



Association of Art Museum Directors

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STATEMENT CONCERNING THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT

West Palm Beach, FL – February 3, 2006 – The Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD) commends the Metropolitan Museum of Art for its courage and leadership in seeking to reach an agreement with the Italian government that best serves the public interest.

We know that the Metropolitan, as an AAMD member and one of the world's most respected museums, has consistently been committed to acquiring works of art in good faith, and to maintaining the highest standards in its collecting practices. This commitment to these standards, on the part of the Metropolitan and AAMD, remains steadfast in an evolving context of legal and ethical standards.

Museums must judge ownership claims on a case-by-case basis. We support the Metropolitan in its resolution of this claim in a manner that serves the public interest by setting a standard of fairness and by fostering the public's access to great works of art through an equivalent exchange.

Art must be the object of public exhibition, scholarship, and cultural exchange. We urge the Italian government to honor their pledge to lend works of commensurate quality to the Metropolitan, and to ensure that the works returned by the Metropolitan continue to be available for public display, education, research, and scholarship.

Consistent with our principles, AAMD members are committed to responsible collecting practice. The Metropolitan's actions reflect our Association's active role as partner to the international community in protecting, interpreting, and presenting our shared cultural heritage.

Mary Sue Sweeney Price
President
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