

FINE ARTS COLLECTORS INSURANCE

In the View

Protect what you collect.

The Overlooked Risk

Most collectors understand value. Fewer understand the risks that affect it. The most common challenges aren't always physical loss or damage. More often, they stem from uncertainty around ownership, authenticity, provenance, condition or location. These details determine whether a work can be sold, loaned, insured or claimed without friction.



What Drives Strong Outcomes

From an insurance and risk management perspective, three factors matter most: documentation, valuation and care. When these elements are clear and aligned, outcomes tend to be more predictable. When they are not, disputes, delays and uncertainty often follow.

Where Collections Are Exposed

Risk tends to emerge during moments of transition, acquisition, transit, storage and loans. Most issues are not caused by the event itself, but by gaps in preparation. Missing documentation, outdated valuations, unclear ownership records or inadequate handling procedures can create challenges long before a loss occurs.

A Structured Approach

Maintain a complete inventory. Verify and preserve provenance. Keep values current. Use qualified conservators, appropriate storage and professional handling services.

Align insurance coverage with how the collection is actually stored, displayed, loaned and transported. Together, these steps help reduce uncertainty and protect the long-term value of a collection.

How Gallagher Supports Collectors

Gallagher's Fine Arts & Jewelry practice develops insurance and risk management solutions that reflect how a collection is held, stored, displayed and moved. We evaluate exposure, identify gaps, coordinate with carriers and underwriters, and support claims with clear, defensible data. The objective is simple: reduce uncertainty at every stage of the collection lifecycle.



Collector Risk Management Checklist

Inventory

- ☐ Maintain a complete inventory of the collection
- ☐ Record artist, title, medium, dimensions, value and location
- ☐ Retain current photographs for each piece
- ☐ Update records following any acquisition, sale, loan or transit

Provenance

- ☐ Review provenance before completing a purchase
- ☐ Confirm ownership history is clear and continuous
- ☐ Retain all supporting documentation (invoices, catalog references and correspondence)
- ☐ Store provenance records in a secure, organized location

Valuation

- ☐ Obtain professional appraisals from qualified experts
- ☐ Review values on a regular basis
- ☐ Update appraisals when market conditions change

Insurance

- ☐ Confirm coverage reflects how the collection is stored, displayed and used
- ☐ Address transit, loans and multiple locations
- ☐ Review policy terms, limits and exclusions
- ☐ Update coverage as the collection grows or changes

Care and Handling

- ☐ Maintain stable temperature and humidity conditions
- ☐ Avoid high-risk environments (basements, attics and direct sunlight)
- ☐ Use professional art handlers and shippers
- ☐ Obtain condition reports before and after movement



Claims Readiness

- ☐ Ensure records are complete, current and easily accessible
- ☐ Maintain up-to-date inventory and appraisals
- ☐ Retain condition reports and movement history
- ☐ Know who to contact in the event of a loss (insurance, art handlers and conservators)

The Bottom Line

Collecting is often seen as an activity driven by passion, curiosity or opportunity. In practice, it is also a process that requires discipline. The artwork defines the collection. Everything around it determines whether that collection retains its value, remains accessible and can be successfully managed over time.

In the end, the principle remains simple: The outcome of a claim is decided long before the claim ever takes place.



AJG.com **The Gallagher Way.** Since 1927.

Gallagher

The information contained herein is offered as insurance Industry guidance and provided as an overview of current market risks and available coverages and is intended for discussion purposes only. This publication is not intended to offer financial, tax, legal or client-specific insurance or risk management advice. General insurance descriptions contained herein do not include complete Insurance policy definitions, terms, and/or conditions, and should not be relied on for coverage interpretation. Actual insurance policies must always be consulted for full coverage details and analysis.

Insurance brokerage and related services provided by Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, LLC License Nos. IL 100292093 / CA 0D69293

© 2026 Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., and affiliates & subsidiaries | PRODUS201987