



Association of Art Museum Directors

120 East 56th Street
Suite 520
New York, NY 10022
Tel: 212.754.8084
Fax: 212.754.8087

Statement in Response to Allegations Concerning Some California Museums

As stewards of our shared cultural heritage, AAMD members condemn the looting of works of art, and share a continuing dedication to rigorous research into the ownership history of potential acquisitions. Moreover, AAMD has a long-standing code of ethics that establishes clear [guidelines](#) for integrity in financial management and other areas of museum operations.

AAMD requires its members to uphold the law and to adhere to these professional practice standards, and encourages all members of the field to do the same.

We commend our members for their ready cooperation with the authorities in investigating these matters, and we recognize that the investigations are ongoing. The position of the AAMD is that its members and the art museum community as a whole must not be complicit in illicit behavior, and must adhere to the highest ethical and professional standards in their conduct.

Note to editor: Of the museums under investigation, two (Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Berkeley Art Museum) are AAMD members.

The Association of Art Museum Directors, representing 185 art museum directors in the US, Canada and Mexico, aids its members in establishing and maintaining the highest professional standards for themselves and the museums they represent. It serves as a forum for the exchange of information and the exploration of ideas, and as a voice with which museum directors may express their joint concerns and

those of their institutions. Since its founding, AAMD has played a leading role in helping to define the best practices for its members and for the art museum community as a whole. An important component of this work is the publication of AAMD's Professional Practices in Art Museums, first adopted in 1966, most recently updated in 2001, as well as guidelines for the acquisition of works of art from all eras. These documents provide a framework for museums to make informed and responsible decisions regarding their own institutional management. Further information about AAMD's professional practice guidelines and position papers is available at www.aamd.org.