about authenticating and attributing artworks, gain valuable insights from renowned art dealers, and engage in discussions with academic experts on values and responsibilities. This comprehensive approach equips curators to tackle the challenges and seize the opportunities the evolving art world presents.

EXPAND YOUR NETWORK

This outstanding program offers a unique opportunity for professionals to enhance their market expertise and establish meaningful connections with peers and colleagues in the art world. These connections facilitate potential loans and acquisitions and unlock opportunities for development and donations.

EXCEPTIONAL ACCESS

The *TEFAF Curator Course* occurs during the prestigious TEFAF Maastricht fair and at Maastricht University in The Netherlands, offering a blend of hands-on experience and academic knowledge in navigating the multifaceted art world.

FAST FACTS

COURSE DATES

Welcome dinner on Monday, March 8
Course runs from Tuesday, March 9
until Saturday, March 13, 2027

LOCATION

Maastricht, The Netherlands

APPLICATION DEADLINE

October 1, 2026

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

10

FEES

There is no course fee, and A Parity Project generously covers accommodation. Participants are responsible for their own travel expenses.

CERTIFICATE

Maastricht University

CONTACT

curator-course-sbe
@maastrichtuniversity.nl

APPLY NOW

COURSE ASSIGNMENT: A STRATEGIC APPROACH TO INFORMED ACQUISITIONS

This innovative course offers participants the opportunity to work together in groups, utilizing the knowledge and insights gained from lectures and mentor sessions to develop an informed strategy for expanding collections. The course culminates in a presentation of a acquisition strategy to a simulated leadership panel, providing a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted considerations required when preparing for an acquisition, whether through loans, gifts, or purchases.

COURSE ASSIGNMENT

Each of the 10 selected applicants will complete an individual assignment to present to the group and a mock board on the final course day. During the course's fair visits, participants will select an artwork and prepare a mock acquisition proposal for a simulated board. Each presentation will last no more than 10 minutes, followed by constructive feedback from the board.

MENTOR SESSIONS

During the course, groups will be matched with a senior vetting member. These pairings will be made according to specific categories, allowing participants to explore the fair in a focused manner.

This setup will create a platform for participants to engage with seasoned colleagues, inquire about the challenges and opportunities within the acquisition process, and foster lasting professional relationships.

LECTURE TOPICS

Throughout the course, lectures and interviews will be conducted at the university and fair focusing on various relevant topics to guide and inform the participants personal growth and development, such as art market dynamics and the art business, legal issues, provenance and fundraising.



The application process for the *TEFAF Curator Course* involves an evaluation by a selection committee comprising representatives from TEFAF and Maastricht University. The committee comprises TEFAF Board members, TEFAF Vetting members, and Maastricht University representatives. Here's a step-by-step breakdown of the application process:

REQUIREMENTS

Interested individuals should submit their applications, including the required documents: a curriculum vitae (CV), a letter of motivation, at least three years of curatorial experience, and a reference letter from a senior colleague or board member.

REVIEW BY COMMITTEE

The selection committee convenes to review the eligible applications. Each committee member assesses the applications based on the applicant's qualifications, experience, motivation, and preferred focus category.

REFERENCE CHECK

For the shortlisted candidates, the committee might contact the provided senior colleague or board member referenced to verify the applicant's qualifications and potential for the program.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

October 1, 2026

PARTICIPATION FEE

The European Fine Art Foundation and its partners cover the course fee, while A Parity Project also generously provides accommodation at a pre-selected hotel. Participants cover their own travel expenses.

APPLICATION CONTACT

For any questions, please reach out to curator-course-sbe@maastrichtuniversity.nl



WHAT TO EXPECT

Led by Prof. Rachel Pownall, Founding Director of the Executive Master in Cultural Leadership with the Royal Academy of Arts in London, The following topics will be addressed:



VETTING

TEFAF sets itself apart from every other organization with the thoroughness of its vetting process and extensive committees. Learn from Senior Vetting members and world-renowned art dealers about authenticating artworks.

ART MARKET DYNAMICS

Gain valuable market insights from ArtTactic founder Anders Petterson and have the opportunity to pose your questions regarding the appraisal of artworks to esteemed leaders in the art gallery community.

NEGOTIATING & FUNDRAISING

Discuss with Sarah Hilliam, Director of Development at the National Portrait Gallery, the various strategies to find funding or artwork donations.

DUE DILIGENCE

Explore the practical considerations of art due diligence with the Art Loss Register and other law and provenance experts.

OTHER ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Conversations with leading and world-renowned art gallerists, Vetting members, and other specialists.
- Access during Early Access and Collectors Preview before the fair opens to the public.
- Museum visit focusing on acquisitions.
- Network opportunities during events at and around the art fair, such as CODART.
- Attendance for TEFAF Talks and other visitor's programming elements.



ABOUT TEFAF

As a non-profit organization, The European Fine Art Foundation champions expertise, quality, and variety in art by creating a community of the world's top art dealers and experts to attract, connect, and inspire visitors, academics, and collectors from across the globe.

TEFAF Maastricht and New York are some of the world's leading art destinations, spanning 7,000 years of art history and unequalled in their standards and the methods employed to establish the authenticity and quality of the artworks on offer.

The Foundation actively promotes the exchange of knowledge and expertise, as demonstrated through its partnership with Maastricht University in conducting the *TEFAF Curator Course*.

TEFAF and AXA XL, its Global Lead Partner, share the view that there's more to art than meets the eye.

ABOUT MAASTRICHT UNIVERSITY

Nestled in Europe's heart, Maastricht University is a global hub fostering diverse scholars. Its innovative education, international character, and multidisciplinary research set it apart.

With top-tier research, education, and social engagement, Maastricht University has gained a solid reputation, ranking among the world's best young universities.

With the launch of the accredited Executive Master in Cultural Leadership Programme in 2017 together with the Royal Academy of Arts in London, Maastricht University is a pioneer in providing Executive Education in the field of Arts and Culture.

The MA develops and shapes Cultural Leaders of our time and includes the option to extend to a dual-degree as an MBA at the School of Business and Economics.



“One of the most rewarding aspects of the course was the opportunity to connect with a group of peers who, despite coming from incredibly diverse backgrounds—geographically, professionally, and institutionally—shared a genuine passion for curatorial work.

— Maaïke Rikhof, Curator at Frans Hals Museum and course participant in 2025.

“Particularly as I come from a smaller institution and have experienced this programme as an exceptional opportunity. I will certainly recommend it to others. I also want to extend my gratitude to the organizers, assembling such a programme is no small feat, especially during the busy opening week of TEFAF.”

— Course participant in 2026.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

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