



FORTIUS

Fine Art Storage
& Logistics

STORE & PROTECT YOUR ARTWORKS

International comparison of the best
storage areas and tax advantages.

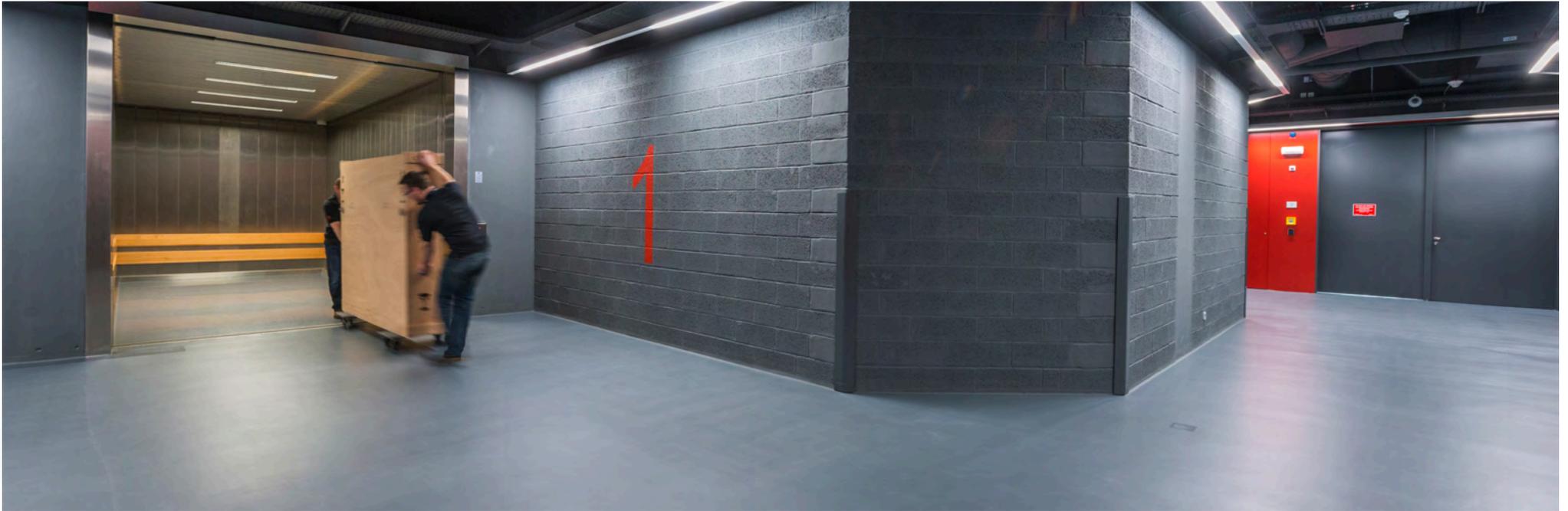


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WHY THINK ABOUT A “STORAGE STRATEGY” BEFORE EVEN PURCHASING A WORK OF ART?

Despite a 12% decline to \$57.5 billion in 2024, the art market remains a highly liquid and sophisticated global ecosystem, supported by nearly **40 million transactions per year**. At the same time, the ultra-wealthy population (net worth > \$10 million) grew by a further **4.4% in 2024**, increasing competition for high-end infrastructure capable of:



Optimal preservation

Ensure museum-quality storage (temperature 20-22°C, RH 50-60%, security, insurance capacity)



Tax optimization

Offering international tax engineering (deferred VAT, duty exemptions)



Discretion guaranteed

Ensuring discretion through an increasingly sophisticated KYC/AML framework



Gateway to the art world

Connect – in less than 24 hours – with the major trading hubs (New York, London, Hong Kong).

It is this equation of **security + taxation + liquidity** that a high-performing freeport resolves. The following chapter compares six key jurisdictions, then zooms in on the Luxembourg vs. Switzerland duel—the two unmissable European options in 2025.

6 KEY JURISDICTIONS

TLDR: Luxembourg, Switzerland, and Singapore dominate thanks to a suspended VAT regime on imports, while Dubai attracts collectors with its lack of income tax. The United States (Delaware) plays the “0% sales tax” card for North American collectors.

Country / Area	Tax benefits (import / VAT / tax)	Free zone & services	Privacy	Logistical accessibility
Luxembourg	Innovative VAT suspension regime on goods and services, even for the management of goods originating in the EU; tax advantages (e.g., capital gains taxation) for Luxembourg individuals/ companies.	The Luxembourg High Security Hub: climate control, 24/7 customs, private showrooms.	Very high (enhanced AML framework)	Direct access to the cargo terminal at Luxembourg Airport without road transport; global Cargolux network; excellent road connections to major cities in Europe.
Switzerland (Geneva)	0% customs duties and VAT as long as the work remains in customs; flexible cantonal taxation.	Geneva Freeport: over 100,000 m ² , restoration workshops, viewing rooms.	Extremely high	Direct flights between the Americas and Asia; mandatory road transport between the airport and the Freeport (La Praille site).
Singapore	No VAT on imports; no capital gains tax.	Singapore Freeport: museum-grade facilities, auction room.	High	Asia-Pacific hub (Changi); mandatory road transport between the airport and the Freeport.
UAE – Dubai	0% corporate tax (QFZP), no customs duties, recoverable VAT (5%).	Multiple free zones near ports and airports	Very high	Crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa; mandatory road transport between the airport and warehouses.
United States (Delaware)	0% sales/use tax (as long as the work remains in Delaware); no federal import duties.	Delaware Freeport: “Fort Knox” security	Good, but IRS obligations	Good road connections to major cities on the east coast of the USA; no major airport in the immediate vicinity.
France (Outside the free zone)	The same customs duty regime applies throughout Europe, including Luxembourg.	No freeport but bonded warehouses available.	Average	Dense EU road network, presence of major airports with good international connections (e.g. CDG).

CONTEST OF THE EUROPEAN FREEPORTS

Criterion	Luxembourg – Freeport / High Security Hub	Switzerland – Geneva Freeport
Tax system	VAT suspended on entry and on all internal services (handling, restoration, private sales).	0% VAT as long as the work remains “in transit”; final import: 7.7%
Size & capacity	11,000 m ² of modular space (extensions planned)	≈ 100,000 m ² , more than 1.2 million works stored
Access & logistics	Direct access to the tarmac at Findel Airport, dedicated cargo routes between Europe, the US, and Asia	Two sites: Geneva Airport / La Praille; SwissWorldCargo long-haul hub
Discretion & compliance	EU AML 6th Directive framework, enhanced KYC but “clean” image	Swiss tradition of secrecy, but tarnished reputation (antiques scandals, oligarchs) and new identification requirements since 2016
Service ecosystem	Fortius: unlimited insurance, private showrooms, collateral financing; robust ecosystem of tax, wealth management, and legal advice thanks to the financial center	Restoration workshops, on-site auctions
Reputational risk	Low — modern hub, ISO audits in progress	Higher — increased monitoring by media & NGOs
Key competitive advantage	Suspension of VAT on goods and services + EU anchoring (facilitates re-circulation within the Union)	XXL capacity & mature network of service providers

◆ Luxembourg is ideal for collectors who want to optimize VAT within the EU, benefit from a brand-new AAA hub, and limit their media exposure—all while enjoying high-end boutique services.

◆ Switzerland remains the historic “global” platform: huge volumes, proven expertise, and proverbial confidentiality. However, higher costs and leaving Swiss territory (customs + VAT) can be a burden when reselling within the EU.

💡 **Fortius tip:** combining pre-shipment to Luxembourg for purchase (VAT suspension) with direct museum loan from the hub allows you to present the work to the public while optimizing the tax treatment of the purchase.

FOCUS ON LUXEMBOURG & FORTIUS

Why Luxembourg?



VAT regime: “Suspension + deferral”
 No VAT paid upon entry and during the artwork’s stay, possibility of exemption in the event of export or resale, cash flow advantage even in the event of VAT adjustment upon exit (EU goods).



AAA political and financial stability
 Clear regulations, French, English, and German languages.



Infrastructure
 The Freeport is located next to the airport; it has an X-ray scanner, museum display rooms, jewelry/watch safes, and a condition report laboratory.

Fortius – your integrated partner

Service	Fortius added value
Door-to-door transport / custom packaging	Secure fleet and Fine Art cargo insurance.
Private offices & showrooms	Reception of clients, curators, due diligence
Customs & VAT management	Over 10 years of experience in VAT and customs duties on works of art
Comprehensive insurance	Nail-to-nail transportation and warehousing insurance solutions
Related services	Coordination of restorations, museum loans, etc.

Case study A Parisian family office transferred €12 million worth of contemporary art purchased outside Europe to Freeport: immediate savings of 5.5% in VAT (€660,000) and insurance costs halved thanks to the GRASP-certified building (developed by AXA)...



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the advantages of storing my artworks in a free zone?

Storing artworks in a free zone offers several advantages, including significant tax and customs exemptions. In addition to providing secure storage solutions and optimal conservation conditions, the free zone allows owners of artworks and art objects to benefit from a favorable tax environment, ideal for collectors and art galleries around the world.

What are the tax advantages of VAT suspension for the storage of works of art?

The suspension of VAT for the storage of works of art in free zones such as Luxembourg offers substantial tax advantages. This measure allows art owners to defer or even avoid paying VAT on their stored works. This represents a significant economic opportunity for collectors and art galleries, allowing them to optimize their investments in art while benefiting from first-rate care and conservation conditions.

Can I transfer the work without triggering a capital gains tax?

Yes, if the economic mutability remains unchanged (no sale). Capital gains are generally realized upon disposal; however, certain jurisdictions (Luxembourg, Singapore) exempt non-speculative private gains. Request a ruling before any transaction.

How long can I leave the artwork in customs?

Indefinitely in most Freeports, as long as storage fees and customs documentation are up to date.

Good advice is worth its weight in gold.



When it comes to tax matters, every case is different and deserves in-depth analysis to find the best course of action. Whether you are an art dealer or collector, buyer or seller, art lover or savvy investor, let our experts guide you so that together we can find the optimal solution for your particular situation.



06 - CONCLUSION

A TRUSTED PARTNER FOR ART PROFESSIONALS

Choosing the right storage location means protecting your assets and preserving your tax flexibility. Fortius combines Luxembourg's stability, VAT suspension, and turnkey logistics services.

By choosing Fortius, you benefit from a solid heritage in art logistics, the result of more than 150 years of expertise. Fortius takes a modern and independent approach, offering total flexibility in its services and collaborations.

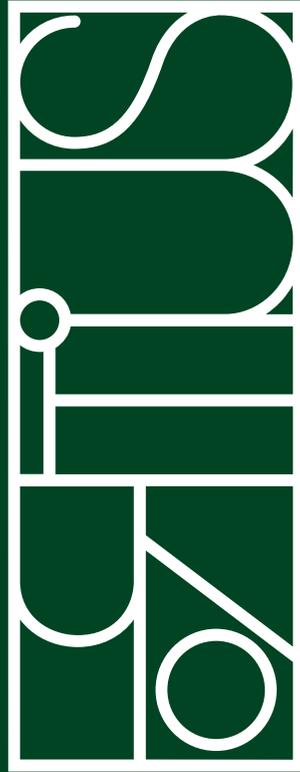
Thanks to this autonomy, the company offers fully customized solutions tailored to the specific needs of each client, without any constraints associated with an exclusive group or network. Fortius: a future focused on excellence and flexibility.



Ready to secure your artwork?

Contact our Fortius experts





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