

# International Authors Forum

## Position Statement – Artists Resale Right

### Introduction

The Artist's Resale Right (ARR) entitles creators (authors) of original works of art to a royalty each time their work is resold through an auction house or an art market professional. An ARR can be a significant source of revenue supporting visual artists' practices and estates' legacies. ARR recognises the on-going stake an artist has in the increasing value of their work and it helps to establish parity for artists where other creators of copyright works obtain royalties from successive exploitation of their works.

### Background

The Artist's Resale Right (ARR) applies to work still in copyright, which in the UK and Europe is 70 years after the artist's death.

ARR is currently recognised in over 80 countries worldwide and has been adopted into the Berne Convention for Protection of Literary and Artistic Works.

### Issues

Artists benefit when their work resells in markets where ARR is collected but they miss out in other markets where ARR currently doesn't exist, including the US, China, Switzerland and Japan. There is a growing trend towards selling artworks online and this has contributed to art sales being increasingly international. An international resale right would resolve disparities between ARR and non-ARR countries and ensure artists receive remuneration from sales of their work, especially when their work sells abroad.

### Position

The International Authors Forum supports the introduction of an international treaty on the Artist's Resale Right, which would level the playing field across the globalised art market and benefit all artists no matter where their work is sold. It is important that we have a copyright framework which acknowledges the nature of markets for creative works in a way that ensures creators are fairly remunerated for their work.