

A ARTISTS RESALE RIGHT



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A vital income for visual artists

Ensuring artists share in the value of
their work throughout their career.

Keeping artists connected to
the value of their work.



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WHAT IS THE ARTISTS' RESALE RIGHT?

The Artists' Resale Right (ARR) is the right to a royalty paid to visual artists when their works are resold by auction houses, galleries, or art market professionals above a certain price.

This right ensures that artists (and in some cases their heirs) benefit financially from the value of their works over time, after the first sale. It applies to all original works of art (e.g., paintings, sculptures, prints, photographs).

The royalty is modest — usually between 3% and 5% of the resale price, and in some legislation it can reach up to 8% — but makes a real difference to artists' lives.

ARR is complex to administer on an individual basis, so it is commonly managed by Collective Management Organizations (CMOs). CMOs enforce compliance across the art market and ensure that royalties flow to the correct right holder while reducing the administrative burden on both artists and art market professionals.



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Artwork



Auction/ gallery/ art market professional



Buyer/Seller



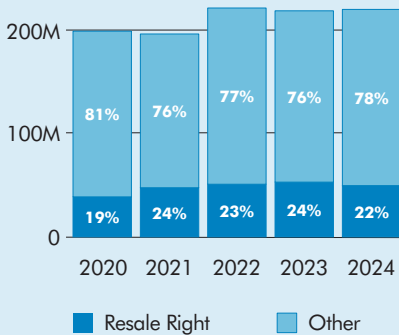
Royalty back to artist

WHY IT MATTERS

It's a vital source of income

Most artworks exist in a single copy or very limited editions. After the first sale, artists traditionally lose all earning potential from and connection to their work. ARR ensures that artists - and their heirs - continue to share in the economic value of their creations. Artists often use these royalties to support their work, paying for studio space, materials, and professional development, whilst heirs spend the royalties to manage the legacy of the artist.

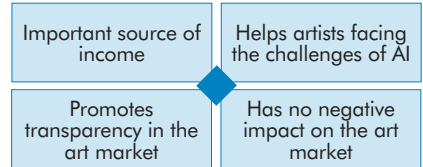
Resale Rights vs. Other rights collected by CMOs



It helps visual artists to face emerging threats such as AI

Generative AI platforms are trained on millions of copyright-protected artworks, often without permission, transparency or remuneration. ARR is one of the few mechanisms that guarantees artists a continuing source of income and recognition.

The scale of this challenge is significant: the total market for generative AI visual arts is estimated to reach €14 billion by 2028¹, highlighting the importance of mechanisms like ARR to protect artists' rights and earnings.



¹ PMP Strategy research

It promotes transparency in the market

Auction houses, galleries, dealers and sometimes sellers are required to report sales and pay royalties, allowing artists to track their works, understand their market value, and stay connected to their creative legacy. This helps ensure a fair, open, and reliable market for both creators and buyers, while reinforcing the essential traceability of works – a decisive factor for their circulation in the global art market.

It has no negative impact on the art market

Because the royalty is modest, ARR does not harm the art market. This is supported by authoritative studies and experience from countries that have implemented it, such as the UK. After implementing ARR in 2006, the UK art market is still one of the most successful in the world.

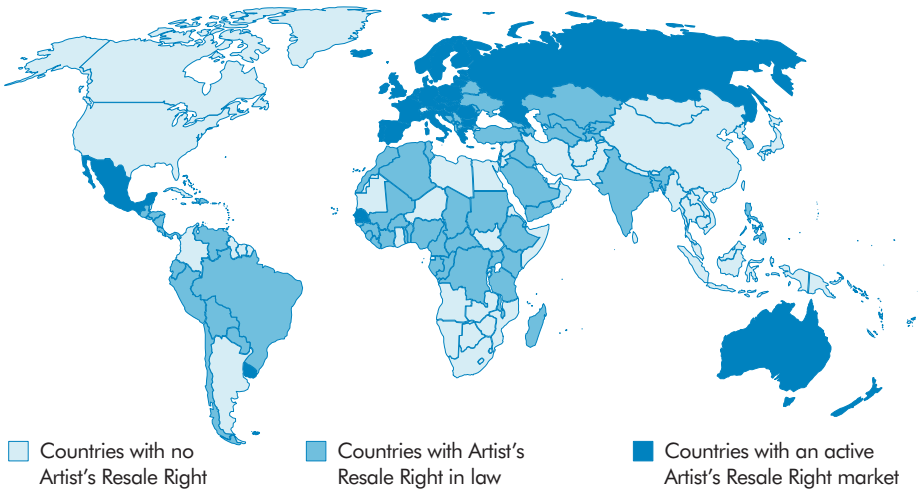
In 2024, ARR accounted for just 1.75% of the value of post-war and contemporary art auction sales in the UK and 1.48% in France. These figures show that the right represents a modest share of the market while still providing meaningful support to artists.

Global recognition

ARR was recognized internationally in 1948 in the Berne Convention (Article 14ter) and made mandatory across all EU Member States through the 2001 Directive.

Today, more than 100 countries have adopted Resale Right legislation, and many others are discussing its introduction. Yet, only a limited number have established effective systems to implement it.

Artists' Resale Right around the world: Legal recognition vs. Active Enforcement



The Gaps: Reciprocity and Limited implementation

ARR only applies if it exists in both the artist's home country and the country where the work is sold, as required by the reciprocity clause of the Berne Convention.

As a result, sales in major art markets with no ARR – such as the US, China, and Japan – do not generate any royalties for many artists worldwide.

Likewise, artists from these countries receive no resale royalties when their works are sold in countries where ARR exists, so they are losing out. In addition, in several countries – particularly outside the EU – effective implementation is still lacking, leaving artists without the benefits to which they are entitled. This is why global recognition and proper enforcement are essential.

Visit our campaign page for policy resources:

www.cisac.org/services/policy/visual-artists-resale-right



Kazuhiko Fukuoji

CISAC Vice President
Japanese Painter

“Expanding the Resale Right globally is a matter of justice. Artists everywhere should be able to share in the success of their creations, no matter where they are sold.”

Credit: © Midoriko Fukuoji



Kader Attia

President of CIAGP

“For visual artists, the Resale Right is vital. It allows us to remain connected to our works and to benefit from their value as our reputation grows.”

Credit: © Nicole Tanzini di Bella



Marie-Anne Ferry-Fall

Director General of ADAGP,
Rapporteur of CIAGP

“The Resale Right is not just about money, it is about fairness, transparency, and recognition for artists throughout their careers”.

Credit: © Caroline Bleux



Hervé Di Rosa

President of ADAGP
French Painter

“Art is universal. Artists inspire people across all five continents, and the rights that protect them, including the resale right, must be recognised in every country around the world.”

Credit: © Victoire Di Rosa



Jenny Hand

Estate of Sir Alfred Munnings and Museum Director, Munnings Art Museum

“The Artist’s Resale Right is crucial to the existence and maintenance of running a high-quality museum, making art available for all. Munnings’ legacy, which he left us to manage and promote, requires a lot of resources. ARR royalties over the last decade has enabled us to put in place professional leadership and management, creating rich and memorable experiences for our visitors.”

OUR POSITION

The Artists' Resale Right is a fundamental right bringing fairness, income, and transparency to visual artists worldwide.

We call for:



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Universal adoption, especially in major markets still missing (e.g. US, China, Japan)



Proper implementation, including effective enforcement and support mechanisms where the right already exists. (e.g. Algeria, Brazil, India, Ivory Coast)



An international treaty to recognise and harmonize the Artists' Resale Right globally, ensuring consistent protection for artists across borders.



In collaboration with



Visit the website for more:
www.resale-right.org/