

## Art Economics (A005639)

**Course size** *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits 5.0** **Study time 150 h**

**Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027**

A (semester 1) Dutch Gent

**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

Daems, Aurelie	LW17	staff member
Jonckheere, Koenraad	LW17	lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027**

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies)	5	A
Master of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies	5	A

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

Art sales and trade (private and public), collecting, entrepreneurship, law and property law, digitization, provenance research, connoisseurship, art and ethics

**Position of the course**

The Art Economics course is a specialized course, which aims to provide the future art historian with knowledge of the historical and contemporary art market. The course integrates insights from economic, legal and other socio-human disciplines. Indeed, these aspects are hardly visible but crucial elements in the reality of art production, the art trade and the art presentation; and this in both the public and private spheres. By means of in-depth lectures and reflective tutorials, the study of specific cases and guest lectures, this course wants to provide critical information about the way in which value is created, consolidated or devalued, and discusses which players play which role in this. In addition to paying attention to a number of specific mechanisms current within the visual arts, the music industry and the performing arts, this course also draws attention to the often underexposed phenomenon of entrepreneurship in the broader arts field.

**Contents**

This course is organized around various cases and points of interest related to the economic and legal aspects of the production, trade and presentation of art. Attention is drawn to the critical analysis of the auction industry (national and international), the compilation of private collections and their management and preservation, issues relating to copyright, property rights and digitization, provenance research, the Flemish art purchase regulation (Kunstkoopregeling) and the Top Pieces Decree, art and taxation, entrepreneurship, deontology and precarity.

**Initial competences**

A basic knowledge of the arts, music and theater sciences is recommended. Having a notion of the most important presentation and trading platforms related to visual arts, music and the performing arts is recommended.

**Final competences**

1 Being able to understand and critically examine the mechanisms and working methods of the art auction and art gallery industries

- 2 Acquiring knowledge of a number of legal notions related to art purchase, art collection, art management and art bequest
- 3 Being able to make a realistic assessment of art and entrepreneurship
- 4 Independently analyse and critically reflect on economic mechanisms in the western art world

**Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

**Conditions for exam contract**

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

**Teaching methods**

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

**Extra information on the teaching methods**

Lectures provided with discipline-related reading assignments with moments of reflection, in-depth tutorials on specific cases, guest lectures with subsequent debates

**Study material**

Type: Slides

Name: Slides

Indicative price: € 10

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Number of Slides : 500

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

**References****Course content-related study coaching****Assessment moments**

end-of-term assessment

**Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period**

Written assessment open-book

**Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period**

Written assessment with open-ended questions

**Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Written assessment with open-ended questions

**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

examination during the second examination period is possible

**Calculation of the examination mark**

Examen 100%

**Facilities for Working Students**

Upon request