Ghosts of the Past: Nazi-Looted Art and Its Legacies

Columbia University, February 19 - 21, 2015

Co-organized by Columbia University’s Department of Art History and Archaeology and Deutsches Haus in collaboration with the Goethe-Institut New York and the Jewish Museum, New York, this conference will bring together an international group of historians, art historians, scholars of provenance research and legal practice, museums directors, museum curators, and journalists. Beyond the specific case of Hildebrand and Cornelius Gurlitt’s long hidden treasures, the conference will explore the manifold legacies of Nazi-looted art that continue to haunt our present.

Keynote Lecture

Thursday, February 19, 2015
Location: Jewish Museum, Scheuer Auditorium, 1109 Fifth Avenue at 92nd Street

6:30 Introduction
Andreas Huyssen, Director of Deutsches Haus, Columbia University
From "Degenerate Art" to Looted Art: Reflections on a Historical Process in Nazi Germany

Olaf Peters, Martin Luther Universität Halle-Wittenberg
Conference Program
Friday, February 20, 2015
Location: Columbia University, 501 Schermerhorn Hall

9:30 Welcome
Holger A. Klein, Chairman of the Department of Art History and Archaeology, Columbia University

Morning Session I
Andreas Huyssen, Columbia University (Moderator)
9:45–10:15 Five Uncomfortable and Difficult Topics Relating to the Restitution of Nazi Looted Art
Jonathan Petropoulos, Claremont McKenna College

10:30–11:00 Pressure, Erasure, Return? Investigating the “Grey Zone” of Interactions between Jewish Art Experts and German Art Historians in Nazi Occupied Europe – and After
Christian Fuhrmeister, Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte, Munich

Afternoon Session II
Anson Rabinbach, Princeton University (Moderator)
1:15–1:45 Restitution as Diagnosis: Political Aspects of the “Trophy Art” Problem and Russian-German Relations
Konstantin Akinsha, Guest Fellow in Max Weber Kolleg, Erfurt, Germany

2:00–2:30 All Paths Lead to New York; Cultural Plunder and Its Commercial Consequences, 1933-Today
Marc Masurovsky, Co-Founder, Holocaust Art Restitution Project, Washington

2:45–3:15 The Restitution of Nazi-Looted Art and Other Cultural Property: Have we gone too far or not far enough?
Lawrence M. Kaye, Co-Chair of the Art Law Group at Herrick, Feinstein LLP in New York

4:00–5:30 Panel Discussion featured participants will include:

Barry Bergdoll, Columbia University (Moderator)
Stephanie Barron, Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles
Ruth Beesch, Deputy Director Jewish Museum, New York
MaryKate Cleary, The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA)
Uwe Hartmann, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Berlin

Saturday, February 21, 2015
Location: Columbia University, 501 Schermerhorn Hall

Morning Session I
Avinoam Shalem, Columbia University (Moderator)
Gish Amit, Mandel Leadership Institute, Jerusalem

10:30–11:00 Gurlitt, Weinmüller, Nolde
The Recent German Debate on Art Politics in the Nazi Era
Julia Voss, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Frankfurt

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