Daily Art Magazine

Cézanne, Paul Gauguin, Vincent van Gogh, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Andy Warhol, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Keith Haring, Roy Lichtenstein and more, Deutsche Bank Art Collection, Frankfurt, Germany

The Art Office: Corporate Art Collections

Nancy Kennedy

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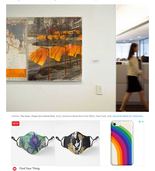
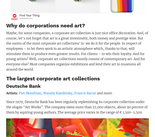
What is your first thought when you think about going to the bank? Or a big company office? Can more that it is not connected to art at all. You imagine cubs, spreys, paperwork... But did you know that some banking companies have amazing art collections? They really could become museum competitors someday!

Let us open the door to the corporate art collections for you!



Cézanne, Paul Gauguin, Vincent van Gogh, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Andy Warhol, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Keith Haring, Roy Lichtenstein and more, Deutsche Bank Art Collection, Frankfurt, Germany



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Why do corporations need art?

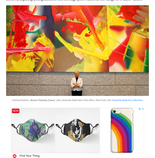
Maybe, for some companies, a corporate art collection is just nice office decoration. And, of course, let's not forget that art is a great investment, both money and prestige wise. But there are companies, organizations and institutions, for which art is the main product of the employees – it is their work in an artistic atmosphere which, thanks to that, will stimulate them to produce even greater results. For clients – to win their loyalty. And for the society – to show that corporate art collections thirsty people of contemporary art. And for everyone else! Many companies organize conferences and lend their art to museums all around the world.

The largest corporate art collections

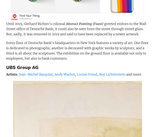
Deutsche Bank

Artists: Tatsuo Miyajima, Marcelo Bonevardi, Franz Ackermann and more.

Since 1979, Deutsche Bank has been regularly replenishing its corporate collection under the slogan "Art Works". The company owns more than 5,200 objects, about 60 percent of them by leading artists. The average price varies in the range of 5,000 – 5,000.



Gerhard Richter, Abstract Painting (Panel), 1987, Deutsche Bank Art Collection, New York



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Until 2019, Gerhard Richter's colossal *Abstract Painting (Panel)* greeted visitors to the Wall Street branch of Deutsche Bank. It was a 20-foot-tall piece of abstract art made of glass. But, sadly, it was removed in 2019 and sold to have been replaced by a newer artwork.

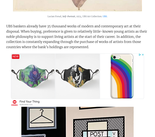
Every floor of Deutsche Bank's headquarters in New York features a variety of art. One floor is dedicated to photographs, another is decorated with graphic works by sculptors, and a third is all about the sculptures. The exhibition on the ground floor is available not only to employees, but also to bank customers.

UBS Group AG

Artists: Jean-Michel Basquiat, Andy Warhol, Lucian Freud, Roy Lichtenstein and more.

Lucian Freud, Hotel Bloomsbury, 1954, UBS Art Collection, USA

UBS bankers already have 30 thousand works of modern and contemporary art at their disposal. When being, performers is given to relatively little-known young artists as their rebbe philosophy is to support living artists at the start of their career. In addition, the company's collection includes photographs, and a significant part of works of artists from those countries where the bank's buildings are represented.



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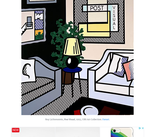

Philippe Mora, Untitled (Hotel Room), 1976, UBS Art Collection, USA

The bank boasts and donates selected works from its collection to such well-known museums as Moma and has a 100-km tailoring in New York. UBS is also an official sponsor of Art Basel. But most of the collection decorates the bank's worldwide branches and is available only to employees. Lucky them!

UniCredit group

Artists: Tintoretto, Lucian Freud, Giorgio de Chirico, Chase Jobus, Karen Knorr and more.

Chase Jobus, Vogtland, Germany, 2008, 2011, 2012, Ink Pinstripe, Mixed Media, Acrylic, Varnish on Canvas, Courtesy of Marianne Lemmen

The first bank of the UniCredit group appeared in 1473. Therefore, the collection also has a long history. The company's collection contains more than 650 pieces, including items found during excavations.

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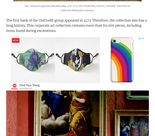

Lucian Freud, Hyde Park Gate No. 9, Mixed Media, Acrylic, Varnish on Canvas, 1980, UniCredit Art Collection, Italy

The collection combines traditional and innovation, it contains not only outstanding works of art, owned by trust, but also contemporary experimental work.

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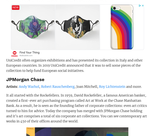
UniCredit often organizes exhibitions and has presented its collection in Italy and other European countries. In 2019 UniCredit announced that it was to sell some pieces of the collection to help fund European social initiatives.

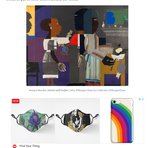
JPMorgan Chase

Artists: Frank Stella, Robert Rauschenberg, Sam Mitchell, Roy Lichtenstein and more.

It all started with the Rockefellers. In 1959, David Rockefeller, a famous American banker, created a first-ever art purchasing program called Art at Work at the Chase Manhattan Bank. As a result, he is seen as the founding father of corporate collections: men art critics and curators helped him to create a collection of contemporary American art. Today, it is one of the largest corporate collections in the world and it's an surprise a total of six separate art collections. You can see contemporary art works in 52 of their offices around the world.



Frank Stella, Jasper Johns and Andy Warhol, 1962, JPMorgan Chase Art Collection, London, England



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Frank Stella, Jasper Johns and Andy Warhol, 1962, JPMorgan Chase Art Collection, London, England

Microsoft Corporation

Artists: Tokashi Murakami, Cindy Sherman, Chuck Close and more.

A group of Microsoft employees began collecting art in 1987. Now this corporate collection consists of more than 3,000 pieces, including photos, sculptures, installations and even multimedia. These works have been distributed in 160 offices of the company around the world.

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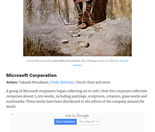

Tokashi Murakami, Jacob Kilb and Mike Newling, Oil, Gold, Microsoft Headquarters, Redmond, Washington, Courtesy of Gagosian Gallery, Jeffrey Deitch

Many artworks in Microsoft art collection look super technological (no surprise there!) and human-years. In the painting below, Gordon Cheung, a young artist from London, turns in Dark oil 100 paintings combining Norway and the Swiss perks of civilization.

Gordon Cheung, Gridlocked, 2011, Microsoft Corporation, Courtesy of Gagosian Gallery

According to the company website, *Microsoft believes that displaying art in the workplace inspires creativity and innovation, and that it helps employees to "open their minds"* Maybe after reading this article we should go back into the office to see current bosses!

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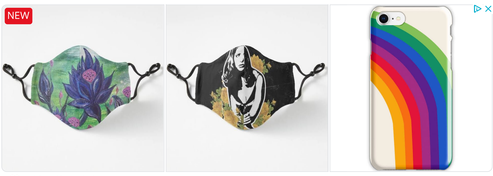

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Admire contemporary art some more – take two fun quizzes about the contemporary artists present in the corporate art collections!

Cindy Sherman vs Old Masters

Time for a little quiz for all those who consider themselves the experts in Old Masters! We will show you photographs made by Cindy Sherman, a contemporary American photographer, which reference famous portraits from art history. Ready? Untitled #224, 1990 Cindy Sherman's photographs focus on inventing personas or tableaus that examine the construction of identity, the nature ... Continue reading

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Roy Lichtenstein's Art Quiz For Every Art Historian

Pop art is popping up again! Yet this time, it won't at all reveal the mechanisms of the modern society with its mass product, celebrities and media hegemony. This time I want to show you that Pop Art, with Roy Lichtenstein's art in particular, referenced not only the contemporary times, but it also drew from ... Continue reading

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Elizaveta Ermakova

A Russian historian herself, Elizaveta has a soft spot for Art (and not only the native one). Based in Moscow and trying to get as many people as possible to become Art lovers in every city she goes to.

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ART STATE OF MIND

Flying Objects in Art: Kites

BY SARAH MILLS FEBRUARY 20, 2021

So far we've had balloons and celestial bodies as part of this series. Now we move to kites as our flying objects in art, but where do we start? There are so many examples! Probably best, therefore, to start at the beginning. Kite flying is in...

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Just Married: Wedding Paintings which Will Secure a Happy Future Together

BY MAGDA MICHALSKA FEBRUARY 13, 2021

Is it only me, or do you also find yourself seeing all those happy photos of your friends/acquaintances getting married while scrolling your Facebook feed? Feels like I'm becoming a second Bridget Jones, "all by myself"... Anyway, since I'm the fairy godmother I want to wish...

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Celebrating Chinese New Year: Which Ox Would You Choose?

BY MARINA KOCHETKOVA FEBRUARY 12, 2021

Chinese New Year or the Spring Festival celebrates the beginning of a new year based on the lunisolar calendar. In 2021, the first day of the Chinese New Year falls on February 12, the Year of the Ox. This festival lasts for fifteen days and includes...

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How to Look Great: Rococo Women Beauty Guide

BY KATERYNA MARTYNOVA FEBRUARY 4, 2021

How to look great? That is the question! Let's refer to the most splendid and opulent period of history: the 18th century. The Enlightenment era was likely the first feminist wave because of the powerful women who came up to the political stage and turned it...

21ST CENTURY

Where is the Queen? Black Women in Western Art

BY CANDY BEDWORTH FEBRUARY 3, 2021

For centuries, black women appeared in Western art as slaves, servants, or exotic novelties. But as regal queens and leaders? Shamefully not. Let us remember the woman bearing flowers in the background of Manet's famous nude Olympia of 1863. This is typical of the trend for...

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