

ARTNEWS

Natural History Museum Layoffs, Smithsonian Construction Workers Contract Coronavirus, and More: Morning Links from May 7, 2020

BY [THE EDITORS OF ARTNEWS](#)

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The Natural History Museum in New York is temporarily closed amid the coronavirus pandemic. WILLIAM VOLCOV/SHUTTERSTOCK

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News

<https://www.artnews.com/art-news/news/natural-history-museum-layoff-coronavirus-impact-art-world-morning-links-1202686258/>

The **Natural History Museum** in New York will cut its staff by about 200 people and place another 250 on indefinite furlough. [[The New York Times](#)]

Three construction workers involved in the renovation of the Smithsonian's **Air and Space Museum** have contracted coronavirus. [[HuffPost](#)]

Frieze New York's virtual edition opened to invited guests yesterday, where dealers saw brisk sales. [[ARTnews](#)]

Despite much of the art world moving online, James Tarmy argues that "contemporary art needs big gatherings and gossip to survive." [[Bloomberg](#)]

Coronavirus's Impact on the Art World

Scott Reyburn writes, "Britain's young artists had a hard time before the pandemic. What will happen to them now?" [[The Art Newspaper](#)]

A look at how coronavirus-related shutdowns are financially affecting museums throughout Illinois. [[Chicago Sun-Times](#)]

And in Australia, museums and galleries are also struggling, with no clear path forward. [[The Guardian](#)]

With museums being forced to close amid the pandemic, many curators lost years of work to mount their blockbuster exhibitions, including a major one of Jan van Eyck. [[The New York Times](#)]

Artists

Speaking of Jan van Eyck, here's a round-up of some of his most famous artworks that show how his use of oil paint changed art history. [[ARTnews](#)]

Ai Weiwei talked with Andrew Goldstein about living under lockdown in England, where he moved earlier this year. [[Artnet News](#)]

The famed net artist **Olia Lialina** was to have a solo show in London but was forced to move it online when the gallery closed. It didn't bother her much: "The internet is my primary location. It is where I meet my audience." [[The New York Times](#)]

Misc.

UCLA's Chicano Studies Research Center will preserve 14,000 photographs and slides, 125 audio recordings, and nearly 250 linear feet of documents related to the Mexican American activist group Católicos for La Raza. [[Hyperallergic](#)]