

COLLABORATING TO PROTECT THE BIG PICTURES

A ROKBOX case study in association with Christie's
and supported by the Gallery Climate Coalition

CHRISTIE'S

ROKBOX®
LOOP

INTRODUCTION

However disparate and global the art world may be, those of us working within it are united in a genuine sense of custodianship of celebrated works of art.

So it follows that everyone in the art world, from artists and collectors, to conservators to insurers, and technicians to shippers can have a profoundly positive impact by extending this protective gaze to the environmental impact of the movement, storage, showing and owning of art.

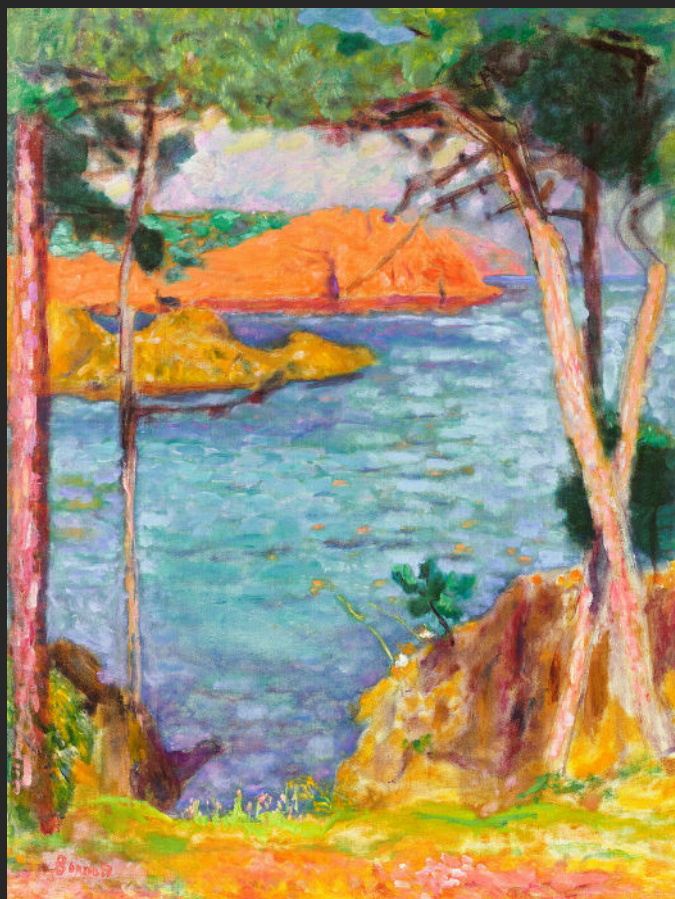
Just as an artwork can be restored for us to enjoy afresh, so we can limit and restore the damage being caused to our seas, land and air, and bring them back to health.

The art world is in a prime position to show the commercial world how to counteract the worst of the effects of rising temperatures and extreme weather.

Key cultural organisations are coming together and taking action to protect the things we love.

All that's required to take the first step is a dash of bravery and a smudge of optimism.

This paper highlights what a difference taking those first steps can have.



PIERRE BONNARD (1867-1947)
Bord de mer, pins et rochers rouges

Price realized: \$2,954,000
Christie's New York, November 2023

IN COLLABORATION

“It’s fantastic to see Christie’s and others showing leadership on climate action in the arts sector. Collaboration is key for the art world’s response to the climate crisis and so the partnership between Christie’s and ROKBOX can only have a positive outcome.

Both Christie’s and ROKBOX are active GCC members and as such are part of a community of art world organisations who are committed to reducing their environmental impacts in a way that relates specifically to our industry.

We support Christie’s commitment to reduce their carbon footprint by 90% by 2050, and ROKBOX is one of the many practical tools they can use to achieve this target.”

HEATH LOWNDES, MANAGING DIRECTOR, GALLERY CLIMATE COALITION

- Christie’s The first major auction house to launch a sustainability strategy and set science based targets (SBTi) in 2021. They are an active member of the Gallery Climate Coalition - an organisation formed to galvanise industry-wide carbon reduction by creating connections and shared resources for arts and heritage institutions. In 2024 Christie’s started using ROKBOX LOOP to move 2D works around the world.
- ROKBOX Founded in 2016 to create reusable, rentable fine art shipping crates to tackle the two issues inherent in single-use wooden crating: avoidable packaging waste and damage to valuable artworks in transit and storage. ROKBOX are active GCC members.

“Christie’s is the only global auction house with an ambitious and credible plan to reduce carbon emissions by 90% by 2050 and ROKBOX LOOP is a vital part of the solution to achieve this.

They are enthusiastic partners who readily take on the challenges associated with sustainable packaging and shipping. Like us, they believe every little step forwards makes a difference and they understand both innovation and behaviour change are crucial.”

JULIEN PRADELS, GLOBAL HEAD OF OPERATIONS, CHRISTIE’S

IN ACTION: CHRISTIE'S SPOTLIGHT

PROTECTING THE WORLD'S MOST VALUABLE ASSETS



For more than 250 years Christie's has helped steward some of humanity's greatest artistic treasures across generations and cultures.

Christie's is a leader in the global art market and with that comes a responsibility to act.

Now they are building a sustainable art business so they can play another stewarding role, helping to protect the environment so that great natural beauty can be enjoyed by, and inspire, future generations.

They are on track to meet their target of reducing emissions by 90% by 2050.

In 2024 Christie's used ROKBOX LOOP to ship artworks a total of 52,602km. They saved **2599kg of packaging waste** and prevented **6.1 tonnes of CO2e** from entering our atmosphere.

To put that into perspective, 5 tonnes of CO2e is equivalent to the annual carbon footprint of an average person in the UK.¹

"Currently the amount of single-use wooden crates that are produced is both excessive and unnecessary. We are proving that a change can be made."

CHRIS O'NEIL-DUNNE, OPERATIONS DIRECTOR, CHRISTIE'S LONDON

IN ACTION: CHRISTIE'S SPOTLIGHT

Christie's are demonstrating progress, collaboration and positive ESG impact by using ROKBOX LOOP to meet their sustainability goals, as this case study shows.

CASE STUDY OF ONE CHRISTIE'S MOVE USING ROKBOX LOOP

A painting valued at \$1.5m travelled from Zurich to LA then to NY in a rented ROKBOX crate, via the global ROKBOX LOOP system.

The journey in numbers:

- **FOUR fine art shippers** collaborated on the journey
- The LOOP crate and artwork traversed **THREE countries**
- Using ROKBOX saved **544kg of CO2e** and a **90% reduction in other pollutants** including smog, ecotoxicity, and carcinogens.



*Calculations based on [Gallery Climate Coalition Calculator](#). ROKBOX impact based on [ROKBOX STICH report](#).

“ROKBOX has changed how we look at traditional crates and conventional packing. It has challenged us to explore new and alternative packing options that are in alignment with our sustainability goals.”

Along with other market players, ROKBOX has developed an environment where clients openly discuss reusable and alternate packing methods.”

ANTONIO QUIZPILEMA, HEAD OF ART TRANSPORT, CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK

MAKE A CASE FOR CHANGE IN YOUR ART WORLD

This can be a daunting topic but don't hesitate. Action is needed and there are plenty of helpful resources around you.

Many suppliers and partners are keen to be part of a positive future.

FIVE STEPS TO GET YOU STARTED

- 1 Be ambitious but start where you are, Rome wasn't built in a day.
- 2 Take inspiration from Environmental Impact Reports; Christie's publishes an annual report online. The report and a video showing their progress can be [seen here](#).
- 3 Use the Gallery Climate Coalition tools, including the [new Artists Toolkit](#), and read other case studies on their website for carbon reduction strategies in the art market.
- 4 Bring people with you. Use stories of change and data to show the impact that emerging technologies and behaviour shifts can have. See ROKBOX's independent [Performance Testing Data](#) and [Life Cycle Analysis](#).
- 5 Collaborate, even if it feels unusual. The more of us are on board, the easier it becomes.

THANK YOU FOR
READING



ROK-BOXLOOP.COM
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ROKBOX loop is a global network of rentable, reusable fine art shipping crates that eliminate unnecessary costs, risk, waste and pollution by up to 90%; safeguarding art, budgets and the planet.

ROKBOX LOOP works in collaboration with forward thinking shippers: Haas & Co, Gander & White, Helutrans, Dietl, Regency and Harsch, and is backed by climate scientists, AXA XL and the GCC.