



AAMD Statement on the Nasher Sculpture Center

February 12, 2013 - The Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD), whose members are the directors of over 220 art museums in the United States, Canada and Mexico, expresses concern regarding the 18-month impasse between the Nasher Sculpture Center (the “Nasher”) and Museum Tower in Dallas.

An institution’s collections – whether located inside the museum or installed on an exterior site – are essential to the fulfillment of a museum’s civic and educational mission. The Association of Art Museum Directors considers the preservation and care of collections to be a paramount responsibility, and believes that museums have an obligation to conserve and protect the heritage they hold in trust for the public.

In establishing the Nasher Sculpture Center, Raymond Nasher gave the citizens of Texas an unparalleled museum in the heart of the Dallas Arts District and committed to making his extraordinary collection accessible to all. Designed by famed architect Renzo Piano, the Nasher is an invaluable educational, cultural and economic resource for the people of Dallas and visitors from around the world.

The Nasher has publically noted that under the current situation, the sunlight reflected from Museum Tower disrupts the Nasher Sculpture Center’s carefully controlled environment, threatening the collection’s safety; the reflected light from Museum Tower has detrimentally affected the art works in the garden creating a blinding experience for visitors and necessitating the removal of several pieces including Pablo Picasso’s *Nude Man and Woman*; and the ongoing exposure to harsh environmental conditions at the Nasher Sculpture Center created by the Museum Tower continues to compromise the safety and integrity of the art works, both indoors and outside.

We understand that throughout this process, the Nasher has negotiated in good faith with the developers of Museum Tower and has provided valid suggestions to ameliorate the situation. We hope that for the benefit of the Dallas community and the great works of art held in trust for their benefit by the Nasher that all parties will work together for an acceptable solution.