



AN OPEN LETTER:

Why is the Norton Simon Museum Refusing to Return Nazi-Looted Art?

The Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena has two important and inspiring works of art on display, "Adam" and "Eve" by Lucas Cranach the Elder. **Sadly, these paintings were looted by the Nazis during World War II.**

These artistic treasures have been claimed by Marei von Saher, the heir of Jacques Goudstikker, an important Jewish art dealer who lost his property and his life after the Nazis invaded the Netherlands. Von Saher's claims to artworks her family lost are well documented and have been honored by the government of the Netherlands and museums, dealers and collectors around the world, including in the United States.

The Norton Simon Museum does not dispute that the paintings were looted by the Nazis from Jacques Goudstikker's collection. But instead of returning the artworks, the Museum's lawyers have waged a war in the courts **for almost eight years**, trying to get Ms. von Saher's case thrown out on legal technicalities.

The actions of the Norton Simon Museum directly contradict the policy of the U.S. government: that there should be a just and fair resolution of claims to Nazi-looted art and that claims should be resolved on their merits, not technical legal grounds.

It is time for this to stop. It is wrong and it is shameful for a museum – particularly a museum founded on the collection of a Jewish man – to hold onto art that was unquestionably looted by the Nazis.

Art museums and their collections should not be built with stolen property. Passion for art should not displace respect for justice.

The Norton Simon Museum should return these artworks to their rightful owner without further delay; until it does so, it does not deserve public support.

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