This issue of 19 explores the contribution of women as collectors from the mid-nineteenth century to the aftermath of the First World War, paying particular attention to the cosmopolitan transfer of artworks, ideas, and expertise between Britain, France, and the United States. The authors reflect on women’s role in acquiring, displaying, and donating works of art, often in ways that crossed national borders or that subvert gendered assumptions about taste. Beyond its value as a form of personal expression, the articles reflect on how far collecting provided women with a public platform in the late nineteenth century, enabling them to shape the contents of cultural institutions and promote new types of inquiry. But the articles also cast light on the archival and methodological reasons why women’s crucial contributions in this domain have so often been obscured.
Unmasking an Enigma: Who Was Lady Wallace and What Did She Achieve?
Suzanne Higgott

More than Mere Ornaments: Female Visitors to Sir Richard Wallace’s Art Collection
Helen C. Jones

New Collections for New Women: Collecting and Commissioning Portraits at the Early Women’s University Colleges
Imogen Tedbury

Ellen Tanner’s Persia: A Museum Legacy Rediscovered
Catrin Jones

The Artistic Patronage and Transatlantic Connections of Florence Blumenthal
Rebecca Tilles

A Woman of No Importance?: Elizabeth Workman’s Collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist Art in Context
Frances Fowle

Afterword

Afterword
Kate Hill

Reference: