

Stiftung Deutsches Zentrum Kulturgutverluste
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Deutschland

And

To whom it may concern

The art collection of MARGRET KAINER looted by the National Socialists

**Here: Information for possessors, possible buyers, sellers, auction houses and dealers regarding such works of art for which restitution agreements have been concluded in the past;
Restitution agreements concluded with third parties, and in particular with a Swiss foundation or a Swiss administrator of the estate, regarding works of art that once belonged to the collection of MARGRET KAINER, do not change the fact that these are looted artworks.**

For further clarification of facts and the legal situation, please contact the representatives of MARGRET KAINERS's heirs (Mondex Corporation)

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mondex Corporation, located in Toronto, Canada, hereby gives notice that it has been retained by the heirs of MARGRET KAINER (hereinafter "**MARGRET**") to locate works of art, which were misappropriated from MARGRET by the Nazis.

MARGRET was the daughter of the well-known Jewish entrepreneur NORBERT LEVY (hereinafter "**NORBERT**"), who lived in Berlin. NORBERT died in 1927 as a widower and MARGRET became his sole heiress. In addition to real estate, shares, company participations, MARGRET also inherited a valuable art collection from her father.

These assets were unjustly taken from MARGRET by the National Socialists. Her art collection was auctioned off by the "Union Leo Spik" auction house, based in Berlin, on May 31, 1935. The six paintings, by DEGAS, LEIBL, MONET, PISSARO and RENOIR, are listed to the right of this letter, and were

Edgar Degas
„Danseuses“



Wilhelm Leibl
„Bildnis des Cölnner
Gymnasialprofessors
Klein“

among the works sold at the "Union Leo Spik" auction. **For more information on the provenance of each artwork, please see below. Thank you.**

After the end of the Second World War, MARGRET conducted several restitution proceedings regarding the property unjustly taken by the National Socialists. When MARGRET died in Paris on December 18, 1968, the proceedings concerning the art collection, misappropriated from her by the National Socialists in particular, had not yet been completed.

MARGRET as well as her husband LUDWIG, who had already died in 1967, had their residence or habitual abode in Paris until they died. MARGRET and LUDWIG were also registered with the police in Switzerland after the Second World War, although they lived in Paris. This was necessary because it was the only way they could get the refugee passports issued to them by the Swiss authorities, extended.

MARGRET had also invested a considerable part of her assets with a Swiss bank (hereinafter the "SWISS BANK"), whose employees she obviously placed special trust in. Her father NORBERT had also entrusted directors from the SWISS BANK with managing a family foundation he had arranged prior to his death to support members of his family.

When MARGRET died, childless, in Paris on December 18, 1968, she did not leave a will. Although numerous members of her family had been murdered by the National Socialists (Nazis), others were able to escape from the National Socialists. However, they lived, scattered in numerous countries around the world as a consequence of the Holocaust.

This tragic situation was exploited by employees of the SWISS BANK. One of the employees who had allegedly managed MARGRET's equity investments account was appointed as administrator of MARGRET's estate and joined the restitution proceedings pending in Berlin. A director of the SWISS BANK claimed that as a member of the board of trustees he represented the family foundation established by MARGRET's father - although this foundation was already supposed to have ceased to exist. The director of the SWISS BANK named the foundation he represented after Margret's father the "Norbert Levy Foundation" and later as the "Norbert Stiftung" (hereinafter referred to as the "SHAM FOUNDATION") This SHAM FOUNDATION took part in the proceedings and, in 1972, it succeeded in obtaining both the payment of high compensation sums as "restitutions" but also a partial certificate of inheritance, after the ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE had falsely indicated to the Court that MARGRET had no surviving family members and therefore no heirs.



Claude Monet
« Au Parc Monceau »



Camille Pissarro
„Lavoir et moulin
d’Osny »



Auguste Renoir
„Bouquet de Fleurs“
.....



Auguste Renoir
„Jeune fille à la
toque“



In 2012, the French authorities determined in a certificate of inheritance procedure that MARGRET had not had her last residence in Switzerland but in France, and that several of her cousins, were her heirs, who were very much alive when Margret passed away. As a result, in 2016, the German authorities formally revoked the partial certificate of inheritance that had been issued to the SHAM FOUNDATION in 1972. It was declared invalid and void (as per the Orders of the Charlottenburg District Court dated 29.01.2016 and 09.05.2016 in both cases regarding the file number 64/6 VI 1467/1928).

However, between 1972 and 2016, the SHAM FOUNDATION and the ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE had unconscionably represented to possessors of looted art that they were co-heirs of MARGRET. They had successfully entered into restitution agreements in connection with the six works of art listed alongside.

These restitution agreements could not and cannot have any legal or moral effect vis-à-vis the members of MARGRET's family, who are her only rightful heirs.

Thus, the works listed here are still "looted art".

The following paintings are therefore still deemed as "looted art":

- **Edgar Degas:** "*Danseuses*", Pastel, 50 x 40 cm, Signed bottom left: "Degas"
- **Wilhelm Leibl:** "*Bildnis des Cölner Gymnasialprofessors Klein*"
Oil on canvas, 45 x 40 cm
- **Claude Monet:** "*Au Parc Monceau*", Oil on canvas, 65 x 54 cm, Signed bottom right: "Claude Monet 78";
- **Camille Pissarro:** "*Lavoir et Moulin d'Osny*", Oil on canvas, 65,30 x 54,30 cm, Signed bottom left: "Pissarro 84";
- **Auguste Renoir,** "*Bouquet de Fleurs*", Oil on canvas, 40 x 51 cm, Signed bottom left: "Renoir";
- **Auguste Renoir,** "*Jeune fille à la toque*", Oil on canvas, 32,50 x 27,50 cm, Signed top left: "Renoir".

It is not known whether the SHAM FOUNDATION and/or the SWISS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE have entered into corresponding restitution agreements with additional possessors of "looted art" from MARGRETS former art collection. Should this be the case, the foregoing shall apply accordingly.

Possessors, possible sellers and possible buyers of the above-mentioned works of art, as well as art dealers, museums and auction houses dealing with or involved in the handling of the above-mentioned works of art, and also persons who have further knowledge, are kindly requested to contact the representatives of MARGRETS heirs at the following address for further clarification of the facts. Please see further details below:

Mondex Corporation
204 St. George Street, 3rd Floor
Toronto, Canada
M5R 2N5

Info@mondexcorp.com

Yours sincerely



Signature

The Looted Artworks

Edgar Degas

Danseuses

Pastel, 50 x 40 cm

Signed bottom left: "Degas"



Provenance:

- Eugène Blot, Paris;
- Eugène Blot auction, Paris, 10 May 1906, lot no. 91;
- Rothermundt, Dresden, circa 1909;
- Norbert Levy collection, Berlin circa 1922/1923;
- Margret Kainer collection, Berlin, by descent from her father Norbert Levy in 1928;
- Sold at auction house Leo Spik, Berlin, 31 May 1935, lot no. 93, from the despoiled Margret Kainer collection, Berlin;
- Thomas Gibson Fine Art, London;
- Mai Art Trading, Japan;
- Fujikawa Galleries, Tokyo, Japan;
- Sold at auction at Christie's New York, 3 November 2009, lot no. 22, after a settlement agreement had been made between the possessor and the representatives of the false heir of the Margret Kainer art collection;
- Private collection.

In 2012-2013, the painting was exhibited, on loan from a private collection, at the Fondation Beyeler museum in Switzerland at the Degas exhibition entitled "The Late Work".

Wilhelm Leibl

Bildnis des Cölner Gymnasialprofessors Klein (Portrait of the Cologne high school professor Klein)

Oil on canvas, 45 x 40 cm



Provenance:

- Margret Kainer collection, Berlin (possibly by descent from her father Norbert Levy);
- Sold at auction house Leo Spik, Berlin, 31 May 1935, lot no. 95, from the despoiled Margret Kainer collection, Berlin;
- In 2006, a settlement agreement has been made between the possessor and to the representatives of the false heir of the Margret Kainer art collection;
- Current whereabouts unknown.

Claude Monet

Au Parc Monceau

Oil on canvas, 65 x 54 cm

Signed bottom right: "Claude Monet 78"



Provenance:

- Theulier, Paris, acquired from the artist on 30 June 1878;
- Gustave Goupil, Paris, acquired at auction Hôtel Drouot, Paris, 30 March 1898, lot no. 25;
- Durand-Ruel, Paris;
- Paul Cassirer, Berlin, by 1903;
- Haas, Berlin;
- Norbert Levy collection, Berlin, by circa 1916/1917;
- Margret Kainer collection, Berlin, by descent from her father Norbert Levy in 1928;
- Sold at auction house Leo Spik, Berlin, 31 May 1935, lot no. 97, from the despoiled Margret Kainer collection, Berlin;
- Acquired of the World War II by a relative of the possessors, which in 2000 restituted the painting to the representatives of the false heir of the Margret Kainer art collection;
- Sold at auction at Sotheby's London, 26 June 2001, lot no. 6;
- Sold at Christie's London, 23 June 2009, lot no. 6;
- Current whereabouts unknown.

In 2020, this painting was exhibited, on loan from a private collector, at the exhibition "Monet. Orte" at the Museum Barberini in Potsdam, Germany.

Camille Pissarro

Lavoir et moulin d'Osny

Oil on canvas, 65,30 x 54,30 cm

Signed bottom left: "Pissarro 84"



Provenance:

- Bought by Durand-Ruel from the artist on 3 December 1892;
- Sold by Durand-Ruel to Bollag, Zurich, on 18 October 1923;
- Norbert Levy collection, Berlin, by circa 1921/1923;
- Margret Kainer collection, Berlin, by descent from her father Norbert Levy in 1928;
- Sold at auction house Leo Spik, Berlin, 31 May 1935, lot no. 99, from the despoiled Margret Kainer collection, Berlin;
- Private collection, Europe;
- Sold at Sotheby's, London, 7 December 1998, lot no. 9 (sold as "Property from a European Private Collection");
- In 2004/2005, a settlement agreement has been made between the possessor and the representatives of the false heir of the Margret Kainer art collection;
- Private collection, London.

In 2005-2006, the painting, was on loan from a private collection and was part of a travelling exhibition titled "Pioneering Modern Painting: Cezanne and Pissarro 1865–1885". The exhibition took place at the MoMA in New York between June 26th and September 12th, 2005; the Los Angeles County Museum between October 20th, 2005 and January 16th, 2006 and at the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, between February 27th and May 28th, 2006.

Auguste Renoir

Bouquet de Fleurs

Oil on canvas, 40 x 51 cm

Signed bottom left: "Renoir"



Provenance:

- Norbert Levy collection, Berlin;
- Margret Kainer collection, Berlin, by descent from her father Norbert Levy in 1928;
- Sold at auction house Leo Spik, Berlin, 31 May 1935, lot no. 101, from the despoiled Margret Kainer collection, Berlin;
- Private collection, Europe;
- Sold at auction at Sotheby's London, 20 June 2006, lot no. 317, after a settlement agreement had been made with the possessor and the representatives of the false heir of the Margret Kainer art collection;
- Offered at auction at Sotheby's New York, 5 November 2008, lot no. 377;
- With James Butterwick Gallery, London, UK;
- Current whereabouts unknown.

Auguste Renoir

Jeune fille à la toque

Oil on canvas, 32,50 x 27,50 cm

Signed top left: "Renoir"



Provenance:

- Paul Cassirer, Berlin;
- Norbert Levy collection, Berlin, acquired from Paul Cassirer, Berlin on 2 April 1917;
- Margret Kainer collection, Berlin, by descent from her father Norbert Levy in 1928;
- Sold at auction house Leo Spik, Berlin, 31 May 1935, lot no. 102, from the despoiled Margret Kainer collection, Berlin;
- Private collection, Europe;
- Sold at auction at Sotheby's London, 20 June 2006, lot no. 310, after a settlement agreement had been made between the possessor and the representatives of the false heir of the Margret Kainer art collection;
- Current whereabouts unknown.