

COORDINATION OFFICE FOR LOST ART
[Koordinierungsstelle für Kulturgutverluste]

AN INSTITUTION OF THE GERMAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND STATES
BASED AT THE CULTURAL MINISTRY OF THE STATE OF SAXONY-ANHALT IN MAGDEBURG
www.lostart.de

Magdeburg, Germany, October 23, 2008

PRESS RELEASE

Database on art looted by Nazis, www.lostart.de, revised

Germany's official central database on art looted by the Nazis was released in a completely revised edition on October 23, 2008. It is posted on the Internet at www.lostart.de.

The Internet has become an indispensable tool in searching for art looted by the Nazis. The Internet database www.lostart.de, operated by the Coordination Office for Lost Art, sponsored by the German federal and states governments and based at the cultural ministry of the German State of Saxony-Anhalt in the city of Magdeburg, plays an important role in this effort. It reports on searches and discoveries of cultural goods confiscated by Nazis (Nazi-expropriated art) and cultural goods removed as a consequence of WWII (looted art). The site attracts close to 800,000 visitors from around the globe monthly.

As part of its major relaunch the contents of www.lostart.de were reworked as well as technically and graphically improved. The site's navigation was significantly simplified and supplemented by new functions, including full text searches of all contents in the database and website. Besides download facilities, the site offers extensive services, among them, a news letter and a shop for publications. It also features the basic reference literature on searches and restitutions of Nazi-looted art such as the "Washington Principles" of 1998, Germany's "Joint Declaration" of 1999 and the German "Handreichung" [a related orientation document] of 2008. Visitors to the site can also retrieve current news and a schedule of events about Nazi looted and expropriated art or obtain additional information on both from the "Infocenter".

State Minister Bernd Neumann, the German federal government's delegate for cultural affairs and media and a member of the German parliament, declared: "In keeping with the Joint Declaration the revision of the Internet web pages facilitates research on Nazi looted art. The revision is part of my intensive efforts to arrive at fair and just solutions on Nazi looted art. To that a provenance research office especially for small and midsized cultural institutions has been organized. In coming years my ministry will promote these efforts with one million euros annually. The first applications were approved on October 15, 2008."

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SACHSEN-ANHALT
Cultural Ministry

Media Relations Office

**www.lostart.de database on Nazi looted art
and expropriated art revised**

Germany's official central database covering Nazi looted art as well as expropriated art appears on the Internet at www.lostart.de in a completely revised edition.

As part of its relaunch the contents of www.lostart.de were revised and its technical and graphic presentation improved. Navigation was significantly simplified and new functions added. New, for instance, is the capability to conduct full text searches for all contents of the database and website as well as access to services, including downloads, newsletter and shopping cart for ordering publications. The basic reference literature for the retrieval and restitution of Nazi looted art such as the Washington Principles 1988, the German Joint Declaration of 1999 and the German "Handreichung" (a related orientation publication) of 2008, can be retrieved directly. Visitors to the site can also access current news and a schedule of events on Nazi looted as well as expropriated art or obtain additional information on both from the "Infocenter".

Prof. Dr. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz, Minister of Culture of the German State of Saxony-Anhalt, indicated: "In provenance searches and research for Nazi looted art, the www.lostart.de site, being the central German Internet database on the subject, serves as a very important tool. I am glad that the site has been optimized and thus benefits greater national and international transparency."

In the meantime the Internet has become an indispensable medium in the search for Nazi looted art or expropriated art. The www.lostart.de database, administered by the Coordination Office for Lost Art, an official institution sponsored by the German federal and state governments, plays a central role. The value of its work is reflected in the nearly 800,000 monthly visitors from around the world to the site.

The Coordination Office is based in the city of Magdeburg at the Cultural Ministry of Saxony-Anhalt. The agency documents reports on searches and discoveries of cultural goods dispossessed as a result of Nazi persecution as well as of cultural goods looted in the wake of the WWII. The Office also organizes meetings and issues books within its

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