

Non-Fungible Castle: A 21st-Century Path to Cultural Philanthropy

A week-long, free exhibition and international conference, called Non-Fungible Castle, was hosted at the Lobkowitz Palace in Prague Castle, Czech Republic.

The exhibition closed on Friday, October 15, 2021 and was followed by a one-of-a-kind forum on Saturday, October 16, 2021, bringing together the traditional art world with the NFT sector to explore how they can engage one another to shape the future of art. The conference also provided a new use case for museums and cultural institutions to increase their accessibility, deepen relationships with a broader group of patrons and creators, and establish a creative platform to raise restoration funds. The event closed with an auction of NFTs created by the Lobkowitz Collections.

Many cultural institutions have been struggling to support themselves due to crippling Covid-19 losses. The sale of NFTs can offer an essential source of funding that previously did not exist.

“NFTs can be a new frontier, not only to enhance our experience with art, but also to fundamentally change forms of art patronage,” says event organizer William Rudolf Lobkowitz.

The NFTs created by the Lobkowitz Collections were successfully auctioned on a digital art marketplace. Examples include *Antaeus’s Contest*, depicting the degrading *sgraffito* rendering from the 16th century façade of Nelahozeves Castle; *Forgotten Menuet*, an animated piece of music unheard for over 250 years; and *Unseen Gaze*, which uses X-ray and infrared imaging to reveal a hidden layer of history behind a painting. All sale proceeds will support the conservation and restoration initiatives of the non-profit Lobkowitz Collections organization.

The NFT auction and direct donations to the Lobkowitz Collections reflects the enthusiasm and positive response from the event attendees.

“Thanks to the generosity of our new patrons, it will be possible to restore dozens of works of art,” says Dita Baker, Director of Administration and Educational Programming at House of Lobkowitz.



In addition to discovering new possibilities for cultural philanthropy, the conference also brought new insights and opportunities for uniting the traditional art world with blockchain and new art forms. “The digital art world is also a huge opportunity for artists to display their work and receive proper recognition,” adds Lobkowitz.

As NFTs continue to grow, so do their inherent ethical, environmental, and legal implications—topics that were also thoughtfully discussed at the conference. Whether NFTs are a temporary trend or a new art form remains to be seen. However, the overwhelming interest of visitors to the Non-Fungible Castle exhibition and the newfound patrons of NFTs created by the Lobkowitz Collections, demonstrates an engaging dialogue in defining the new art world of the future.

“We are deeply humbled by the level of engagement and generosity from the growing community that has emerged from this event,” says Lobkowitz. “It shows that people truly care about preserving cultural heritage.”

Contact:

Jan Pavelka

Director of Communications

+420 734 331 254 | jan.pavelka@lobkowitz.cz

www.lobkowitz.cz

Lobkowitz Palace

Prague Castle

Jiřská 3

119 00 Prague 1

