

## Press Advanced Viewing Invitation

### LOOTED, BUT FROM WHOM?

30 November 2006 – 25 February 2007

The advance viewing for the press of the 'Looted, but from whom?' (*Geroofd, maar van wie?*) exhibition will take place from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Wednesday 29 November 2006 in the Hollandsche Schouwburg in Amsterdam. At that time, Rudi Ekkart from the Origins Unknown Agency (*Bureau Herkomst Gezocht*) will also present the book and CD-ROM containing the final results of the agency's research.

#### The exhibition

*Looted, but from whom?* is an exhibition about art objects which were either acquired by forced sale or stolen from their Jewish owners by the Nazis during the Second World War. After the war, as many objects as possible were brought back to the Netherlands with the intention of identifying the owners and returning the property to any rightful claimants. For a great number of objects in this so-called 'Netherlands Art Property Collection' (NK Collection - *Nederlands Kunstbezit Collectie*), this was not achieved at the time. Since Origins Unknown Agency began a renewed search in 1998 for the rightful owners of the remaining objects, some 500 have been returned. However, the original owners of a few hundreds pieces in the NK collection have not been found.

#### Stories



The fifty art objects on display in the *Looted, but from whom?* exhibition were chosen to illustrate the efforts of the Origins Unknown Agency. A good example is the story of the landscape shown here which Martin Heidemann, a Polish-Jewish art collector had to surrender to the German Lippmann-Rosenthal (Liro) looting bank in Amsterdam during the Second World War. Heidemann was killed in Bergen-Belsen in 1945. After the war, he could be identified as the owner of this work

because his name was listed in the archives. However, the search for his son, who survived the war, hit a snag in Argentina. Where are the heirs?

#### Identification

Many of the agency's research is similarly open-ended because crucial information about the owners is missing. Once again, the Dutch public is being involved in the attempt to return the remaining art objects in the NK collection, as the final deadline for cultural goods restitution claims is fast approaching. Claims can be submitted until 4 April 2007.

The *Looted, but from whom?* exhibition was put together by Hollandsche Schouwburg (which is managed by the Jewish Historical Museum) in collaboration with the Origins Unknown Agency. Thanks are also due to the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and the Netherlands Institute for Cultural Heritage for their part in making the exhibition possible.

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Note for the editors:

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see also: [www.hollandscheschouwburg.nl](http://www.hollandscheschouwburg.nl) and [www.herkomstgezocht.nl](http://www.herkomstgezocht.nl).