

Berlin, January 27 2022

PRESS RELEASE

Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz and Bayerische Staatsgemäldesammlungen launch joint project to record the fates of Jewish art-lovers

– Check against original text in German –

Multimedia archive planned in commemoration of individuals persecuted by the Nazis – the life stories behind restitution cases – 690,000 euros funding from BKM

The Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz (Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation) with its Staatliche Museen zu Berlin (National Museums in Berlin) and the Bayerische Staatsgemäldesammlungen (Bavarian State Painting Collections) are to set up a media library about Jewish collectors, patrons, and owners of art in a three-year project. This archive of long-forgotten fates will be based on provenance research carried out by both institutions. In addition to the media library, digital education formats will be developed specifically for teenagers and young adults. The project is funded by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media; the media partners are Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg and Bayerischer Rundfunk.

The project will illuminate the many and varied life stories of Jewish members of German society up until 1933. By raising awareness of the diversity of individual biographies, it aims to counteract the stereotypical ideas that are still circulating today. Hermann Parzinger, President of the SPK: "Jewish collectors helped to shape this country, supported artists, and raised the profile of museums. Many of them fell victim to the National Socialists, their collections were looted. In the course of our research, we keep coming across names that no one knows any more, but which once stood for important collections, for attitudes, for a life with art. Who were those people? By telling their life stories, we hope to restore awareness of many such names and fates. The SPK and the Bavarian State Painting Collections hope that this joint project will make a contribution both to the culture of remembrance and to a tolerant, open society."

In addition, the project will convey to a broad audience – and above all to the younger generation – the importance of provenance research beyond the direct examination of the provenance of works of art. Bernhard Maaz, Director General of the Bavarian State Painting Collections: "Provenance research is always about the bigger picture: it's about exploring historical contexts, social networks, and individual life stories, even fates."

DER PRÄSIDENT
MEDIEN, KOMMUNIKATION
UND VERANSTALTUNGEN

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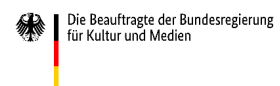
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For more than twenty years, cultural institutions around the world have been tackling the issue of cultural property looted by the National Socialists, most of it from Jewish owners. The institutions of the SPK and the Bavarian State Painting Collections have been systematically researching the origins of the objects in their collections, in accordance with the Washington Principles, and they have been seeking to reach fair and just settlements with the descendants or heirs of dispossessed owners. The Bavarian State Painting Collections, comprising the three Pinakothek galleries and twenty subsidiary galleries, have succeeded in restituting twenty-five works from seventeen collections since 1998. The SPK has processed more than fifty requests for restitution since 1999 and has returned more than 350 works of art and around 2,000 books to the claimants concerned. Among them were a drawing by Vincent van Gogh, works by Edvard Munch, and Caspar David Friedrich's painting *The Watzmann*.



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Further information about provenance research:

<https://www.pinakothek.de/forschung/provenienzforschung>

<https://www.preussischer-kulturbesitz.de/schwerpunkte/provenienzforschung-und-eigentumsfragen.html>

<https://www.smb.museum/forschung/provenienzforschung/>

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