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"Schwabing Art Trove" Task Force announces members

The "Schwabing Art Trove" Task Force has now completed the intensive work, including registration and initial inspection, necessary before a partial list of artworks seized in the home of Cornelius Gurlitt can be published. Some 458 objects, including paintings, drawings and prints, are already displayed on the www.lostart.de website in the hope that the public will be able to help clarify their provenance. According to current information, these works may have been confiscated from their owners by the Nazis ("Nazi-confiscated art").

After all the formalities concerning the composition of the task force were successfully concluded, the head of the task force, Dr Ingeborg Berggreen-Merkel, said: "I am very grateful for the broad-based, also international, support for our work. Having nationally and internationally recognized experts on the task force will guarantee that our work is objective and of high quality."

The task force was established by the Federal Government and the government of the Free State of Bavaria. It is assisting the Augsburg public prosecutor's office with the necessary research, clarifying the origin and circumstances under which the artworks found in Mr Gurlitt's home were found and which may have been confiscated by the Nazis from their owners.

In its research, the task force will also be able to rely on an extensive network of provenance researchers and additional specialists who have devoted themselves to the search for Nazi-confiscated art for many years. After the task force has completed its research into the Nazi-confiscated art, it will then research the provenance of works confiscated as part of the Nazi campaign against "degenerate art" (Aktion Entartete Kunst) in 1937 and 1938. These included works by artists condemned by the Nazis, especially Expressionist, neo-realist and Dadaist works which were removed from public collections and museums.

PRESS RELEASE – Dr. Matthias Henkel – Director of Communications • Fon: +49 30 186657204
• mail: presse@taskforce-kunstfund.de

TASKFORCE „SCHWABINGER KUNSTFUND“

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Members of the "Schwabing Art Trove" Task Force

Dr Ingeborg Berggreen-Merkel

Task Force Head

Former Deputy Minister of State Office of the Federal Government
Commissioner for Culture and the Media

Dr Uwe Hartmann

Task Force research coordinator Head

Office for Provenance Research

Institute for Museum Research National Museums in Berlin Prussian
Cultural Heritage Foundation

Dr Meike Hoffmann

Expert appointed by the Augsburg public prosecutor's office

Project coordinator of the "Degenerate Art" research project Art History
Department, Free University of Berlin

Dr Michael Franz

Head, Magdeburg Coordinating Office

Thierry Bajou

Project leader, Musées Nationaux Récupération, Ministry for Culture and
Communication France

Dr Magnus Brechtken

Deputy Director Institute for Contemporary History, Munich

Heike Impelmann

Head of Section C1, Federal Office of Central Services and Unresolved
Property Issues

Roland Kempfle LL.M.

Public prosecutor Munich II Public Prosecutor's Office

Sophie Lillie

Freelance provenance researcher, Vienna

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Jane Milosch

Director, Provenance Research Initiative Office of the Under Secretary for History, Art and Culture, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.

Agnes Peresztegi

Lawyer in Budapest, Executive Director of Europe for the Commission for Art Recovery

Yehudit Shendar

Deputy Director and Senior Art Curator Museums Division Yad Vashem, Jerusalem

Shlomit Steinberg

Hans Dichand Curator of European Art Israel Museum, Jerusalem

Dr Stephanie Tasch

Head of department Cultural Foundation of the Länder

CONTACT:

Dr Matthias Henkel

Director of Communications
"Schwabing Art Trove" Task Force
Karl-Liebkecht-Straße 31/33
10178 Berlin
FON +49 30 18 665 7204
MAIL presse@taskforce-kunstfund.de

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