

Eike Schmidt has a long career as a curator and then museum director, which began in 2001: first at the National Gallery of Arts in Washington, then at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, and finally at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, in Minnesota .

Famous for his connoisseur's eye, in 2008 and 2009 he was called to direct the Sculpture Department of the Sotheby's auction house in London, as responsible for all of Europe. An international sculpture expert, for six years (until 2015) he was part of the jury at the TEFAF art and antiques fair in Maastricht, the most important and qualified in the world.

She has constantly carried out scientific activity: at the moment Eike Schmidt has around 200 publications to her credit, including books and articles, in addition to the curation of various exhibitions: among these we remember *Diafane Passioni: avori barocchi alla corte dei Medici*, held in 2013 in Palazzo Pitti, which in addition to boasting a record number of visitors also marked a turning point for this absolutely pioneering type of study.

Since November 2015, Eike Schmidt has become director of the Uffizi Galleries, a museum entity that brings together, in addition to the Uffizi, 11 other museums scattered between the Vasari complex, Palazzo Pitti and the Boboli Gardens. In this capacity, in 2019 he was responsible for the return of Jan van Huysum's Vase of Flowers, a precious painting stolen from Palazzo Pitti during the retreat of German troops in the Second World War. Among the awards he has received, we remember the Excellence Award from the Foundation for Italian Art and Culture in New York, received in 2017, and the appointment as honorary professor of Art History at the Humboldt Universität in Berlin. In 2018, Blouin Artinfo, an international magazine specialized in the art sector, included Eike Schmidt in the list of the ten best museum directors in the world, for the excellent results achieved in the management of the Uffizi. Among his latest initiatives, one of the most significant is the widespread Uffizi project, which aims to re-evaluate the Tuscan territory by spreading and organizing cultural proposals, exhibitions and loans from the prestigious Florentine museum in various centers of the region.