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HOLOCAUST ART RESTITUTION SYMPOSIUM PRESENTED BY CHRISTIE’S AND UNION INTERNATIONALE DES AVOCATS (UIA)

June 23 - Palazzo Turati, Milan

Francesco Guardi (Venice 1712-1793), The Grand Canal, Venice, with the Palazzo Bembo, oil on canvas, 46.5 x 76.5 cm
Sold at Christie's London on 8 June 2005

Milan - Christie’s, the World’s Leading Art Business, and the Art Law Commission of the Union Internationale des Avocats (UIA) are pleased to announce the presentation of “Holocaust Art Looting and Restitution,” the first symposium of its kind ever to be presented in Italy. The symposium will take place at Palazzo Turati in Milan, Italy on June 23rd and will convene leaders of the restitution community as well as government officials, scholars, collectors and other interested parties in a comprehensive and enlightening discussion about Nazi-era looted art. The presentations will cover ethical and philosophical issues as well as more practical matters involving such works and their place in the art market. Renowned European and American scholars and legal experts will be present, including Lawrence M. Kaye of Herrick, Feinstein LLP; Agnes Peresztegi of the Commission for Art Recovery (Europe); Ilaria Pavan of Scuola Normale Superiore (Pisa); Howard N. Spiegler of Herrick, Feinstein and President of the Art Law Commission of the UIA; Andrea Pizzi of Studio Legale Pizzi (Bologna); Professor Tullio Scovazzi of the University of Milano-Bicocca (Milan); and Captain Andrea Ilari of Nucleo Carabinieri Tutela Patrimonio Culturale di Monza, amongst others.

Marc B. Porter, Chairman, Christie’s Americas, commented: “The Nazi era (1933-1945) saw the unprecedented and orchestrated spoliation of art in Europe. Its consequences continue to resonate strongly in today’s art world as seventy years on, unrestituted works of art continue to come to light, often when offered for sale. With the benefit of experience and insight developed over more than a decade, Christie’s takes very seriously its responsibility to ensure that it does not knowingly sell spoliated but unrestituted art works.”
Monica S. Dugot, Senior Vice President, International Director of Restitution, Christie’s, added: “Christie’s is also committed to raising visibility of this important topic and to the ongoing research and identification of looted objects, and in helping resolve restitution claims for works consigned for sale by working with all interested parties. In this, we are privileged to work both as part of the art world and as part of the restitution community.”

Charles A. Goldstein, Counsel, Commission for Art Recovery, declared: “Restitution of art that was looted during World War II has been Italian public policy since Italy agreed to the Washington Principles in 1998. Actual practice is another matter. This symposium will explore the subject and survey the commitment made to restitution by other members of the European Union. It promises to be an exceptional experience for those privileged to attend.”

Howard N. Spiegler, Co-Chair, International Art Law Group, Herrick, Feinstein; President of the Art Law Commission of the UIA, added: “By all accounts, huge numbers of artworks looted by the Nazis seven or eight decades ago have yet to be returned to their rightful owners -- the heirs of the victims of the Holocaust. Examining the issues relating to this global problem is of paramount importance as we attempt to right at least some of the wrongs of that terrible time.”

THE SPOILATION OF ART IN EUROPE

National Socialist and Fascist ideologies and practices combined with the plunder of war resulted in the theft and expropriation of cultural property in amounts never seen before in the history of the world, undermining, and even erasing, cultural identity in the process. Spoliated works of art were widely dispersed and in the wake of the Second World War, identifying such objects in the absence of documentation and resources was a difficult task. While many artworks were restituted, many more entered the art market, museums or private collections with their Nazi-era history often unknown or unacknowledged. After a half century of international silence over Nazi-era spoliation, the last decade has seen it become one of the most pressing issues for the US and European art markets, uniquely combining moral, legal and commercial concerns.

Art restitution has been highlighted in international forums, such as the 1998 Washington Conference on Holocaust Era Assets and the 2009 Prague Conference, and Principles have been adopted by countries all over the world to assist claimants in their recovery efforts. Many countries have demonstrated their commitment to these Principles through research efforts and the establishment of restitution panels to hear or advise on restitution claims.

Italy is one of the signatories to the Washington Principles and the 2009 Terezin Declaration. In addition, the Italian Government has been very active in efforts to recover its own spoliated cultural property and therefore has a unique sensitivity and understanding of this issue. However, little is known about art looted by the Fascists in Italy in 1938 and succeeding years.

Christie’s, with assistance from the UIA Art Law Commission, is organizing this Symposium to explore the latest developments in restitution as a whole, and in particular Italy’s approach to restitution and the consequent legal and ethical implications.
CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

Among the confirmed speakers for the symposium are:

Marc B. Porter, Chairman, Christie’s Americas
Welcome and Opening of the symposium

- Konstantin Akinsha, Art Historian, Author, Contributing Editor Art News
  *Italy - Problems of Art Restitution after WWII and Today*

- Monica S. Dugot, Senior Vice President, International Director of Restitution, Christie’s
  *Art Market: Perspective from 2011*

- Charles A. Goldstein, Counsel to the Commission for Art Recovery (New York)

- Captain Andrea Ilari, Comandante del Nucleo Carabinieri Tutela Patrimonio Culturale di Monza
  *The Search for Works of Art Stolen during World War II in Italy: Results and Operational Aspects.*

- Lawrence M. Kaye, Co-Chair of the International Art Law Group at Herrick, Feinstein LLP (New York)
  *The Netherlands: Return of the Goudstikker Collection*

- Professor Ilaria Pavan, Scuola Normale Superiore (Pisa)
  *The Italian Experience*

- Andrea Pizzi, Studio Legale Pizzi (Bologna), Art Law Commission, Union Internationale des Avocats
  *Italian Law and Restitution*

- Agnes Peresztegi, Director, Commission for Art Recovery (Europe)
  *Hungary: A Case Study*

- Professor Tullio Scovazzi, University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan
  *International Law and Moral Obligation to Return and Seek the Return of Cultural Objects*

- Howard N. Spiegler, Co-Chair of the International Art Law Group at Herrick, Feinstein LLP (New York) and President of the Art Law Commission, Union Internationale des Avocats
  *U.S. Experience: Portrait of Wally and the Leopold Museum*

For more information or to register for the symposium
please contact Naomi Davies at naomidaviesevents@gmail.com or +44 (0)7702 264081

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Notes to Editors:
Christie’s approach to restitution is based on four key principles: fairness, transparency, consistency and practicality – and this has put Christie’s at the forefront of establishing best practice for the art market. Christie’s experience, sensitivity to and even-handedness in handling restitution issues benefits consignors, bidders and claimants alike.

For further details, please visit: [www.christies.com/services/restitution/index.aspx](http://www.christies.com/services/restitution/index.aspx).

About Christie’s
Christie’s, the world’s leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2010 that totaled £3.3 billion/$5.0 billion. Christie’s is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie’s conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie’s offers over 450 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from $200 to over $100 million. Christie’s has 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie’s has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

About UIA
The Union Internationale des Avocats (UIA) was created in 1927 by a group of European lawyers convinced of the need for lawyers to establish international contacts. Today, the UIA is an association open to all lawyers of the world, made up of both general and specialist practitioners, counting more than 200 bar associations, organizations or federations (representing nearly two million lawyers) as well as several thousand individual members from over 110 countries.