

Swiss Art Collector Case Study

One storage system – two individual facilities



Collection & Research Centre Hall in Tyrol. © Andreas Buchberger

A high-quality art collection lives from much more than just the works of art themselves, so it is quite understandable that the infrastructure represents the foundation and framework of a well-managed collection. An appropriate and practical storage facility, which provides objects not on display with space for storage, while at the same time offering the best possible protection against external influences such as temperature and humidity fluctuations, is usually part of this.

Knowledge of the respective collection is central for the planning and implementation of such a storage facility, usually requiring a prior comprehensive analysis in order to determine the details of the inventory: Although the quantity in particular has a major influence on the storage solutions, the relative sizes and materials of the individual works are also fundamental factors that must be taken into account in the planning phase. The planners, manufacturers and fitters of the respective storage systems are of great importance for the successful realisation of art storage projects.

In the ArtStore department of Kern Studer AG, Büro International GmbH was able to find a reliable partner who, due to its high-quality solutions and extensive experience in the planning, construction and assembly of art storage facilities, emerged as an essential factor in

the success of a storage project implemented for a customer in the spring of 2021.

In close cooperation with ArtStore, Büro International GmbH planned a comprehensive storage project in which all facets of the planning and construction of an art storage facility needed to be taken into account. The expertise of both companies coupled with this close cooperation proved to be both necessary and productive in this regard. Even the choice of possible premises within existing properties had to be sounded out extensively beforehand, as it is essential that these are conducive to safe and secure storage in all respects.

Technical water and fire specifications must be met: For example, open water supply and waste water pipes may not cross the ceiling, and no sprinkler systems may be installed that could pose a potential danger to the works of art. The possibility of safe art logistics for the art dealers responsible is of equally fundamental importance: Entrances without door sills and large doors reduce potential sources of danger that can cause damage to works of art and picture frames. It should be possible to pass the storage facility with a picture trolley, with access also allowed for the largest works in the collection with as few obstacles as possible, such as narrow corridors or stairwells.

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ART | STORE
ART STORAGE SYSTEMS

Different equipment for different needs

In the example mentioned above, Büro International GmbH proposed two separate, individually equipped rooms to its customer due to there being two distinct bodies of collected works: One storage unit, expanded to include the individualised and modular ArtStore shelving for photographic works and works on paper in general, and a second with a built-in painting storage system for hanging large paintings. The two rooms are air-conditioned differently, on account of both the ideal temperature and the optimal humidity not being the same for different artistic media.

Based on the estimates of the inventory by Büro International GmbH, ArtStore planned two storage units to ensure that the quantitative optimum could be obtained from the premises and manufactured customised shelving systems for this purpose. Both the ArtStore showroom, which already presents customers with a large number of existing solutions in the field of painting storage systems, as well as planning, calculation and precise and clear three-dimensional drawings were central to the decision taken by Büro International GmbH and its customer. Informing and weighing up the advantages and disadvantages of the different systems in a proactive way for the relevant context led to the optimal solution: A total of 18 powder-coated shelving units with pole racks were fitted in the paper store, with the shelves individually height-adjustable and lined with artificial felt to protect the picture frames. The shelving racks are ideally suited to be adapted to respective needs in a modular way. ArtStore adjusted the



Shelf rack with poles. © Kern Studer AG

distances between the pole racks to the optimum usable dimension in relation to the frame depths of the paper and photographic works to be stored in the unit. In addition, in cooperation with the building technicians, a ventilation system was implemented that is integrated directly into the upper shelving units and guarantees constant ventilation of the space and the stored works. In order to protect the art from vermin, ArtStore used exclusively inorganic materials.

The ceiling-mounted DL-100 pull-out shelf was used as the support unit in the painting storage unit: It was planned for the optimum use of space in relation to the inventory. The consultation with ArtStore showed the clear advantages of working with ceiling instead of floor-guided traction systems in this context: The ceiling rails guarantee smooth gliding without shaking when the racks are pulled out. The distances between the individual pull-out racks, which are vibration-proof due to being suspended from the ceiling, could – similar to the shelving systems – be individually adjusted according to the different frame depths. In the case of the pull-out shelf, the main question was how to best position it in the room. This guarantees optimal art handling and the planning of reserves, while also ensuring space for the lattice wall and work tables for assessment of the works by restorers and for adequate depiction of the art for the purpose of cataloguing. The ArtStore modular system can subsequently be expanded by changing the respective distances between the lattices and the possible insertion of further pull-out rack elements

Sustainable and functional

The cooperation between ArtStore and Büro International GmbH resulted in a sustainable and functional art storage facility in two units and was ready for implementation within three months of completion of the planning phase. With the capacity of the premises used up in a practical manner by the ArtStore systems, large wall lattices were then mounted on the free walls to provide additional hanging capacity. With aesthetic solutions paramount during the planning and implementation of the art storage facility, the two rooms were given the character of a display repository with ideal, shadowless lighting and a uniform, bright colour scheme. The result ensures pleasant surroundings for all those working with the collection and visitors to the storage facility, whether for work purposes or for purely viewing the works of art in their storage location, which can also become an exhibition space. The above example shows how, based on professional planning and previous analysis of an art collection, an individually adapted art storage facility – tailored to the respective needs of the collection and the decision-makers behind it – can be created that does justice to every context and, above all, to the art stored in it. A sustainable solution with long-term support is guaranteed, particularly through cooperation with proven companies such as ArtStore by Kern Studer AG.

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