



STATEMENT FROM THE MUSEUM REGARDING THE FEDERAL INVESTIGATION

January 28, 2008

As you probably know, several museums in California including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Bowers Museum and Pacific Asia Museum were recently served with search warrants in an ongoing federal investigation relating to allegedly looted artworks, their donation to these institutions and appraisals of the donated artworks. Many top museums across the country including the Metropolitan Museum, the Getty and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston are dealing with similar issues of questionable provenance and cultural patrimony.

This is the first time in our history that this issue has arisen. The items in question include roughly 100 works out of the museum's collection of 14,000 objects. The affidavit accompanying the search warrant raises questions about the museum's acceptance of these artworks and about third party appraisals of the value of these objects.

The museum considers this a very serious matter and immediately launched its own internal investigation. A task force, led by attorney and trustee Robert Sheen and comprised of several other trustees, the executive director and an outside museum professional, is reviewing the circumstances under which the donations were made, as well as the museum's policies and procedures governing donations to the collection.

Until the task force investigation is completed, the museum has suspended all collections donations.

It is important to note that the museum does not condone trafficking in looted artwork and it does not value or appraise art.

We will keep you informed of developments, and the task force report will be available to the public. Meanwhile, we welcome your questions and comments.

Joan Marshall
Executive Director

Bruce Blomstrom
Chair, Board of Trustees