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To whom it may concern

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Art History at the Unifesp

Dear Colleagues

It has come to my attention that the ANPUH – Associação Nacional de História proposes to include Art History programs under the direction of History. As a close partner of the Art History Department of the Unifesp, with which the University of Zurich has signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2012 and has an exchange of professors and students, I would like to express my deepest concerns about the ANPUH's proposal. Art History is an autonomous academic discipline in Europe since 150 years and has its own highly developed, global scientific culture and professional market. Including Art History in a History program would contradict a long established university discipline and endanger Brazilian Art History departments altogether. I am particularly well acquainted with the Unifesp's Art History department, which has become one of the most important in Latin America, including an autonomous curriculum with a truly global and encompassing horizon, which is impressive for European universities too. Changing this department's program from Art History to History would cause severe difficulties for its international visibility and exchange. Indeed, our current, very successful program New Art Histories, funded by the prestigious Getty Foundation in Los Angeles, would need to be terminated under such circumstances. I therefore plead very clearly against the initiative of the ANPUH, which acts against today's academic standards, endangers the future of international collaboration, and will not produce any positive outcome.

Sincerely

University of Zurich
Institute of Art History

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Weddigen'.

Prof. Dr. Tristan Weddigen
Chair for the History of Early Modern Art