



## Preparation

A Give each player his/her **bidding board** and **10 pieces of gold**. The players will put the bidding boards on the table in front of them, along with the gold pieces.

B Put the remaining gold pieces in the **bank**. The empty game box can be used as the bank.

C Appoint the **banker** who will be in charge of the bank and issue gold pieces from it. For example, the oldest player will make a good banker. You can also decide by throwing the die.

D Shuffle the art card deck and deal out **3 cards** to each player. The players will put them face up on the table in front of them. Put the art card deck face down in the middle of the table between the players.

## Start game

The player sitting to the left of the banker will start the game. That player is the **first bidder** in the first round.

### Own collection selling

If the first bidder needs more gold, (s)he can sell one or two art cards from his/her own collection instead of the cards taken from the deck (1). The first bidder will get between 1 and 6 pieces of gold from the bank for each of his/her own auctioned art card, depending on the throw of the die. The first bidder can use these new pieces of gold during the current round. During each round only the current first bidder can sell his/her art cards.

### Art submission to the auction

The first bidder will take three top cards from the art card deck and line them face up in the middle of the table (2). These are the works of art on sale at the auction during this game round.



### Rule of three works of art

If a work of art remains unsold, it will be left on the table for the next round. No more and no less than three works of art can be on sale when the bidding starts during each round.

### Bidding

#### First bidding

The first bidder will be the first player to throw the die and make the bid depending on the number on the die (3).

If the die number is 6, the first bidder can use no more than 6 pieces of gold during this round, if the die number is 5 – no more than 5 pieces of gold, etc. The player can always use fewer pieces of gold, but never more of them than the number on the die. The player must use at least one piece of gold to bid. If the player has no more gold, (s)he cannot bid and misses the throw of the die.

#### Bidding board registration

The bidder will make the bid by putting the allowed number of the pieces of gold on the bidding board on the picture frames denoting the works of art that are being sold (4). The gold can be divided between the different works of art or offered for just one of them. The bidding board must be on the table in front of the bidder and in parallel with the line of the auctioned art cards so all players can understand which picture frame denotes which work of art.

### SCHEME 1: The auction has begun

The first bidder has placed the first three works of art in the middle of the table and made his/her bid in accordance with the number on the die (5 pieces of gold). As you can see, the first bidder craves the middle work of art above all. Now it is the turn of the second player to throw the die and make the bid!

It's Saturday night, and you are a multimillionaire. You are going to the most important art auction of the year. You have ten million on you. You know that there will be plenty of other rich art collectors. You also know that ten million is not enough to obtain every art object you desire. Luckily, you have some rare objects you can sell tonight because there can be only one winner – the one with the most valuable collection.

## Game kit

- 45 art cards  
(9 artists, 5 works each)
- gameboard
- 4 bidding boards
- 1 classic die
- 50 pieces of gold
- Game manual

## Purpose of the game

The players are collectors participating in a big art auction. Each collector wants to have a collection that is as large and fine as possible.

An art collection becomes especially valuable if it contains several works by one artist. The auction will continue until all works of art are sold. The game will be won by the player who accumulates the most valuable collection.

## Other bids

When the first bidder makes his/her bid, the next player clockwise will throw the die and make the bid. Then the next player, etc., until all players have made their bids.

## Rule of outbidding

If the player chooses to place on the bidding board a bid for the work of art that has already received a bid from another player, the new bidder must outbid that previous bid (5). The player cannot bid the same or smaller number of the pieces of gold. If the player does not have enough pieces of gold for outbidding, (s)he cannot bid for this work of art.

## Winning the auction

### Comparison of bids

When all players make their bids, the bids on the bidding boards will be compared. Each of the sold works of art will be purchased by the player who made the highest bid for it (6).

### Payment

The highest bidder's pieces of gold will be paid into the bank and the art card will be added, face up, to the highest bidder's collection of works of art. The unsuccessful bidders will get their gold back (7).

## New round

When the works of art are sold, the first round of the auction will end. The first bidder in the new round will be the next player sitting clockwise from the first bidder in the completed round. Now the new first bidder will take three cards from the deck for the auction and decide whether (s)he wants to sell works of art from his/her own collection. Then the new first bidder will make the first bid.



## End of the game

The auction will continue, round after round, until the art card deck is depleted and all the works of art are sold. Then the value of each player's art collection will be determined and compared to find out who owns the most valuable collection – who wins the game!

### Value of works of art

Every single work of art, no matter at what price it was bought/sold, will give the owner one point at the end of the game. Several works by one artist will give plenty extra points!

### Points tally:

- 1 single work of art = 1 point
- 2 works by one artist = 4 points
- 3 works by one artist = 9 points
- 4 works by one artist = 16 points
- 5 works by one artist = 25 points

### SCHEME 2: The auction is in full swing

The second player throws the die and gets 3. The player bids two pieces of gold on the right-hand work of art and one piece of gold on the left-hand work of art. The throw of the die was obviously too poor for the player to bid on the middle work of art, too.

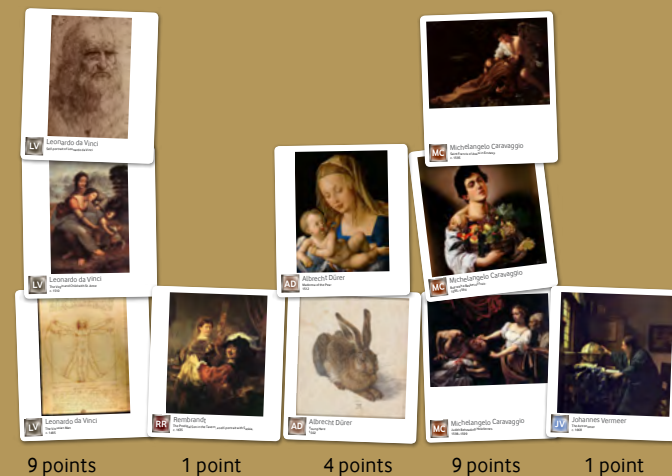
The third player throws the die and gets 2, making just the one possible bid.

The fourth player throws the die and gets 4. The player three pieces of gold on the left-hand work of art, outbidding the others, as buying it would give the player extra points. The player leaves the fourth of gold unused.

The round is over. The arrows show which players get which works of art. The corresponding bids (circled) are paid into the bank. The other bids are returned to the players.

### SCHEME 3: Points tally / example

At the end of the game the player sums up the points –  $9+1+4+9+1$  – to see that the total value of the art collection is 24 points. This is quite a good result!



## Useful hints

Watch which artists your opponents are collecting! Do not let go of the works of art that can give your opponents many points!

Even your small bids can force your opponents to outbid you and spend more pieces of gold on something they want. When the art card pack is almost all dealt out, pay attention to know the works of which artists are still unsold!

Keep an eye on the financial situation of your opponents! In some rounds you might be able to buy all three auctioned works of art for just a few pieces of gold!

If you cannot think of a better plan at the moment, simply buy the works of art that you like! Enjoyment is worth more than points or gold!



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