

N°06 / JULY 2017



NATURAL LE COULTRE NETWORK NEWS

IN THIS ISSUE

IN FOCUS

WAREHOUSING AT NATURAL
LE COULTRE - WHEN ONLY THE
HIGHEST STANDARDS WILL DO

GENEVA

SAFE SUMMER STORAGE FOR YOUR
VALUABLES

SINGAPORE

MATHIEU FOSCHIA APPOINTED
HEAD OF FINE ART LOGISTICS
NATURAL LE COULTRE, SINGAPORE

LUXEMBOURG

FINE ART LOGISTICS NATURAL
LE COULTRE AWARDED 'MADE IN
LUXEMBOURG' LABEL

EDITORIAL

WAREHOUSING REQUIRES WIDE-RANGING EXPERTISE AND ORGANISATIONAL FINESSE

For our summer edition, we want to showcase our warehousing operations – a business requiring in-depth knowledge in several fields, from customs procedures and security to packing and archiving. Warehouse operators must also have considerable experience in goods handling and organisation, complemented by the common sense primarily acquired 'on the job'. All of these elements contribute towards the care we take of the valuables entrusted to us.

To bring this topic to life, we met with Ramon Casais, Director of Fine Art Transports, who has a wide range of

responsibilities, including warehousing at the Geneva freeport – a job he has held for over 30 years.

To continue the theme of warehousing within the Natural Le Coultre network, we will also introduce Mathieu Foschia, the new General Manager of Fine Art Logistics in Singapore. In addition, we highlight the 'Made in Luxembourg' label recently bestowed on Natural Le Coultre, a source of pride for this growing operation.

Warmest regards for the summer season.

F. Momente, *Managing Director*
Fine Art Transports Natural Le Coultre,
Geneva



**NATURAL
LE COULTRE**



WAREHOUSING AT NATURAL LE COULTRE – WHEN ONLY THE HIGHEST STANDARDS WILL DO

Interview with Ramon Casais, Director of Fine Art Transports Natural Le Coultre and warehousing expert.

RAMON CASAIS

Director of Fine Art Transports, (part of the Natural Le Coultre network) and expert in warehousing logistics.



How does Natural Le Coultre handle warehousing at its Geneva freeports?

Ramon Casais: Warehousing is closely linked to clients' needs. So the idea is that we offer a wide array of solutions. That could be a single crate stored in a shared vault, a comprehensive solution for a private vault, or tailor-made solutions resembling art-gallery exhibitions. If a work of art is particularly valuable, the client may request storage in a special case for additional safety. This kind of service is frequently offered.

We also act as advisors. Depending on the number of items requiring storage and the client's upcoming plans for his or her collection, it may be worth renting private space. Our premises offer vaults of different sizes, enabling us to meet a variety of needs flexibly. The range of solutions is endless and always designed with the needs and preferences of clients in mind.

A small private space measuring 5 to 6 m² costs CHF 400 monthly and will accommodate 30 to 40 standard-sized paintings if arranged in an orderly fashion. Much larger vaults are also available to store sizeable modern art sculptures, for example.

What are the ideal conditions for storing a work of art?

Ramon Casais: The best storage conditions involve the use of isothermal crates kept in air-conditioned vaults. These precautions protect items from thermal shocks, which can occur if fine artwork is stored at ambient temperature. Storage also helps protect accidents. While mishandling is rare, it can still happen.

All our vaults are set to a temperature of 18-21°C year round, and relative humidity (i.e. the amount of water vapour present in the air expressed as a percentage of the amount needed for saturation at the same temperature) is set to around 55%. All of Natural Le Coultre's strong-rooms are fully secured and all traffic is monitored using a network of video cameras. Innovative technology is regularly trialled and, if successful, installed. Even the artwork owners cannot enter unaccompanied; a member of our staff must always be present – even in private vaults.

Lastly, we work hard to keep our vaults clean at all times, and to maintain and regularly replace air-conditioning installations. Only the best materials are used, for example treated wood and pH-neutral wrapping paper. Most importantly, our trusted staff are unfailingly careful when handling valuables and receive regular training in the latest technology.

What does safeguarding mean for Natural Le Coultre?

Ramon Casais: The human factor is paramount to fine art storage, even though the new materials and technology we discussed earlier also play a part. Handling is everything. Care must be taken when a work of art is delivered and handled initially. The right decision then needs to be made in regard to packing material. All the necessary measures must be taken in keeping with the estimated storage duration.

Fine art is part of our common heritage, which is another reason to treat it with the utmost care. In doing so, expertise and experience are just as important as using the latest technology and coordinating human interaction with the work of art.



How are you organised? How are items arranged for storage?

Ramon Casais: Approximately ten people work here at the Geneva freeport in connection with Natural Le Coultre's operations.

When an item is deposited and has been carefully unpacked on our premises, the first stage is conducting a visual report. The item is subjected to detailed analysis from every possible angle. Customs rules require us to record 30 framework features including owner, sender, artist, year of production, dimensions, net weight (excluding crate), gross weight, reception date and so forth. We then have our own 'in house' characteristics which we note when a work of art is stored for longer term, not merely passing through.

Next, once the initial inspection has taken place, we repackage the work of art, place it in a crate, affix a bar code and place the object either in a private or a shared vault, depending on the client's wishes. Our advanced computer program conducts detailed inventories and maps warehousing space in real time. We must be able to locate all items at all times. Too many comings and goings increase risks, which is why we require owners to notify us at least 24 hours in advance if they want to view their artwork.

What has changed in the warehousing business over the past 20 years?

Ramon Casais: Many things have changed, and there have also been steady improvements.

Insulation and packing materials have become much better. The manufacturers we partner with have invested heavily in R&D and we select only their best products. For example, we use only pH-neutral, acid-free paper and treated packing wood. Our crates are also fitted with increasingly sophisticated materials that prevent thermal shocks. In addition, air-conditioned lorries have become the benchmark, at least for the works of art arriving at and leaving our warehouses.

We've also expanded and enhanced security considerably. Aside from the cameras everywhere, keypads and biometric sensors control access to all our buildings for anyone wanting to enter or leave. All rooms are equipped with cameras – even packing and unpacking zones. We keep abreast of the latest alarm and firewall systems technology and make upgrades where necessary. We also take great care to keep the temperature constant and relative humidity around 55%.

Moreover, because artists are producing ever larger works of art, the art collectors who own them are asking for increasingly large private viewing rooms. We have also kept up to date with developments in showrooms, first seen in freeports around 25 years ago. This especially involves lighting but also curating and the associated administrative services.

Lastly, the overall size of our premises has increased from 1,000 m² to 16,000 m². That kind of growth requires smart management, but I think we've more than made the grade.

SAFE SUMMER STORAGE FOR YOUR VALUABLES

Franco Momente, *Managing Director*
Fine Art Transport Natural Le Coultre,
Geneva

Although the latest statistics released by Geneva police indicate a drop in burglaries during 2016, the summer period (much like the year-end festive season) is still a favourite time for breaks-in and thefts. In comparison with other cantons, Geneva continues to rank highly in the hall of shame, owing to its convenient motorway connections and border location – which makes it harder for police to track criminals.

Homeowners must protect themselves, but how exactly? When you are on holiday or travelling for any other extended engagement, giving the impression of

being at home is a tough task, especially since well-organised criminal gangs are good at spotting unoccupied residences. An alarm is a good solution as this will deter burglars and alert private security firms, or sometimes even the local police force, in the event of a break-in.

However, if you own a valuable work of art or simply do not want to chance a burglary while on holiday, you may want to consider safe storage in one of our warehouses. Simply call us on +41 22 731 87 17 or send an email to info@nlc.ch for a custom-tailored offer.



MATHIEU FOSCHIA APPOINTED HEAD OF FINE ART LOGISTICS NATURAL LE COULTRE, SINGAPORE

Franco Momente, *Managing Director
Fine Art Transport Natural Le Coultre,
Geneva*



After joining Natural Le Coultre in April 2009, Mathieu Foschia has climbed the corporate ladder all the way to the position of General Manager of Fine Art Logistics Natural Le Coultre in Singapore.

By starting out as a packer/driver working for external services, he developed a solid understanding of the business, including our clients and logistics operations, from the time a work of art enters Natural Le Coultre's custody to when it is passed on.

He then spent six months in San Francisco to brush up on his English before moving on to South Korea. On both occasions he pursued internships

to deepen his knowledge of the art world.

Upon his return to Expositions Natural Le Coultre in Geneva in January 2012, he continued expanding his expertise to meet the exacting standards required by the museum market.

Since May 2014, he has been based in Singapore as head of the transportation and exhibition division. He took over as head of Fine Art Logistics Natural Le Coultre, Singapore, on 1 June 2017.

We wish him every success in his new role.

FINE ART LOGISTICS NATURAL LE COULTRE AWARDED 'MADE IN LUXEMBOURG' LABEL

C. Herrmann, *Director*
Fine Art Logistics Natural Le Coultre,
Luxembourg



Fine Art Logistics Natural Le Coultre (FALNLC) was recently awarded the 'Made in Luxembourg' label, which is granted to top companies in Luxembourg meeting a precise set of operating standards while boasting a strong local connection.

Our Luxembourg subsidiary, established in 2014, was required to meet a broad range of criteria established by the Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce as regards its operations, from packing, handling and warehousing security to transportation, showroom presentation and several related services.

FALNLC is proud to be the first operator at Le Freeport to be awarded this label as it continues spearheading the development of fine art logistics in the greater Luxembourg area. The company has also gained from the expertise and open-mindedness of its local business partners – forwarding agents, customs agents and air freight companies – thanks to whom we're able to offer our clients both near and far a premium level of service.

The 'Made in Luxembourg' label is initially awarded for five years then renewed following a further audit.

SUBSCRIBE

Sign up for our newsletter and stay in tune with our network news:

falnc.com/news/subscribe/

SUBSCRIBE NOW

ART FAIRS

MASTERPIECE ART FAIR

2017, 29 Jun-5 Jul

MARKET ART + DESIGN | HAMPTONS

2017, 6-9 Jul

ART SANTA FE 2017

2017, 13-16 Jul

ART ASPEN 2017

2017, 3-6 Aug

SEATTLE ART FAIR 2017

2017, 3-6 Aug

ART NOCTURNE KNOCKE

2017, 10-15 Aug

ART-O-RAMA 2017

2017, 25-27 Aug

CODE ART FAIR

2017, 31 Aug-02 Sep

SYDNEY CONTEMPORARY

2017, 7-10 Sep

COSMOSCOW 2017

2017, 8-10 Sep

ARTRIO 2017

2017, 13-17 Sep

EXPO CHICAGO 2017

2017, 13-17 Sep

ABC ART BERLIN CONTEMPORARY

2017, 14-17 Sep

START ART FAIR 2017

2017, 14-17 Sep

KIAF: KOREAN INTERNATIONAL ART FAIR

2017, 21-24 Sep

VIENNA CONTEMPORARY 2017

2017, 21-24 Sep

SWAB CONTEMPORARY ART FAIR

2017, 28 Sep-01 Oct

FRIEZE ART FAIR | LONDON

2017, 05-08 Oct



FINE ART TRANSPORTS

NATURAL LE COULTRE

CONTACT DETAILS

Fine Art Transports Natural Le Coultre S.A.

Avenue de Sécheron 6
Case postale 2494
1211 Genève 2
Phone: + 41 22 731 87 17
Fax: + 41 22 731 87 60
Email: info@nlc.ch



EXPOSITIONS

NATURAL LE COULTRE

Expositions Natural Le Coultre S.A.

Avenue de Sécheron 6
Case postale 2494
1211 Genève 2
Phone: + 41 22 906 15 51
Fax: + 41 22 906 15 85
Email: infoexpo@nlc.ch



FINE ART LOGISTICS

NATURAL LE COULTRE

**Fine Art Logistics
Natural Le Coultre Pte Ltd**
LE FREEPORT | Singapore
32 Changi North Crescent
Singapore 499643
Phone: +65 6603 1320
Fax: +65 6603 1321
E-mail: info@falnlc.sg

**Fine Art Logistics
Natural Le Coultre S.A.**
Parishaff
L-2315 Senningerberg
Phone: + 352 277 20 277
Fax: + 352 277 20 278
E-mail: info@falnlc.lu





LE SERVICE PERSONNALISÉ DANS LA GESTION D'EXPOSITIONS

Leader mondial suisse pour le stockage, la prise en charge et l'expédition des œuvres d'art, nous vous apportons un niveau de services inégalé pour toutes vos collections.

Expositions Natural Le Coultre à Genève est le partenaire reconnu des musées, des galeries et des collectionneurs pour la présentation, l'emballage, le transport et l'entreposage de toutes vos pièces de valeur.

www.nlc.ch



EXPOSITIONS
NATURAL LE COULTRE

le sur-mesure pour préserver l'art